



# PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

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**For active links, please view under “Bulletins & News” at the Grouping website ([shcpgh.org](http://shcpgh.org)).**

## **Bishop Chairmen Urge FDA to Develop Ethical Vaccine for COVID-19**

In a letter to the Commissioner, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) states in part, “To be clear, we strongly support efforts to develop an effective, safe, and widely available vaccine as quickly as possible. However, we also strongly urge our federal government to ensure that fundamental moral principles are followed in the development of such vaccines, most importantly, the principle that human life is sacred and should never be exploited. We are aware that, among the dozens of vaccines currently in development, some are being produced using old cell lines that were created from the cells of aborted babies. For example, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. has a substantial contract from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and is working on a vaccine that is being produced using one of these ethically problematic cell lines. Thankfully, other vaccines such as those being developed by Sanofi Pasteur, Inovio, and the John Paul II Medical Research Institute utilize cell lines not connected to unethical procedures and methods. It is critically important that Americans have access to a vaccine that is produced ethically: no American should be forced to choose between being vaccinated against this potentially deadly virus and violating his or her conscience. [USCCB](#), 4/17/2020

## **SCOTUS Postpones Hearings**

The U.S. Supreme Court is putting some of its work on hold amid the restrictions of the COVID-19 health crisis. The announcement affects a case the court was to hear April 29: *Little Sisters of the Poor v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*. The sisters, who have been before the nation's high court before, are back because of state challenges to the administration's decision to allow religious employers to opt out of the contraceptive mandate contained in the Affordable Health Care Act. The court also said it would proceed with the "resolution of all cases" already argued. For example, in early March the court examined a Louisiana law that requires abortion providers to have admitting privileges at a local hospital, and in late January it looked at the constitutionality of excluding religious schools from a scholarship aid program in Montana. [The Pilot](#), 4/6/2020

## **Culture of Death Initiatives Intertwine**

Even many people in the pro-life and pro-family movements do not fully appreciate the deep threads that tie together many seemingly disparate social issues. Contraception, abortion, euthanasia, divorce, pornography, same-sex “marriage,” and gender ideology (to name some of the big ones) are not isolated social or spiritual problems. Rather, they are deeply interrelated, and, more importantly, they *feed* off one another. There is an interior logic to the Culture of Death, if not short-circuited by a return to perennial truths, that causes it to eat its own tail, so to speak, with death leading to more death, and loneliness and isolation to further loneliness and isolation. Many anti-life campaigners believe that they are advocating for legalized euthanasia because they believe in the principles of “freedom” and “autonomy.” What they don't realize is that in fact they are responding to pressure to find a “solution” to a growing problem that exists in large part only because their ideology created it in the first place – by demolishing the supporting structure of the family and by promoting an anti-natal mentality that has robbed families and society of the children they so desperately need—excerpted from the article, *Assisted Suicide and the Macabre ‘Logic’ of the Culture of Death*, by [Fr. Shenan J. Boquet](#) appearing in [Spirit & Life Newsletter](#), 2/3/2020

## **Idaho Says “No” to Gender Ideology**

Governor Brad Little of Idaho passed into law two bills safeguarding biological truth in Idaho against radical gender ideology. The two bills are HB 500 (the “Fairness in Women's Sports Act”) and HB 509 (the “Idaho Vital Statistics Act”). The first prohibits so-called “transgender girls” (i.e. biological boys) from invading (and dominating) girls' sports competitions; the second prohibits altering the “sex” on an individual's “birth certificate” to reflect the “gender identity” of that person rather than his or her biological sex. Reaction to the Governor's actions was swift and fierce on social media, with groups like the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the ACLU of Idaho condemning the new laws, against which both groups had lobbied heavily.

[International Family News](#), 4/1/2020

## Court Rules against Censoring Baby Parts Documentation

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit reversed in part a District Court ruling that had blanket-concealed identifying information in public documents relating to the University of Washington's purchase, processing, and sale of organs and tissue from aborted human fetuses. The court battle began when investigative journalist David Daleiden requested documents from the school's taxpayer-funded Birth Defects Research Laboratory about trafficking in aborted fetal parts and organs. The public information request was met with a lawsuit from staff of Planned Parenthood and other abortion clinics, along with researchers and others, to force heavy redaction of these government documents. Of particular concern in this case, explained Peter Breen, Vice President and Senior Counsel at the Thomas More Society, is the fact that the workers who sought to hide their identities are in taxpayer-funded jobs: "First Amendment privacy has never been used to cloak government workers on government time. Controversy is reason for sunlight, not for cloaking government activity." [LifeSiteNews](#), 3/31/2020

## Abortion Pill Reversal Saves Baby

Rita began hemorrhaging on her way home from the clinic where she had begun a chemical abortion. Rita's fiancé rushed her to the hospital where she was given a blood transfusion and monitored for the next three days. Despite the terror of those few days at the hospital, Rita discovered something that would bring her immense happiness: she was still pregnant and her baby still had a heartbeat. With that news, Rita was able to find a life-saving treatment known as **abortion pill reversal**. To Rita's joy, it worked. Now, nearly two years after that fateful day on the road, Rita is mother to a happy one-year-old boy. A chemical abortion—often referred to as the "abortion pill" or RU-486—actually involves two drugs. The first, which Rita took, is mifepristone, a drug that destabilizes the pregnancy by blocking progesterone receptors. The second, typically misoprostol, triggers contractions, which force very premature labor and expulsion of the baby, often at home. If a woman changes her mind after taking the first drug, she may be able to save her baby with help from the **Abortion Pill Rescue Network**. By calling the 24/7 helpline (877-558-0333), she is connected with a local medical provider who offers the treatment.

[Pregnancy Help News](#), 4/22/2020

## Voters' Guide Now Available

Pennsylvania's next election takes place on Tuesday, June 2nd. Please see the voter guide at [LifePac.net](#).



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## This Epidemic Disperses the Smoke of Illusion



This virus acted as a warning. In a matter of weeks, the great illusion of a material world that thought itself all-powerful seems to have collapsed... It has revealed how all we do and are invited to believe was inconsistent, fragile and empty. We were told: you can consume without limits! But the economy has collapsed and the stock markets are crashing. Bankruptcies are everywhere. We were promised to push the limits of human nature ever further by a triumphant science. We were told about artificial procreation, surrogate motherhood, transhumanism, enhanced humanity. We boasted of being a man of synthesis and a humanity that biotechnologies would make invincible and immortal. But here we are in a panic, confined by a virus about which we know almost nothing. Epidemic was an outdated, medieval word. It suddenly became our everyday life. I believe this epidemic has dispelled the smoke of illusion. The so-called all-powerful man appears in his raw reality... His weakness and vulnerability are glaring. Being confined to our homes will hopefully allow us to turn our attention back to the essentials, to rediscover the importance of our relationship with God, and thus the centrality of prayer in human existence. And, in the awareness of our fragility, to entrust ourselves to God and to his paternal mercy... The experience of confinement has allowed many to rediscover that we are really and concretely dependent on each other. When everything collapses, only the bonds of marriage, family and friendship remain. We have rediscovered that as members of a nation, we are bound by bonds that are unbreakable but real. Above all, we have rediscovered that we are dependent on God." —Robert Cardinal Sarah's thoughts shared in the magazine, [Valeurs](#), 4/13/2020