

## Give Thanks for Pro-Life Victories This Year

### Life-affirming Measures Enacted in 35 States

During the 2013 legislative session, at least 97 life-affirming measures were enacted in 35 states. Of these, 69 measures specifically concern abortion. Some of the pro-life victories we are thankful for this year include:

- **Arkansas, North Dakota, and Texas** enacted measures to ban abortion after 5-months gestation. Unborn children are capable of feeling pain by at least 5-months gestation, and their mothers have exponentially greater risks to their health from later-term abortions. These 5-month bans protect both the mother and the unborn child.

- In the wake of the Kermit Gosnell case which showcased the barbaric treatment of unborn children born alive after abortion, we are thankful that **Florida** enacted a born-alive infant protection act to prevent that horrific practice.

- **Alabama, Indiana, North Carolina, North Dakota, and Texas** enacted measures to regulate abortion clinics. Alabama and Texas require that abortion clinics meet the same standards as ambulatory surgical centers. These laws are critical to protecting women from substandard conditions such as those found in the clinic of Kermit Gosnell.

Let us not forget to give thanks for these successes for life. We need to remember that we are making important strides toward building a culture of life, through the law, in this country. These successes are critical for saving the lives of unborn children and protecting their mothers.

[Source: William Saunders & Mary Novick, *LifeNews.com*, 11/27/13]

### Unilever's Blockbuster Pro-Life Ad: Why Bring A Child Into This World?

Industrial giant Unilever made a new film encouraging expectant parents to bring their children into the world.

Calling the film the "most hopeful secular production I've seen in decades," pro-life blogger and scientist Gerard Nadal has this to say: *Why Bring A Child Into This World?* is a film that is taking on many parents' fears and saying that there is every reason to bring their children into the world. Two thumbs up for Unilever!! [Source: Steven Ertelt, *LifeNews.com*, 11/27/13] To view the video, google the title and it will take you to YouTube to watch the 4-minute film.

### Pope: Opposition to Abortion the Result of Faith

VATICAN CITY (Catholic News Service) -- Defending human dignity and protecting society's most vulnerable necessarily means protecting the unborn and defending their right to life, Pope Francis said in his apostolic exhortation. Writing in *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis said the church's opposition to abortion is not a "conservative" political position, but is a key part of its claim that God created and loves each person and that believers have an absolute obligation to defend those whose basic right to life is under attack.

"Precisely because this involves the internal consistency of our message about the value of the human person, the church cannot be expected to change her position on this question," Pope Francis wrote in the document, which was released Nov. 26 at the Vatican. Acknowledging confusion in the general public between the reforms of church structures he has called for and expectations that he could change some church teaching, he said **the church's opposition to abortion "is not something subject to alleged reforms or 'modernizations.'"**

"A human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development," he wrote. "Once this conviction disappears, so do solid and lasting foundations for the defense of human rights, which would always be subject to the passing whims of the powers that be." The "defense of unborn life is closely linked to the defense of each and every other human right," he said.

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Plan your work and/or vacation schedule now for  
\* January 22<sup>nd</sup> when our **annual bus trip** to \*  
Washington, DC, is scheduled.

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### Explain Your Pro-Life Views in 30 Seconds

I am pro-life because we know the unborn are alive because they're growing. We know the unborn are human because they have human parents, and I believe human beings like me and you are valuable.

I think all human beings have an equal right to live, because they all have something special in common: they're human. That's why racism and sexism are wrong. Racism is wrong because it focuses on a surface difference that doesn't morally matter and ignores the thing we all have in

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common, which is the thing that does morally matter: that we're human. And because the unborn are clearly human, they should be given an equal right to life as well. [Source: Josh Brahm, *LifeNews.com*, 11/26/13]

## High court to hear two cases on HHS mandate and for-profit employers

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed Nov. 26 to take up two cases that challenge provisions of the Affordable Care Act requiring employers to provide contraceptive coverage on behalf of for-profit companies whose owners object to the mandate for religious reasons. The court will take up the cases of Hobby Lobby, an Oklahoma-based, family-run arts-and-crafts chain, and Conestoga Wood Specialties, a Pennsylvania family-run company.

At issue in both cases will be First Amendment arguments that a federal requirement that the owners of the companies provide insurance coverage they morally oppose violates the owners' Free Exercise rights as well as their rights under a 1993 law, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, was pleased with the court's decision to take up the cases.

The government requires most employers' health plans to include free coverage of contraceptives, sterilizations and some abortion-inducing drugs. The mandate does not include a conscience clause for employers who object to such coverage on moral grounds. [Catholic News Service.]

## Citizens Against Government Policy?

In 2012, Belgium boasted of 1,432 legal cases of euthanasia. Belgium even sanctions euthanasia for children over the age of 12 with parental consent. Now, delirious with the culture of death, it is looking to extend euthanasia to children below the age of 12. In the USA, Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Vermont allow physician-assisted suicide.

Speaking to a gathering of Catholic gynecologists and obstetricians on Sept. 20, 2013, **Pope Francis affirmed the value of all human life. He said, "In all its phases and at every age, human life is always sacred and always of quality. And not as a matter of faith, but of reason and science!"** Astutely did the Holy Father recognize that, while many dedicated to medical science work hard for new cures to ensure a disease-free life, some medical professionals seem to abandon respect for life itself. He characterized this

contradiction as a symptom of a more widespread "cultural disorientation."

In the midst of so many conflicting judgments on what is right and wrong, there is a growing tendency to abrogate to the state what rightly belongs to the individual. In the June 16, 2005, issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*, one of the most prestigious medical journals in the world, R. Alta Charo, professor of law and bioethics, argued that the government should limit what health care professionals can decide on their own. Even if they judge something to be immoral, the state should override their personal judgment and force them to violate their consciences in certain cases. She made the same argument to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee.

The recent mandate of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (June 28, 2013) requiring employee health insurance for contraceptives, including abortion-causing drugs, and sterilization is a logical consequence of such arguments. **It is a clear example of the state legislating morality and sweeping aside the reasoned arguments of those who object.**

When the majority or the government mandates a certain action and an individual's well-informed conscience forbids that action, the person cannot act in violation of his or her conscience without causing harm to him or her self and others. The person who follows a rightly informed conscience contributes to the good of all. As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "An individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for law." [Source: Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli, "When Conscience Dies", *The Beacon*, Nov. 7, 2013]

## For couples planning to have children:

Natural Family Planning Classes are offered in our Paterson Diocese. Call 973-777-8818, ext. 264, for info.

**Fatal Misconception: The Struggle to Control World Population**, a book by Columbia Univ. History Professor Matthew Connelly, documents how population control has been full of abuses in many countries. "The great tragedy of population control, the fatal misconception, was to think that one could know other people's interests better than they knew it themselves." Connelly details the racist agenda of the founders of the modern population control movement, which wanted to reduce the number of "racially inferior" human beings, at its zenith during the overpopulation hysteria of the 1960s and 1970s.