

A New Year for Promoting Life Issues

Who Will the Media Cover?

A full-page story in the *Newark Star-Ledger* (12/11/2016) and, likely, other newspapers, highlighted a “women’s march” planned for January in Washington DC, “to challenge the tone & rhetoric” of the incoming federal administration. Supporters are hoping to have over 100,000 participants assemble for the march. Their stated aim is to “show our presence in numbers too great to ignore.” No matter how many show up, the newspapers undoubtedly will give front-page coverage to the event.

But what if several hundred thousand people showed up later in the week for the March for Life? How many photos and interviews will be featured? Will the story show up, if at all, as a small report with one photo or no photos at all?

Such obvious bias on the part of many news outlets in past years is part of the reason why the public gives such **little credibility to the mass media**. This year, thousands of pro-lifers are doubling their efforts to get out the message that abortion of developing human beings is bad not only for the babies who are killed, but for the many women who are often coerced into having an abortion and regret that “choice” for many years.

The organizers of the annual March for Life say: “We want to work ourselves out of a job, so that one day we do not need to march on Washington to call for equal rights for unborn children. Our vision is a world in which **every human life is valued and protected**. Until that day comes, we are working relentlessly to impact our culture of life as much as possible.” (MarchForLife.org)

Friday, January 27, 2017

In Washington, DC, the annual March for Life will hold its Rally at 12 noon, followed by a peaceful walking demonstration to the Capitol, after which participants can visit their elected officials, urging them to support life-affirming legislation. Buses will be leaving from nearly every county on the east Coast.

Logic at Work for Teens & Young Adults

- If you don’t get pregnant, you don’t need an abortion.
- If you don’t want to get pregnant, “safe sex” is not safe – things fail. The probabilities are against you.
- Why not go on dates and activities that are not sexual? Have good wholesome fun! Think of dating as ultimately finding the person you wish to marry. Then behave with respect and love for the other.

(CardinalNewmanSociety.org)

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to be put on the mailing list, email the editor*

Press Conference Highlights Possible Pro-Life Legislation in New Jersey

A press conference recently held in the state capitol announced a project that is centered around love: love for babies in the womb and their moms.

This project is a collaborative effort, and it is called the **20/20 Project**. Local pro-life groups and individuals throughout the state are working together to attain equal rights for babies in the womb. The first goal of this project is to pass the **Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act** by the year 2020. This legislation, which has already been passed in 14 other states, would protect babies at this stage of development, 20 weeks post-fertilization & after.



The project seeks to do this by educating individuals about the humanity of babies in the womb and showing women and men that healing is possible and resources are available for those who have made decisions they now regret.

Communities across NJ are planning to go to Trenton on **January 23, 2017**, to attend a Rally for Life in the state capitol, from 11 am to 1 pm. The Rally is intended to alert legislators to the fact that **babies in the womb after 20 weeks can feel pain**. The goal of the “20/20” campaign is to have NJ pass by the year 2020 A3452 / S2026, the “Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.” More and more folks are becoming supporters of the movement. To do your share, why not put a magnet sticker on your car bumper? Get one at www.Babiesinthewombfeelpain.com. You can also view there a video of the press conference.

Check with your local church or county pro-life group for buses leaving from your area.

Couple Illegally Dumps Stillborn Child

A young couple in Middlesex County, NJ, was indicted for “illegally disposing of their newborn baby.” The 9-count indictment charges the couple with desecrating human remains and conspiracy among others. (*Newark Star-Ledger*, D/22/2016) As this story demonstrates, lots of work still needs to be done to convince people to respect every human life, no matter what the circumstance.

PREGNANT? NEED HELP? Good Counsel Homes (800-723-8331) Pregnancy Aid (888-480-5737) First Choice (973-538-0967) Several Sources Shelters (201-818-9033)

Judge Rules in Favor of Catholic Groups

U.S. District Court Judge Reed O'Connor issued a preliminary injunction on New Year's Eve stopping the Obama administration from denying the right of Catholic institutions to live by their religious tenets. Nine states, the Franciscan Alliance and other religious entities sued the federal government for violating basic religious rights. Judge O'Connor ruled that the administration's regulation barring discrimination on the basis of "gender identity" could not be enforced, and that Catholic institutions could not be compelled to perform, and pay for, abortions.

Pres. Obama wanted religious organizations to be required to perform so-called "sex change" operations. These same organizations also would be required to kill babies in the womb. If they did not agree, they would, in effect, be shut down; all federal funds would be cut.

Judge O'Connor said that Title IX prohibitions against sex discrimination passed by Congress specifically referred to the biological distinction between men and women. He noted that Congress had never granted Health & Human Services the authority to redefine sex discrimination.

Thus, another federal court has found the administration guilty of imposing its policy choices by fiat rather than doing the hard work of democracy through elected officials. (Bill Donohue, CatholicLeague.org, 1/3/2017, and *Wall Street Journal* editorial, 1/4/2017)

Saint John Paul II

"If we let a mother kill the fruit of her womb, what is left to us? It is the principal of abortion that endangers peace in the world. It is true! There can be no true peace without respect for life, especially if it is innocent and defenseless like the unborn child. And no peace efforts will ever be effective unless attacks on all life, from conception to natural death, are energetically opposed."

Washington Post "Fact Checker" on Breast Cancer/Abortion Connection

Objecting to a Texas booklet, "A Woman's Right to Know," reporter Michelle Ye Hee Lee attempted to defend abortion as "not affecting the risk of breast cancer." Yet the writer agreed with the following statements:

- Your pregnancy history affects your chances of getting breast cancer.
- Women who deliver their first baby to full-term at 30 years or younger face a decreased long-term risk of breast cancer.

So, although having an abortion does not directly affect breast cancer chances, it obviously could for women who undergo abortions and choose not to have a baby before age 30. (*Newark Star-Ledger*, 12/15/2016)

Wall Street Journal Writer Praises Good Counsel Homes

It is not often one finds a mainstream paper heaping praise on a pro-life organization, but that is what happened on Dec. 19th when editorial writer William McGurn did a heartwarming piece on the work of Chris Bell. He writes:

"More than two millennia later, the Bronx has improved on ancient Bethlehem. Here at Fulton Avenue and 167th Street, in one of New York's toughest neighborhoods, a pregnant woman with nowhere else to turn will always find what she needs most: an open door and a caring heart."

"Welcome to Good Counsel, a network of six homes plus a 24/7 hotline. They are the life's work of Chris Bell, a lean and gentle 59-year-old husband and father whose story could never be made for the big screen today because only Jimmy Stewart in his prime could do him justice."

"I was scared when I first came here," says Monique Campbell. "But Good Counsel teaches you what you need to be on your own, whether it's how to cook or the training you need for a job." There are 15 women in this house, eight of whom are expecting, and 15 children, some born here and others who are siblings. For in addition to helping women keep their babies, Good Counsel lets them stay a year afterward—to finish school, train for a job and learn how to care and provide for their babies."

"The good people at Good Counsel do what they do for moms like Monique, Janelle and Jozylyn because they regard every life as unique and precious. They cling happily to their faith. In the dominant script of our day, this oddly makes them part of the war on women. But up close and personal, this doesn't look anything like war. It looks like love. (mcgurn@wsj.com)

Pro-Life Transition at Bishops Conference

Richard Doerflinger, tireless worker on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Bishops, retired this past year. His work is being carried on by Greg Schleppebach, former executive director of the Nebraska Catholic Conference.

Doerflinger is a giant not also in the world of the Catholic Church but also throughout pro-life circles. He is known especially on Capitol Hill as the person who best understood federal and state legislation relating to the sanctity of human life: abortion, health care conscience rights, physician-assisted suicide, human cloning, stem cell research and other challenges in bioethics.

He serves as a public policy fellow at Notre Dame's Center for Ethics and Culture, and at the National Bioethics Center, and has served the Vatican's Pontifical Academy for Life since 2011. *Our Sunday Visitor* has recognized him as one of the "2016 Catholic of the Year." (*OSV.com*, 12/18/16)