

# Family & ProLife News Briefs for Catholics

October 2018

## October Dedicated to Dignity of All Human Life

### We Can Take Steps, Big or Small, To Affirm Our Commitment to Life

● *Become better informed* If you listen to radio, tune into a great Catholic station, **Relevant Radio**, for interesting talk shows. If you use **Alexa**, **Siri** or your smart phone, download the free app and listen live or to their podcasts.

● **Life Chain** Held nationally this year on October 7<sup>th</sup>, we can spend 90 minutes praying and witnessing in front of an abortion facility. Evil prevails when good people do not act.

● **40 Days for Life** This project extends all month through November 4<sup>th</sup>. Find your local coordinator online and sign up to participate, even if only for an hour a week. Saying the rosary during that hour is an added bonus.

● **Smile.Amazon.com** One thing many of us can do anytime we want to buy something on Amazon is use SmileAmazon instead. It is the identical service but provides for a small contribution by Amazon to any charity of your choice. The editor & his wife donate to the educational program *LifeNet*.

● *Change your mobile phone provider* We get the benefit of great mobile phone service by using Charity Mobile that makes a monthly contribution to a pro-life cause of our choosing.



● *Attend seminars or programs that promote a culture of life* Some dioceses and parishes take the opportunity of this Respect Life Month to offer informative and interesting programs. Make a decision to attend one of them.

● *Support pro-life political action groups* There are some groups that support pro-life candidates from either party. One we like is the **Susan B. Anthony List**. So far this year their college and young adult canvassers have visited over two million homes, peacefully promoting pro-life candidates.

● *Donate to a local home for pregnant women* There are many of these throughout the nation such as **Several Sources Shelters** and **Good Counsel Homes**.

● *Ask your pastor to invite a speaker from Priests for Life* There are devoted clergy, including the director Fr. Frank Pavone, who are available to visit your parish.

● *Read Catholic sources* Try **Our Sunday Visitor** or the **National Catholic Register** for Catholic views on the news.

Edited since 2005 by Frank Tinari, Ph.D., [tinarifr@shu.edu](mailto:tinarifr@shu.edu)

Past issues are posted on the Diocese of Paterson, NJ website. To have your parish receive this newsletter each month, email your request to the editor.

### New Book: How I Stayed Catholic at Harvard

A Harvard graduate, Rhodes Scholar, and devout Catholic tells young adults everything they need to know about keeping their faith at a modern university.

Drawing on her recent experience, **Aurora Griffin** shares forty practical tips relating to academics, community, prayer, and service that helped her stay Catholic in college. Throughout the book, she shows how being Catholic in college did not prevent her from having a full "college experience," but actually enabled her to make the most of her time at Harvard. [EWTN paperback, 184 pp.]

### States Finding Ways to Restrict Abortions

The Supreme Court let stand Arkansas' law that prohibits prescription of abortifacients unless the doctor has admitting privileges at a local hospital. Mississippi and Louisiana have enacted bans on abortion after the 15<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy. A few states have **banned selective abortions** based on gender, race or disability. Iowa's new law prohibits abortions after a fetal heartbeat can be detected, usually about six weeks into pregnancy. [National Review, 6/25/18] New Jersey pro-lifers are waging a 20/20 campaign to have the state **prohibit abortions after 20 weeks** pregnancy, and they are hoping to have this accomplished by 2020.



"The basic way in which any society is built depends on marriage. Wherever two people give themselves to each other and, between them, give life to children, this touches the holiness, the **mystery of human existence**. It says: I do not belong to myself alone."

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

### Abortion Workers Being Asked to Quit

*And Then There Were None* (ATTWN) helps abortion clinic workers leave the abortion industry. While it wholeheartedly supports all peaceful pro-life efforts, ATTWN seeks to end abortion from the inside out by providing job search resources, financial assistance, free legal counsel, emotional and spiritual support, and no-cost healing retreats.

"I don't know what the pro-life movement would do without ATTWN. It provides the means for abortion workers to safely **transition out of the abortion industry** and into a life of freedom with immense support and without fear of exploitation. Our sidewalk counselors have been able to confidently offer help to workers because of the multitude of resources available through ATTWN. This is a game-changer in the battle for life!" Lauren Muzyka, Exec. Director, Sidewalk Advocates for Life [[www.AbortionWorker.com](http://www.AbortionWorker.com)]

## Even the Incurable Have a Right to Life

One month after Alfie Evans' death, a Rome hospital released the "Charter of rights of the Incurable Child," including the proposition that every family should have the right to choose their child's doctors and hospital, even in another country. Alfie's parents, like those of Charlie Gard last year, were **prevented by British courts** from transferring their severely ailing child to Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital which in both cases had offered to treat the infant after his doctors recommended removal of life support.

The hospital will send the charter to the European Parliament & the European Union. No one expects quick & easy acceptance, but it is good that pediatricians there continue to affirm that even the incurable have a right to fight for as much time as they can. [*National Review*, 6/25/18]

## Most Americans Don't Accept What Roe v.

**Wade Permits** Gallup (6/11/18) asked whether abortion should be legal in all circumstances, just a few circumstances, or not at all. It found that 53% said abortion should be legal in only a few circumstances or in no circumstances. Thus, most Americans oppose *Roe* that **permits unlimited abortion**. But Gallup did not report this to the public.

An older (2013) *NBC/Wall Street Journal* poll asked whether there should be any exceptions to abortions:  
*abortion always legal-31%; abortion legal most of the time-35%; abortion illegal, with exceptions-23%; Illegal, no exceptions-9%.*

The media did not report that only 31% wanted abortion to be legal without exceptions. Put together, the reasons why and when abortion should be allowed are at odds with the Supreme Court ruling in *Roe*. [[www.CatholicLeague.org](http://www.CatholicLeague.org)]

## NJ Should Reject Assisted Suicide Bill

As a person with Cerebral Palsy and clinical depression, Kate Blisard has been a disability advocate for over 30 years. "Those I have served are vulnerable because, like people who are seriously ill, they must rely on others to bathe, to dress, to eat, to travel—in short, to live." She writes that the NJ Legislature is considering assisted suicide legislation known as A1504. Modeled after the law enacted in Oregon in 1997, proponents claim it is compassionate and limited in scope with safeguards. **It is no such thing.**

Adults with disabilities fear that an insurance provider may promote assisted suicide when patient expenses are high. Cases where treatments for cancer have been denied while coverage of the lethal suicide "medicine" was offered have already been exposed. Though **great strides** have been made in the ways we can **manage pain and various**

**conditions**, one doctor or even several may not be aware of all the treatment and support options available to a patient.

The proposed legislation has no real requirement for mental health or depression screening, even where depression or suicidal thoughts are considered normal side effects for certain medications. As rising suicide rates continue to shock us, why are we considering a law that proposes suicide as a solution? There are **no safeguards** to protect a patient who may be in a vulnerable situation. The wording of the law is so flawed that people who have a direct conflict of interest not only can be a witness to sign a patient's written request, but also, after the lethal prescription, there is absolutely **no oversight**. The patient is supposed to self-administer the drug, but there are no procedures to ensure this happens. Minimal "reporting" requirements virtually ensure that wrongdoing won't be uncovered.

Given the bill's many flaws, it would be tragic for the state legislature to endanger the people of New Jersey with its passage. [Kate Blisard, <https://www.northjersey.com,9/22/18>]

## What Are the Suicide Facts for the U.S.?

A recent national study found that the share of 12- to 20-year-olds who "suffered major depression in the prior year" increased by 37% from 2005 to 2014. Social scientists have been particularly baffled by the **tripling of the suicide rate among girls aged 10 to 14**. Suicide is now the second leading cause of death among adolescents and young adults.

Since the 1980s, reported loneliness among adults increased from 20% to 40%. Loneliness is associated with increased health risks. Princeton's Angus Deaton has studied the alarming rise of "deaths of **despair**" from drugs, alcohol abuse & suicide. The rise in suicides, he says, depends "on **family**, on **spiritual fulfillment**, and on how people perceive meaning and satisfaction in their lives in a way that goes beyond material success." Divorce rates remain high for those without a college degree, and many Americans now opt out of marriage entirely. A declining belief in God, prayer and church attendance contribute to personal "despair."

Harvard's Robert Putnam finds a dramatic decline in the fabric of **connections to family, friends, neighbors** and mediating social institutions, and excessive absorption in TV and the internet. Another Harvard study found that women who attend religious service weekly are five times less likely to commit suicide. Of the Catholic women who attended Mass more than once a week, none committed suicide.

In our industrial age, we are valued not for our humanity but for our economic usefulness. We have got to make society more human. [excerpted from Aaron Kheriaty, "Dying of Despair," *First Things*, Aug/Sept 2018.]