

# Family & ProLife News Briefs

December 2021

## Advent: Celebrating the Unborn

### A ‘Woke Up’ Call

Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, discussed the rise of new ideologies in the USA in an address to the Congress of Catholics & Public Life. He said that it is “important for the Church to understand and engage these new movements, not on social or political terms, but as dangerous substitutes for true religion. Today’s critical theories & ideologies are profoundly atheistic.” The archbishop said that these movements “reduce what it means to be human to essentially physical qualities – the color of our skin, our sex, our notions of gender, our ethnic background, or our position in society. With the breakdown of the Judeo-Christian worldview and the rise of secularism, political belief systems based on social justice or personal identity have come to fill the space that Christian belief and practice once occupied.”

Archbishop Gomez compared today’s social movements to that of Marxism and noted that they resemble other heresies found in Church history. “We recognize that often what is being canceled and corrected are perspectives rooted in Christian beliefs – about human life and the human person, about marriage, the family, and more.” The answer, he said, is the Gospel: “It remains the most powerful force for social change that the world has ever seen. The world does not need a new secular religion to replace Christianity. It needs you & me to be better witnesses to the Gospel message.” [Editorial, [catholicbeacon@patersondiocese.org](mailto:catholicbeacon@patersondiocese.org), N/11/21]

### March for Life: One Way to Witness

It’s not too early to plan for at least one day of commitment “for social change” as Archbishop Gomez urges. The annual March for Life is planned for Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, in Washington DC, with the theme of “Equality Begins in the Womb.” Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life [[www.nrlc.org](http://www.nrlc.org)], said: “We want to expand rigorous debate about equality to unborn children, who are often overlooked because they cannot speak for themselves.” As past attendees can confirm, the March for Life is the world’s largest annual human rights demonstration, drawing hundreds of thousands from the USA and abroad. It continues the fight to have recognized the unalienable right to life of every human being in the womb. Look for announcements next month for local churches who plan to sponsor buses to Washington. For now, **mark your calendars** so we all can, in the archbishop’s words, “be better witnesses to the Gospel message.”

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### US House Approves Abortion-on-Demand Bill

The so-called “Women’s Health Protection Act” would overturn all existing pro-life laws that provide even the most minimal protections for unborn children and their mothers. HR 3755 would invalidate most previously enacted federal limits on abortion including federal conscience protection laws and limits on government funding of abortion. In addition, **all state laws** regarding parental rights, 24-hour waiting periods and others would be **overturned**.

According to the National Right to Life Committee, the 218 representatives who voted for the bill should be exposed to public scrutiny and be remembered next year at voting time. A list of those who voted for the bill in your state is available from [www.nrlc.org](http://www.nrlc.org).

### 30,000 Doctors: Unborn Babies are Human

Tens of thousands of medical professionals are calling for restored **legal protections** for unborn babies. The Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine, which represents more than 30,000 doctors & other medical professionals, says: Unborn babies are patients, too, & they deserve the same rights and protections as every other human being.

“In the nearly 50 years since the court wrongly decided *Roe v Wade* and *Doe v Bolton*, **medical science has progressed significantly** and has increasingly supported the pro-life position,” the medical alliance said. “It is time that the law of our land caught up with advances in medical science and supported the human rights of all of our patients.” According to the alliance, the science is clear that a distinct, living and whole



human being comes into existence at the moment of conception, and an abortion ends the life of that human being. “As physicians and other healthcare professionals, we know that when we care for

pregnant women, we are caring for two distinct patients,” the alliance said.

Abortions are not health care: more than 90 percent of OB-GYNs do not even do them, it said. Abortions also can harm mothers, subjecting them to increased risks of future pre-term births & mental health disorders, even death, the alliance continued. In the second trimester, the risks are even greater, it noted. “It is time for those of us in the medical profession to boldly defend the lives of all our patients & demand that our **preborn patients be protected** & our pregnant patients be empowered instead of lied to.” [M. Bilger, LifeNews.com, N/18/21]

## Repeated Error by Pro-Abortionists

Last month Lance Morrow's op-ed in the *WSJ* talked about the disintegration of social boundaries in America that included race, gender, pornography and abortion. A letter to the editor by Alexander Sanger, a pro-abortion author, criticized Morrow for including abortion which he said is a positive good. Your editor then wrote a rebuttal letter that was published as follows:

"In his response to Lance Morrow's piece, Alexander Sanger (*WSJ*, letters, N/19/21) revealed more than he realized in his support for abortion. He says it is "a profound moral act to decide the best time and condition to procreate" and supports "the privacy right of a woman to decide whether or not to parent." Pro-lifers support these views as well. However, abortion is termination of a child that is already procreated. Another human life has begun to develop. At issue, then, is not the decision to procreate in the first place but the right of the child to be born once created. To confound the two is a continuing weakness of the pro-abortionists' case."

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### Any Good Movies To See?

Founded in 2000, [www.DecentFilms.com](http://www.DecentFilms.com) offers film appreciation and criticism informed by Christian faith by a film critic for the *National Catholic Register* who is a permanent deacon in the Catholic Archdiocese of Newark. Check its website for the latest film reviews. BTW, look for a new movie, *Time Boys*, that has won recent Christian film awards. It tells about four boys from 1908 who must build a time machine in 2016 to get back home.

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## Smart Phone Apps Help Track Fertility

Fertility awareness-based methods for family planning involve tracking a woman's menstrual cycle. Among the many that have been around for decades, some such as the Standard Days Method have been designated as "modern methods." In recent years, apps for smart phones have enabled easier **fertility tracking**.

These methods do not rely on putting hormones into a woman (The Pill), and they are non-contraceptive because they don't render intercourse itself infertile. But many in the "family planning" movement treat these methods with disdain that is unwarranted. [Letter from the UN Front, [www.c-fam.org](http://www.c-fam.org), Nov. 2021]

The best way to learn **natural family planning** is from a qualified instructor certified from an NFP teacher training program. Contact your local Catholic diocese (usually the Office of Marriage and Family Life) to find a certified NFP teacher near you. To study a method of NFP in your home, many NFP providers offer distance learning. [see [www.USCCB.org](http://www.USCCB.org)] Natural Family Planning, provided by the USCCB's Made for Love podcasts. Episodes 17 and 18 cover the benefits and challenges of NFP use in marriage in the words of the couples themselves.

## Bishops' Warning Regarding Federal

**'Build Back Better' Plan** In a joint letter sent to all the members of the House and Senate, chairmen of six committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said the proposed Act's funding of abortion is "unacceptable." Though the bishops outlined their support for social policies included in the legislation that would promote "the common good," they reiterated that "it would be a calamity if the important & life-affirming provisions in this bill were accompanied by provisions facilitating & **funding the destruction of unborn human life**. The bishops also expressed concern about provisions that could effectively exclude faith-based providers from child care & pre-K programs. We thank our bishops for urging our civic leaders to use their positions to defend the voiceless. [*Our Sunday Visitor*, N/21/21]

## Policy Rejects Both Science & Religion

President of the College of the Ozarks, Jerry C. Davis, wrote an opinion piece that asked: "Is the safety, comfort and privacy of women on our campus to be sacrificed so that men can live in women's dorms? Does radical gender ideology, which defies biological science and common sense, trump the religious beliefs of College of the Ozarks that are guaranteed protection by the Constitution?"

He was reacting to the administration's rule "that we must start letting men into our young women's dorm rooms, showers & locker rooms or else face the wrath of the federal government." The new directive covers every college in the country that accepts students, whether or not the colleges receive federal funds. This was done "without an iota of public input: no notice, no opportunity to submit comments, & thus no responses to objections."

In April, a judge "denied our request for help telling us that before we can sue we must suffer years of agency complaints and intrusive investigations. The process is part of the punishment. The U.S. is at a political and spiritual crossroads. Will our country allow the whims of elite opinion to impose a novel redefinition of humanity on ordinary Americans? Or will we stand up for the fundamentals of freedom that were endowed by our Creator and guaranteed by the Constitution?" [*WSJ*, N/17/21]

## Overzealous School Backs Down

Gabrielle, a second grader in Illinois, likes to take her Bible to school & read it during recess, sometimes aloud while other kids listen in. Though no student or any parent had complained, a teacher took the Bible from her: "You just can't be doing that." It was a simple case of public school officials' hypersensitivity to the specter of a threat from the ACLU or other groups that spread long-debunked propaganda about "separation of Church and State." After being educated by the American Center for Law & Justice who had been contacted by her parents, the school finally removed all restrictions on Gabrielle's Bible reading [*ACLJ, Victory Report*, Nov. 2021]