

Lifespan

*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you.”* Jeremiah 1:5

2017 Fourth Quarter

Worldwide News... [Source: SPUC]

Australia—MTV and other media shut down their normal programming in an effort to encourage young Australian audiences to register to vote so as to vote in support of gay marriage in an upcoming national referendum. Just like in the U.S., the sin of homosexuality is being promoted under the guise of “marriage equality.”

Brazil—In a small victory against the sweeping tide of secular political correctness, a Brazilian judge ruled that psychologists are within their rights to help patients overcome unwanted same-sex attractions. The decision stemmed from a lawsuit initiated by a Christian psychologist, Rozangela Justino, who lost her license in 2016 after working with at least one patient to overcome same-sex attractions. In his decision, Judge Waldemar Claudio de Carvalho stated: *“To tell adults they may not receive talk therapy for a personal issue that’s bothering them is a monstrous strike against freedom.”*

Chile—In a 6-4 vote, Chile’s high court upheld a law legalizing abortion in cases of rape, danger to the mother’s life, and fetal disability. Chile, known internationally for its strong pro-life laws, has been debating legalizing abortion for some time. The exceptions were introduced into legislation by the country’s socialist president Michelle Bachelet and as such will be swiftly signed into law. Planned Parenthood and Amnesty International celebrated the decision as a victory.

Canada—As anticipated, the lunacy of transgenderism is sweeping over Canada much in the same way that the acceptance of homosexuality and homosexual marriage did, leaving children and families as the ultimate victims. For the first time, a baby born in British Columbia, Searyl Doty, was listed as “genderless” on its birth certificate at the request of the mother, who identifies as a “non-binary trans-person” and is taking male hormones. The card issued by British Columbia lists Searyl’s sex as “U,” presumably for “unknown” or “unclassified.” One must ask if it is fair for a child to suffer identity confusion from the moment of birth as a result of the mental illness of a parent? It is time to face truth. Another illustration: Nemis Quinn Mélançon-Golden is an eight-year-old from Montreal who performs in drag as “Lactatia.” He is making quite a name for himself since performing on stage in a May drag show at the Montreal stop of the “Werq the World Tour.” The child’s activities are not only allowed by the mother, but also encouraged as she revealed in an interview with a gay advocacy news site.

Columbia—Further sinking into the abyss that gay marriage has created, Columbia has now recognized the first “polyamorous family.” Three men in a same-sex union have

had their union legally recognized by the Colombian government. While the arrangement is not considered a “marriage” there are some legal protections for the threesome.

Israel—In a monumental decision, the Israeli Supreme Court unanimously rejected homosexual “marriage.” The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Association in the Jewish nation argued that Israel’s Basic Law of Human Dignity and Liberty should be legally interpreted to recognize homosexual “marriage.” The country’s highest court ruled that Israeli law does not recognize same-sex marriage and as there is no such thing as “civil marriage” in Israel, the petitioners’ request falls under the jurisdiction of the rabbinical court instead.

Malta—Prime Minister Joseph Muscat followed through on his plans to legalize gay marriage in the predominately Catholic nation after his liberal Labor Party won the June elections. The terms “husband” and “wife” were removed from the country’s Marriage Act and replaced with the neutral term “spouse.” Mother and Father were also eradicated and replaced with “parent.” According to the language in the bill, its intent was to *“modernize the institution of marriage and ensure that all consenting, adult couples have the legal right to enter into marriage.”* Shamefully, Malta’s principal Catholic leaders have been largely missing in action since Muscat pledged to legalize homosexual marriage.

Mexico—Tens of thousands of Mexican Catholics are protesting the erection of a sculpture in the city of Guadalajara, Jalisco that merges an image of the Virgin Mary and an Aztec death goddess. They also have complained that the city’s archbishop dropped the ball in the fight to remove the offensive artwork. The sculpture, which was erected by the city government on the medium of a major thoroughfare, is called “Syncretism,” and combines elements of images of Our Lady of Guadalupe with those of the Aztec goddess known as “Coatlicue,” who was seen as a mother figure who consumes and destroys everything she produces.

Netherlands—A double suicide that was both witnessed and encouraged by family members was described as a “beautiful end to a 65 year marriage.” Nic and Trees Elderhorst, both 91, were voluntarily put to death on July 7 in their hometown of Didham. The sad truth is that fear drove the couple to commit suicide, which is not uncommon in the country. The combination of an increasingly self-centered younger generation and fewer children to share in the task of caring for elderly parents leave the aged feeling hopeless and fearful. The prevailing attitude of the nation towards disposing of the feeble and inconvenient does not help. Currently, the Netherlands is seeking to legalize voluntary euthanasia for anyone over age 75. The Netherlands wants to use as its standard for permissible euthanasia the concept of a “completed life.”

United Nations—The Human Rights Committee is the oldest and most respected of 10 treaty bodies that record the efforts of states to implement UN human rights initiatives. It monitors the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which has been ratified by the United States. In July, it published a draft commentary on Article 6 of the treaty on the right to life and invited comments on the draft from civil society and UN member states. The committee said the right to life “inheres in every human being” and “should

not be interpreted narrowly.” It called the right to life the “most precious” right, the “supreme right from which no derogation is permitted.” It even made a highly inclusive list of those protected under Article 6 “without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or any other status, including caste, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability albinism and age,” with one notable exception—unborn children. As the U.S. is a signatory, we must ensure that no change or redefinition is permitted without such protections afforded to the preborn child.

National News... [Source: SPUC]

California—Forty-one families pulled 73 children from an elite Sacramento-area charter school after the school board continued to defend a kindergarten transgender lesson several parents say traumatized their 5-year-olds. The controversy erupted after a lesson in which a boy appeared in girl’s clothes and was reintroduced to his kindergarten classmates as a girl. The teacher, Kaelin Swaney, also read the pro-transgender book “I am Jazz” during the lesson, which took place just before summer vacation. Parents were not told of the “lesson” and many parents reported that in the aftermath, their children were upset, disturbed and worried that they too might “change” into the opposite sex. The insanity of transgenderism is not only pushed in California’s educational system. The “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Long-Term Care Facility Resident’s Bill of Rights,” or Senate Bill 219, will criminalize referring to a transgender nursing home resident by his/her actual gender. The proposed law, which passed the California senate, states: “It shall be unlawful for a long-term care facility or facility staff to ... willfully and repeatedly fail to use a resident’s preferred (transgender) name or (opposite sex) pronouns after being clearly informed of the preferred name or pronouns.” The bill also requires nursing homes—whether Christian-owned or not—to accommodate transgender bathrooms and showers.

District of Columbia—In July, the House of Representatives voted 209 to 214 to defeat the amendment denying the Pentagon funds for “sex change” surgeries. Sarah McBride, spokesperson for the LGBT lobby group Human Rights Campaign, reported, “If only three Members of Congress had voted yes instead [i.e., FOR the measure denying taxpayer funding to the Pentagon for transsexual “sex reassignment surgeries”], this dangerous and discriminatory anti-transgender amendment would have passed. More than 20 Republicans joined the Democrats in voting to defeat the measure. Catholic Illinois Democrat Rep. Dan Lipinski, who is pro-life, also voted on the side of the LGBT lobby to defeat the amendment.

Mississippi—A group of polygamists and a “machinist” who claims to want to marry his computer are seeking to expand on homosexual marriage in Mississippi. Chris Sevier and others filed a federal lawsuit reasoning that same-sex marriage is part of the religion of secular humanism, and since it is of a religious nature, the state has no right to recognize it over other faith-based marriages such as polygamy, zoophilia, and machinism.

Ohio—A pro-life bill aimed at protecting mentally handi-

capped babies has been introduced into the state senate. The bill, sponsored by Frank LaRose (R), would criminalize abortion on the grounds of Downs’s syndrome a fourth degree felony. Abortion lobby groups Planned Parenthood and NARAL strongly oppose SB164 and are highlighting stories of pro-abortion parents who have children with Down syndrome, and obviously regretted their decision to give birth.

Oregon—The state has passed a bill requiring taxpayers to pay for all abortions, including abortions performed on those who are not citizens of the U.S. House Bill 3391 requires insurers to provide abortions at no cost regardless of citizenship status and without religious exemptions. Such legislation highlights the need for national protection from mandates.

South Carolina—South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster issued an executive order preventing abortion facilities from receiving any state or local money. Henceforth, South Carolina will not provide funds “via grant, contract, state-administered funds, or any other form” to any physician or doctor’s office affiliated with an abortion facility. This applies to “any physician or professional medical practice affiliated with an abortion clinic and operating concurrently with-and in the same physical, geographic location or footprint as-an abortion clinic.”

Washington—On August 14, 2017, in Seattle, Thomas More Society attorneys won an appeal on behalf of undercover journalist David Daleiden, against a group of University of Washington research lab employees and abortion facility personnel. The California district court had ruled against Daleiden and the Center for Medical Progress and awarded the National Abortion Federation approximately \$137,000 for attorney fees, security costs, and staff time the abortion trade group claimed had gone toward searching the Internet for links to Daleiden’s videos. The new decision remands the case to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington, in Seattle, which must now specify and justify its decision. The case began when Daleiden requested public records from the University of Washington about its publicly funded research lab. His subsequent broad-ranging investigation into the trafficking of aborted fetal remains led him to look into the University of Washington’s fetal tissue research and acquisition practices which later led to the exposure of the abortion industry’s sale of aborted fetal tissue for profit.

In other news, more revelations regarding Seattle’s homosexual mayor paint a very different view of this man who sits in political office. According to a child welfare investigator, Ed Murray, who is “married” to another man and politically backed by the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, abused his foster son. To date, at least four men have come forward to accuse Murray of rape, all of whom were minors at the time of the molestation. The youngest was 13 years old. Money and drugs were also used as enticements.

Local News...

Harrisburg, PA—After years of constant vigil, pro-life prayers have been answered. The troubled Hillcrest abortion facility in Harrisburg is closed until further notice. The PA Department of Health ordered Hillcrest to suspend operations after a

surprise inspection on June 5th uncovered new safety violations.

“The department concluded that it was no longer safe for the facility to continue providing medical services to women,” said PA Health Department Secretary Karen Murphy. Several Pennsylvania State Senators recently sent a letter to the Secretary of the PA Department of Health, asking why the abortion center’s license had not been revoked after the release of a 44-page document noting the health and safety failures of the long-time abortion operation.

Did You Know...

- **Did you know that** the U.S. Army is telling women soldiers that they need to accept gender-confused, biological men in their showers, bathrooms, and barracks as part of a controversial policy to build “dignity and respect” for “transgender soldiers?” President Trump’s desire to end the service of transgenders in the military is necessary and just on many levels, as this illustrates.
- **Did you know that** Justin Trudeau Liberals will pour \$241.5 million into providing and promoting contraception and abortion in developing nations—particularly in Africa—as part of their commitment to securing global access to “sexual and reproductive health and rights?” International Development Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau made the announcement during the Family Planning Summit in London, England.
- **Did you know that** International Planned Parenthood is demanding that all countries must provide LGBTI Assisted Reproductive Technologies? According to the Center for Family and Human Rights, PPI stated that UN Member States must “provide viable options to assisted reproductive technologies for LGBTI people with parenting intentions” in order to comply with UN Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 5.
- **Did you know that** *Teen Vogue* gave “Back to School” awards to two vibrators, which they encouraged young girls to use as a way to “let off steam with zero risk of STIs?” The magazine’s “Back to School Awards 2017: The Best Health and Wellness Products” also touts condoms and various lubricants alongside water bottles and workout weights.
- **Did you know that** *Teen Vogue* also published “A Guide to Anal Sex” on its website? The article, which informs readers “how to do it the right way,” spawned a conservative backlash that is still continuing. Cancel your daughter’s subscription!
- **Did you know that** a boy who began transgendering himself to be more like a girl when he was 12 has changed his mind just two years later? Patrick Mitchell’s story was aired on Australia’s *60 Minutes* and covered in an interview to *Women’s Day* explaining how being called a “girl” actually made him realize he was comfortable as a boy.
- **Did you know that** a 17-year-old boy with Down syndrome is a hero in Italy after saving a little girl from drowning? Valerio Catoia and his father rescued two girls, 10 and 14 after they were swept out to sea by a powerful current. Valerio, who had been swimming since the age of three, was

such a strong swimmer that he was able to reach the drowning girl furthest out ahead of all who tried to assist, including the lifeguards. Who said that having a handicap makes life less worth living? Tell that to the little girl.

- **Did you know that** the annual report, “Undeniable: The Survey of Hostility to Religion in America,” indicates a 15 percent increase in anti-religious liberty cases in the past year compared with the previous year? The report was released by First Liberty Institute, which defends the First Amendment rights of Americans to live out their faith without reprisals from the government.

Political Action Corner...

NEA

Synopsis: The National Education Association just finished its annual conference and, if anything, its radical agenda was even further exposed! From supporting all things LGBT to sanctuary cities, it does not represent mainstream America, yet it has substantial influence over our public education system and our kids!

Details

The convention, held the first week of July, highlighted 159 items of business for discussion and vote. Much of what was discussed had very little to do with bettering the nation’s taxpayer-funded public education system.

Items discussed included (NBI or new business item):

- A call to continue advancing “the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) students and educators . . .”
- More guarantees the NEA will advocate for illegal immigrant students, including opposition to ICE seeking immigration information.
- [NBI 30](#) announces they will partner with the Southern Poverty Law Center, NAACP, ACLU, GLSEN, and the National Center for TransEquality Human Rights Campaign.
- Numerous NBIs voice opposition to charter schools and any effort to “attack” public education.
- The NEA also wants all schools to have “Wellness Polices” and even though [NBI 34](#) just mentions physical activity and healthy eating, it could easily be expanded to include sexual health i.e. partnering with Planned Parenthood to hand out contraception, the morning after pill or referring for abortion.
- [NBI 41](#)—support for Universal Healthcare/single-payer health care
- [NBI 49](#)—“support LGBTQ and youth by encouraging state and local affiliates to use valid and existing resources such as the booklet from GLSEN called “Just the Facts About Sexual Orientation and Youth: A Primer for Principals, Educators, and School Personnel””
- [NBI 55](#)—“encourage state and local affiliates to foster school environments that affirm the gender diversity of students by using valid and existing resources such as Gender Spectrum’s guide called the ‘Gender Inclusive Schools Toolkit.’”
- [NBI 94](#)—“The NEA supports sanctuary cities and schools and opposes any attacks and attempts to penalize and prohibit such sanctuaries.”

You get the idea! There were vows to demand Secretary of

Education Betsy DeVos' resignation if she didn't answer the NEA's questions to their satisfaction, opposition to President Trump's "Muslim travel ban" and his agenda in general! They, of course, oppose any curriculum that denies global warming (climate change) or evolution.

And then we come to [NBI 86](#) and its effort to restrict exhibitors with opposing views to have a booth during the convention! This new business item specifically targets the NEA Ex-Gay Educators Caucus! In the end, it was combined with NBI 154 that targeted creation science exhibits and the decision was to form a committee to review and evaluate exhibitor's materials "for information that is offensive, obscene, or in bad taste." The committee is to be appointed by and under the supervision of NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia, who has a son who identifies as homosexual and has a "partner." Hmm, wonder what that committee's findings will be??

Action Steps: After reviewing these 159 New Business Items, there's no doubt the NEA should not be allowed near children! Feel free to contact the NEA at 202-833-4000 or you can use their contact form [here](#) to express your concerns over their radical agenda.

The Film Industry's Assaults on Children:

Details: Disney Junior released an episode of a cartoon aimed at preschoolers that depicted two "married" lesbian moms. The show, *Doc McStuffins*, is about an aspiring doctor who fixes toys with help from friends and features a family led by two moms in its August 5 episode, "The Emergency Plan." Although *Doc McStuffins* has been praised by many cultural critics for its depiction of a young African-American female doctor, it's now under fire for its most recent episode pushing same-sex "marriage."

Action Step: The petition can be signed [here](#).

Details: Although many both inside and outside the gay world are finding the YouTube video entitled, *In a Heartbeat*, to be a heart-warming story that resonates with the problems many have had as awkward adolescents, there's a problem with it—a big problem.

In a Heartbeat is getting a whole lot of attention but will do a disservice to those it aims to help. It will further undermine strong, healthy and extraordinarily necessary, male adolescent relationships. Once boys and adolescents are herded toward gayness in order to deal with the very common experience of social anxiety and immediately directed to question their sexual orientation, their sexuality risks becoming "re-wired." And once "re-wired" in that way, it's hard to undo.

Action Step: Comment on YouTube.

Notable Quotes...

"Although same-sex 'marriage' was the militant left's crowning and most damaging achievement, the dismantling of our nation's Judeo-Christian foundation has always been their long-term goal. Fortunately, for true believers, there will always be hope for personal, if not societal redemption. Alt-

hough much of what the militant left has to offer appeals to the base instincts of many, we know that we are all made in the image and likeness of God, and we all still have a spiritual nature. Therefore, we are all called to higher and nobler aspirations.

Although many will succumb to the seductions of our corrupt culture, and will ultimately be brought to despair and destruction, those who seek a better way will still be able to find one. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." What is more, our merciful Lord promised that he will not leave us spiritual orphans, and the gates of hell will not prevail against the Church. So we, the Church Militant, soldier on, saving as many as we can along the way."

Charles S. LiMandri is the President and Chief Counsel of the Freedom of Conscience Defense Fund

"Why is it that the self-proclaimed evangelists of tolerance always seem to have a zero-tolerance policy? Tech giants that run the world's largest platforms of public discourse—Google, Facebook and Twitter—are the least likely to allow the diversity of opinion. They regularly ban content with which they disagree, promote mainstream media's #fakenews while promising to eliminate fake news, present false hierarchy of trending hashtags, prevent access to websites (sometimes millions of them), and daily silence those who don't espouse a liberal worldview. And it's not just overly-aggressive or error-prone algorithms that are to blame. Humans create those algorithms. And scores of human "content reviewers" manually remove truth, literally impacting public opinion and even elections. This should alarm any free society."

Ryan Bomberger, ALL

8/9/17

"I am convinced that pure logic dictates that, if Pope Francis does not revoke the teaching I analyze in my latest article, and if he does not answer the dubia of the Cardinals, to the clear effect that there are intrinsically evil acts, and that these acts are never justified in any situation, Humanae Vitae will be interpreted as an ideal that cannot be demanded from everybody; and that, after discernment, those who practice contraception (with or without abortive effects), can be admitted to the sacraments and that God himself, in some difficult situations, wants them to use contraception."

Dr. Josef Siefert, renowned Catholic philosopher who recently published a critique of Pope Francis' exhortation on marriage that resulted in his firing from his Catholic University by the local archbishop.

"To love someone as Christ loves us mean to love that person in the truth..."

Those who speak on behalf of the Church must be faithful to the unchanging teachings of Christ...because only through living in harmony with God's creative design do people find deep and lasting fulfillment...LGBT-identifying individuals are always good because they are children of God...[but of homo-

sexuality he wrote...] it is at odds with human nature... Homosexual acts are gravely sinful and harmful to the well being of those who partake in them...

People who identify as members of the LGBT community are owed this truth in charity...especially from clergy who speak on behalf of the Church about this complex and difficult topic."

Cardinal Robert Sarah, Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments
WSJ Commentary 9/01/17

Catholic Watch...

1. **Transgenderism**—Tolerance is becoming a new idol and even some Catholic schools are bowing to it. The new policy on student admission for Catholic schools in the Diocese of Jefferson City, Missouri, is a sad example. It welcomes same-sex “families” and has no problem admitting students who claim to have changed their gender to be “transgender.” While tolerance sounds noble and kind, it is not kind to allow any child or his or her parent to willingly reject God’s eternal plan for them that is intrinsic in their sexual identity. God does not make mistakes. Additionally, harm is done when a sinful rejection becomes normalized and accepted. Lastly, denying one’s gender is a symptom of a much deeper pathology, one that needs to be treated for that person to heal.

2. **Lay Action**—A new initiative calls Catholic laity to step up and become involved in advancing and preserving authentic Catholic social teaching in today’s tumultuous world. The “Serviam” organization has a mission of “radical conformity” to the fullness of truth found in the teachings of the Catholic Church. It seeks to make the Church’s social teaching accessible to the laity for sharing in the political forum. This knowledge is also critical in order to counter the prevalent culture of rebellion in the Church today by confronting dissent when needed. In the words of co-founder and president, Jason Jones: “Christ’s bride, the Catholic Church, is being abused...we are stepping in to defend her.”

3. **Humane Vitae in jeopardy**—On the one-year anniversary of four cardinals formally asking Pope Francis to clarify whether *Amoris Laetitia* is aligned with Catholic moral teaching, Pope Francis announced the replacement of the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family with the John Paul II Pontifical Theological Institute for Marriage and Family Sciences. The dissolution of the John Paul II Institute was celebrated by the largely schismatic German Catholic Bishops who called the former “a stronghold of resistance against Francis’ ‘agenda of mercy.’” It is worth noting that at least five of the 28 new members of the Pontifical Academy for Life are critical of Catholic doctrines reaffirmed in *Humane Vitae*. Reporting for the *National Catholic Register*, journalist Ed Pentin identified the dissenters as: Monsignor Pierangelo Sequeri, Anne-Marie Pelletier, Father Alain Thomasset, SJ; Father Maurizio Chiodi, and Father Humberto Miguel Yanez, SJ. A potential sixth, Father Carlo Casalone, SJ, has also been appointed to the Academy.

4. **Filial Correction and Times of Uncertainty**—Expressing “profound grief” and “filial devotion,” Catholic clergy and lay scholars from around the world have issued what they are call-

ing a “Filial Correction” to Pope Francis for “propagating heresy.” The Filial Correction, in the form of a 25-page letter, bears the signatures of sixty-two Catholic academics, researchers, and scholars in various fields from twenty countries. They assert that Pope Francis has supported heretical positions about marriage, the moral life, and the Eucharist and that his actions are causing a host of “heresies and other errors” to spread throughout the Catholic Church.

Reflections...

By: Anne Marie DiCarlo

I truly feel that our modern world is a marvel in many ways. We have pushed the boundaries of science and technology and achieved great advances in medicine, transportation and technology, to name a few. We constantly search for ways to make our communities better and life easier and more enjoyable. That said, one would expect our society to be the most caring, supportive and peaceful society in all of human history. Yet, it is not. Despite our gains, we have lost the most basic insight along the way. The insight that man was created in the image of God Himself, gifted with an eternal soul and meant to rule over creation. If one understands the special relationship between God and man, it is abundantly clear that life is to be cherished and protected—each and every life, no matter how imperfect that life seems to be in human terms.

Most recently, the nation of Iceland boasted that it had eradicated Down’s Syndrome births. Sounds fantastic—until one learns that the way in which they did so was to succeed in establishing universal acceptance of the abortion of such babies through mandated genetic testing prior to birth.

A mentally handicapped individual living in the world today has so many resources to access: early developmental assistance, special curriculums throughout the primary and secondary school systems, and even programs to assist with the transition to independent living. Yet the fear of being imperfect or burdened with challenges leads many to conclude that the afflicted person would be better off dead, preferably before the journey down the birth canal and that society would also be better off without them. The idea that life should be measured based on its “quality” has become accepted under the most utilitarian of terms. No life is perfect. All human beings face challenges in one form or another and it is a dangerous thing to pick and choose those who are worthy of living based on a criterion of intelligence, health or genetic perfection. Seventeen-year-old Valerio Catoia, of Italy who saved a girl from drowning as a result of his strength as a swimmer can testify to that. Valerio is a Down’s Syndrome youth. Had someone decided 17 years ago that Valerio’s life would not be worth living because of his handicap, the girl on the beach would have drowned that day—Valerio would not have been there to save her.

The value of any life doesn’t need to be measured in heroic terms either. Many parents with handicapped children have told of the joy brought into their lives by having these children. In the words of St. Francis, it is in giving that we receive. This

is a lesson that is lost in our world today. Shelia Elson, of Newfoundland, Canada, took her 25-year-old daughter Candice to the hospital for treatment in July. Candice has suffered since birth from a number of medical conditions, including spina bifida, cerebral palsy and chronic seizure disorder. Rather than immediately treating Candice for her condition, the admitting doctor suggested to Shelia that her daughter was a candidate for euthanasia and that he could assist her with the process. Shocked and outraged, Shelia told the doctor she did not bring her child to the hospital to be killed, but to be treated. The doctor replied by telling the dumbfounded mother that she was “selfish.”

What of Charlie Gard? His death was engineered by a system that should have been trying every avenue to save him. Chris Gard and Connie Yates, Charlie's parents, fought the hospital and later the European courts for their right to bring their 11-month-old to the U.S. for experimental treatment for his rare muscle and brain disease. They raised over \$1 million to do this, but English courts sided with the Great Ormond Street Hospital, which wanted to remove him from life support rather than allow him to be transferred to another hospital. The case went as far as the European Court of Human Rights, but in the end, the parents were stripped of custody of their baby son, who was then executed by the hospital one week before his first birthday. It took 12 minutes for Charlie to die after his ventilator was removed. After his passing, Charlie's parents spoke of the impact that Charlie had on them during the course of his short life—something that can never be measured in monetary terms or any other utilitarian measure of worth.

What made Candice's or Charlie's lives disposable? In the estimation of some, their imperfections defined their value as people. Or perhaps it is the monetary cost of health care. With others, the criteria is determined by whether or not they are wanted or convenient—a benchmark that has resulted in over 50 million abortions in the U.S. alone since 1973.

We will never create a better world to live in unless we return to the basic truth that we are God's children, despite our faults, failings and imperfections. Each life is special, worth living and has purpose, even if we may not understand it.



Upcoming Events:

Oct 13: 100th Anniversary of Fatima:

- Consecration of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Cathedral of Sts. Peter & Paul, Philadelphia, Sunday, October 15th, 11:00am mass
- Rosary following the noon mass at St. Mary's Church, Prince and Vine Sts., Lancaster City

Oct. 21: St. James in Lititz Walk for Life

- Registration begins at 7:00am Saturday morning; race begins at 8:00am
- Register early by Oct. 9th and receive a t-shirt; cost \$25
- Registrations after Oct.9th are \$30
- Benefits: North Star Initiative, FORM, AWC

October 27: AWC Fall Gala Fundraiser

- Theme: A Night in Nashville/ live music, line dancing, food, and silent auction
- Hosted by the Lancaster Country Club
- Details: Call 717-394-1561

Nov. 7: General Election

- open judicial positions very important
- see voter guide- People Concerned for the Unborn Child

Nov. 9: Knights of Malta Defense of the Faith Series

- Theme: “Our Lady of Fatima - 100 Years Later”
- Presenter: *Michael O'Neill, the Miracle Hunter*
- Celebrant: Fr. Alan Wolfe
- Mass at 7pm followed by presentation at St. Leo the Great Church, 2427 Marietta Ave, Lancaster

Nov.14: Abby Johnson /Extraordinary Give fundraiser

- Former director of one of the most successful Planned Parenthood Clinics will speak at the Double Tree Hotel, 2400 Willow Street Pike, Lancaster
- VIP Event, \$100pp/ \$500 for 6 people (6-7pm)
- General Event, \$25pp (7-9pm)
- Proceeds to benefit Dining With Dignity at St. Mary's

Dec. 8: National Night of Prayer

- St. Leo's Church 9pm-1am; hourly recitation of rosary and Eucharistic adoration

Jan 19: Annual March For Life in DC

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