

Lifespan

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

2018 First Quarter

Worldwide News... [Source: SPUC]

Australia—The Australian Parliament voted overwhelmingly to legalize same-sex marriage on Thursday, December 7th, overcoming years of conservative resistance and thus becoming the 26th country to legalize such unions. The final approval in the House of Representatives, with just four votes against the bill, came three weeks after a national referendum showed strong public support for gay marriage. Attempts to grant religious freedom to non-clergy to opt out of solemnizing homosexual marriages failed as well as parental rights amendments that would have allowed parents of public school children to opt out of class instruction normalizing homosexuality.

Austria—Viennese Cardinal Christoph Schönborn co-hosted a homosexual-themed prayer service in his cathedral earlier this month for World Aids Day. The event in St. Stephen's Cathedral included speeches given by a world-famous drag queen and a homosexual activist from the pulpit within the sanctuary. Homosexual-themed banners were hung on the walls and spread on the floor in the cathedral for the event. Cardinal Schönborn said in his sermon that God did not come to condemn but to save, asking: “*What does this mean for us? Not to judge, not to exclude, not to bring (people) into line.*”

Bermuda—While other countries are rushing to embrace homosexual marriage as a norm, Bermuda's Senate has given final legislative approval to a measure that would ban same-sex marriage in the British island territory just months after it was legalized, and allow only domestic partnerships. Senators approved the Domestic Partnership Act by an 8-3 vote; the House of Assembly approved it 24-10. The bill is currently awaiting Governor Rankin's signature before it becomes law in the Atlantic Ocean territory. The move brought cries of indignation from the UK, the island's mother country, where a progressive government has controlled the nation's politics for some time.

Belgium—The Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) has filed an application with the European Court of Human Rights on behalf of Tom Mortier, a Belgian man whose mother was euthanized without his consent or knowledge. In April 2012, Godelieva De Troyer, who was 64 and in good physical health but had a history of severe mental health problems, was given a lethal injection by Wim Distelmans, Belgium's leading euthanasia proponent and provider. Her son was only informed when hospital officials asked him to come to the morgue to fill out the paperwork necessary for turning over his mother's remains to the department of experimental anatomy, per her request.

Bolivia—The traditionally Catholic, pro-life South American nation has voted to lift its restrictions on abortion to allow teenagers to kill their preborn babies. Women, defined as “students, adolescents or girls” are now permitted to abort through eight weeks gestational age.

Botswana—A judge has ordered the Botswana government to approve transgenderism by officially recognizing a man as a woman. In what is being acknowledged as a landmark case, Botswana High Court Judge Leatile Dambe ruled that President Ian Khama's administration must legally acknowledge Tshepo Ricki Kgositau, a 30-year-old male, as female. He is to be issued a new identity card with his gender listed as a “woman” by the end of this year. Last year, Kgositau, the director of the transgender activist organization “Gender Dynamix,” had sex change surgery in Thailand. He told reporters that his fight for legal recognition as the opposite sex is just the beginning of demanding “more access to all other rights.”

Britain—The mother of an autistic boy with hemophilia has been awarded £9,000,000 (approximately \$12 million U.S.) in a record-breaking “wrongful birth” suit. Omodele Meadows, now 40, said that had doctors given her correct information, she would have aborted her child Adejuwon, now 6, early in her pregnancy. It was never her intent to give birth to a child with hemophilia. After a nephew was born with the disease in 2006, Meadows had herself tested for the gene linked to the disease. She was assured that she did not have it.

Canada—Under its progressive, leftist government, Canada continues to become increasingly hostile to religion and traditional morality, especially that which proclaims the right to life. Only one MPP voted against an Ontario bill outlawing pro-life witness near abortion centers. 85 of the 107 MPPs at Queen's Park voted for the bill. The far-reaching legislation automatically bans pro-life witness, including picketing and sidewalk counseling, within 50 meters of Ontario's eight abortion centers, a distance that can be increased up to 150 meters upon request. Bill 163 also allows hospitals, pharmacies and any other healthcare facility that provide abortion to apply for “bubble” zones of up to 150 meters. The bill automatically bans all pro-life activity within 150 meters of the homes of abortion providers and abortion center staff. This heavy-handed approach is also applied to gender politics as well. Liberals have banned employers from receiving student summer job grants if they don't sign an “attestation” that they agree with abortion and transgender “rights.” Trudeau's government justified its actions on the basis that “sexual and reproductive rights” are at the core of Canada's foreign and domestic policy. Those that disagree therefore deserve to be punished in the eyes of these purveyors of tolerance. The most frightening development has been the encroachment of parental rights in the schools through the provinces with respect to homosexuality and gender politics. To illustrate, Bill 24, or An Act to Support Gay Straight Alliances, forbids schools from telling parents that their child has joined a GSA without the child's explicit consent, regardless of the student's age. The bill would “make it illegal to engage parents about certain school activities for children beginning in kindergarten, regardless of their individual circumstances.” The children inevitably become the victims of an out of control government trying to replace parents

in the name of political correctness. In Calgary, a legal group is speaking out after learning that a school facilitated an 11-year-old girl's gender transition behind her family's back, and only informed them when she had become suicidal. The girl told her teachers at age 11 she wanted to be a boy but didn't want her parents to know. She became suicidal after a year of living a double life as a boy at school and a girl at home. Only when she told her guidance counselor she was depressed and wanted to kill herself did the school inform her parents, says lawyer John Carpay, director of the Calgary-based Justice Center for Constitutional Freedoms (JCCF).

France—New research has yet again undermined the prevailing theory that those who suffer from long-term comas are essentially brain dead and beyond hope of revival. Researchers at the Institute of Cognitive Science in Lyon developed and implanted a device in a man who had spent the last 15 years in an unresponsive state following a severe car accident. The device stimulated the man's vagus nerve, the longest of the involuntary nerves that runs from the base of the brain to the abdomen. Besides helping regulate heart, lungs, and digestive tract, the nerve has a lot to do with wakefulness and attention. After stimulating the man's vagus nerve every day over a period of one month, the patient responded for the first time in 15 years by responding to simple requests, following objects with his eyes, turning his head and listening while being read to. Although not verbal, the man is quite clearly conscious.

Honduras—The cardinal who has led Pope Francis' efforts to "reform" the Church is now accused of having received over 40,000 USD monthly for years from a Catholic university under his control, and of funneling millions of dollars to foreign corporations that have mysteriously lost part of the deposits. Cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga, the archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, has wielded immense influence under Francis' papacy because the pope chose him to lead the "C9" Council of Cardinal Advisers charged with reforming the Roman Curia. He was one of the key members of the liberal faction at the Synod on the Family that has resulted in a crisis over the Church's teaching on marriage. Moreover, the report delivered to the pope includes an accusation that Rodríguez Maradiaga has made troubling payments to an intimate male friend of the auxiliary bishop of his archdiocese, Juan José Pineda, who lives in an apartment close to Maradiaga and who has shared his domicile with Pineda.

Italy—On December 14th, the Italian government passed a law allowing adults to determine their end of life care, including the circumstances in which they can refuse all treatment. Italians can now write "living wills" which allows the refusal of care, including nutrition and hydration. Right to die advocates are jubilant, giving Pope Francis some of the credit. Critics say the resistance of Catholic politicians to the bill was weakened after Pope Francis' November speech to the Pontifical Academy for Life, in which he indicated that people may refuse life-prolonging medical treatment but failed to note that nutrition and hydration comprise basic humanitarian care rather than medical treatment. According to Italy's *La Repubblica*, and *The New York Times*, many of the bill's supporters, and many Catholics, saw Francis's speech as a "green light" to the new law.

Netherlands—CASA, an organization that is responsible for half the abortions in the Netherlands, appears to have committed fraud worth nearly **15 million euros over the last decade**. CASA had charged insurance for fictitious clients, billed for additional services to which they were not entitled to reimbursement, and double-billed some of its legitimate clients. These abortion clinics received millions in subsidies from the Dutch state, all funded through taxes.

National News... [Source: SPUC]

Alabama—Pro-abortion Democrat Doug Jones beat pro-life Judge Roy Moore for Alabama's open Senate seat in an extremely close race. Before certification, the vote count was reviewed after election night videos went viral in which an elated Jones supporter gleefully answered an interviewer's question with a comment that indicated that he had travelled from another state to vote in the election. Funding from George Soros had also given the Jones campaign the momentum to defeat Moore.

California—In a major victory for free speech, Riverside County Superior Court Justice Gloria C. Trask ruled late Monday that California must not force pro-life pregnancy medical clinics to post signage promoting state-covered abortions to their clients. The permanent injunction applies to over 200 privately funded pregnancy centers in the state that offer free alternatives to abortion. The ruling puts a stop to the state's so-called "Reproductive FACT Act"—a 2015 law that mandated pro-life centers must post signage and inform clients about the state's taxpayer-funded abortions and birth control through its Medi-Cal program.

Georgia—The fire chief who lost his job for his Christian views on marriage has won a federal civil rights suit against the city of Atlanta for unjust termination. Chief Cochran briefly included a Biblical interpretation of marriage and its purpose for sex in a men's devotional book he wrote in his private time. He later published "Who Told You That You Were Naked: Overcoming the Stronghold of Condemnation" in 2013, another essay upholding traditional marriage. After reading the material written by Cochran, a city counsel-man informed the mayor who suspended the fire chief and then subsequently fired him on the basis that he profoundly "disagreed with the sentiments expressed in the paperback and that Cochran should have obtained City permission before writing the book." Cochran asserted his right to free speech, pointing out that free speech is not really free if you have to get City permission for it.

Maine—Teachers in Portland, Maine are now required to use students' preferred gender pronouns and side with the children if their parents object to enabling their gender confusion. They are also not permitted to tell parents if their children identify as transgender, unless the children allow them to do so. Training in "transgenderism" is mandatory. According to the *Press Herald*, not a single person opposed the decision at the meeting of the Portland Board of Education.

Ohio—Ohio's Republican Governor, John Kasich, signed a pro-life bill banning abortion of babies diagnosed in utero with probable Down syndrome. The Down Syndrome Non-Discrimination Act will go into effect in 90 days. The bill,

which passed the Ohio Senate 20-12 and the Ohio House 63-30 in November, prohibits abortion when prenatal tests show the baby has Down's syndrome or is likely to have it. An individual who commits an abortion in these circumstances could be charged with a fourth-degree felony, and doctors who do so could also lose their licenses, but the mother would not be accountable, according to CNN.

Texas—The Texas state law banning dismemberment abortion is facing a challenge in federal court. The ban prohibits the D&E abortion method, one of the most brutal abortion procedures legally permitted in the United States. The procedure involves tearing apart the unborn child limb by limb, causing the child to bleed to death. The baby is removed in pieces from the uterus using forceps or vacuum aspiration. Afterwards, the woman's uterus is scraped with a long metal curette to remove any remnants of the baby or the placenta left in the womb. Federal District Judge Lee Yeakel ruled that the bill was unconstitutional, and would put an "undue burden" on women, stating: "*The State's valid interest in promoting respect for the life of the unborn, although legitimate, is not sufficient to justify such a substantial obstacle to the constitutionally protected right of a woman to terminate a pregnancy before fetal viability.*" Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has vowed to defend the state's dismemberment abortion ban and the will of the electorate.

Virginia—In November, six pro-lifers were convicted of trespass by the State of Virginia for their non-violent defense of the unborn. After refusing to leave the clinics when told to do so by law enforcement, they were arrested. The group, known as the Red Rose Rescue, offered red roses to the women inside the abortion clinics. Attached to each rose was a card with words of encouragement and phone numbers to local pregnancy centers. Altogether ten pro-lifers were arrested; only the six who entered the Alexandria Women's Health Clinic were brought to trial. Those arrested at the Virginia clinic included two Catholic priests: Fr. Stephen Imbarrato, associate with Priests for Life; and Fr. Fidelis Moscinski, of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. All were fined \$500 and given a probationary period of one year, but could have faced 90 days in jail under the maximum sentencing guidelines.

Nationwide—

1. The U.S. House of Representatives just passed landmark tax reform legislation that includes a key provision affirming the humanity of children from the moment of conception. "The bill allows unborn children to qualify for education savings accounts, called '529 Plans,'" said Andrew Guernsey, senior legislative assistant at the Family Research Council (FRC). This is "a big pro-life win," he continued, "It gets the unborn recognized in the tax code." "This is the same tax code that actually subsidizes abortion—that incentivizes healthcare coverage that includes abortion—so it's about time we start to turn the tide on the tax code from its pro-abortion bias, to finally start giving some recognition that unborn children are people too."
2. The U.S. House voted 237 to 189 to pass the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, banning most abortions after 20 weeks, the point at which science has proven that the pre-born baby can feel pain. Current research even sug-

gests that babies at that age feel pain more acutely than adults and can survive for a time after its limbs are torn off.

3. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is finally officially investigating Planned Parenthood for selling baby body parts, more than two years after the release of the Center for Medical Progress (CMP) videos.
4. President Trump is pulling the United States out of a UN agency that advocates for abortion, homosexuality, and radical sex education for young children. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has for years pushed for pro-abortion and pro-LGBT topics to be taught to children. The U.S.'s withdrawal from the controversial UN agency took effect on December 31, 2017. In April 2017, Trump withdrew U.S. support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) over its participation in China's forced abortion regime.

Local News...

Records obtained from the department of Health reveal that Planned Parenthood has failed numerous inspections in 2017 throughout the state:

1. A March inspection of a Planned Parenthood in Harrisburg showed that the abortion center failed to maintain a sanitary environment.
2. An April inspection of a Planned Parenthood in Warminster revealed that the abortion operation failed to ensure that emergency equipment was available in case a patient had to be resuscitated. A follow-up inspection in August showed that staff failed to inform the state of a serious incident in which a patient's uterus was perforated. The patient was not transported to a hospital, but did later end up in an emergency room hemorrhaging.
3. An August inspection at a Planned Parenthood in Allentown revealed the facility failed to administer Immune Globulin to an Rh-negative patient. Rh-negative is a type of blood group that does not contain the Rh antigen in red blood cells. Staff also failed to remove expired medications from an emergency kit.
4. An August inspection of a Planned Parenthood in Western Pennsylvania revealed that the center was cited for building violations that could have threatened the safety of patients. The same was true of Planned Parenthood on Locust Street in Philadelphia.

Catholic Watch

Many Catholics shared a sense of unease following the announcement from Rome that the overhauled Pontifical Academy for Life was to shift its focus from abortion and bioethics to immigration and the environment. Now called the John Paul II Academy for Human Life and the Family (JAHLEF), the new laity-led academy now has, in addition to its new mandate to shift the emphasis of study, abortion supporters in its ranks. Nigel Biggar, an Anglican professor of moral and pastoral theology at the University of Oxford, is one such appointment. He has in the past supported legalized abortion up to 18 weeks and has expressed qualified support for euthanasia. Of the new ap-

pointees, just 28 of the previous 139 members have been reappointed. 23 are new members; hence, 112 academics, including some founding members, most of whom were previously chosen by Popes St. John Paul II and Benedict XVI, are no longer part of the institution. Among this new group, there are a number of non-Catholics, either belonging to other religions or subscribing to none.

Purportedly, the new academy is to serve the same goals as the original Pontifical Academy founded by Pope John Paul II in 1994, but one wonders how that is possible when its members are no longer guided by a firm grounding in the belief that life, at every stage, is sacred, nor are they guided by a unified belief in Catholic teaching.

Did You Know...

- **Did you know that** according to recent data from the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the U.S. fertility rate sank to a record low of 62.0 births per 1,000 women of reproductive age in 2016?
- **Did you know that** the American College of Pediatricians is alerting parents to a dangerous new mobile phone app called Nurx? Dubbed the "Uber for birth control," Nurx enables teens as young as age 12 to obtain contraceptive and abortive medications including the pill, vaginal ring, Plan B and Ella without parental knowledge or local physician oversight.
- **Did you know that** abortion clinic closures far outpaced newly opened abortion facilities in 2017? **In all, 49 abortion facilities—35 surgical and 14 medication only clinics—closed or halted abortion services.** Only eight new surgical abortion facilities were opened, along with eleven new medication abortion facilities.
- **Did you know that** the progressive magazine *Maclean* published an article that asked the following question, "*Should older people lose the right to vote? Because old people are practically dead,*" the author explained, "*there are some today who feel that they vote with only a short-term vision in mind, and thus should be barred from interfering with the Progress that would be brought about should young people be allowed to make all the decisions unsupervised.*" Has anyone read *Logan's Run* lately???
- **Did you know that** an ethicist claimed that large family size is "wrong, or at least morally suspect?" In an article written for NBC on the impact of family size on the environment, the ethicist compared parents having many children to releasing murderers from prison. "Something similar is true, I think, when it comes to having children: Once my daughter is an autonomous agent, she will be responsible for her emissions. But that doesn't negate my responsibility," he suggested.
- **Did you know that** Preschoolers, kindergarteners, and elementary school children should be encouraged to explore their gender identity, according to the Church of England? According to the church leaders, little ones should feel uninhibited to "try out the many cloaks of identity" and "explore the possibilities of who they might be." Teachers in the church's 4,700 schools throughout the U.K. are advised not to enable children to conform to traditional

male/female stereotypes. Young children "are in a 'trying on' stage of life . . . so no labels need to be fixed," the church document states.

- **Did you know that** the Barbie children's doll is being used to further LGBT issues? The company's Instagram account proclaims that Barbie is proud to wear a "Love Wins" shirt, along with a photo of two dolls wearing the LGBT-themed T-shirt. The "Love Wins" slogan is associated with support for legalization of gay marriage.
- **Did you know that** the media has declared that LGBT violence is at an all time high? Truth: Quite the contrary, more than one transgender person died as the result of violently attacking the police. Others were involved in dangerous activities such as prostitution, gang activity, or drug use, and still others had shown themselves to be prone to violence. In other words, much—if not most—of the violence against transgenders is due to the poor life-style choices of those who reject simple science and morality.
- **Did you know that** a new study suggests that pornography use makes church-going men more tolerant of abortion? For moral conservatives, the news dovetails with another recent study showing porn use increases men's support for homosexual marriage. The study titled "Does Religious Attendance Moderate a Connection Between Pornography Consumption and Attitudes Towards Women?" argues that church-attending men who use pornography begin to tolerate abortion because of their "cognitive dissonance" regarding their sexual behavior.
- **Did you know that** Evangelical Lutheran leaders in Sweden say the faithful should not refer to God as "He"? The largest denomination in Sweden, often called "The Church of Sweden," wants its ministers to replace "He" with the generic "God." They also don't want preachers using "Lord" because it implies the masculine.
- **Did you know that** staff and faculty were told at a recent University of Minnesota departmental diversity gathering that Christian and Jewish holiday expressions of faith were inappropriate on campus? The "Religious Diversity and Holidays" document also said some colors are inappropriate for decoration themes because "red and green are representative of the Christian tradition as blue and white/silver are for Jewish Hanukkah that is also celebrated at this time of year." "Individuals may display expressions of their religious faith in their own personal space," it stated, "if it does not have a meaningful public function and not in public areas."
- **Did you know that** the Trump family's first presidential Christmas card said "Merry Christmas" rather than "Happy Holidays," the Obamas' preferred greeting? It seems Trump is making good on his promise to end political correctness. Thank you, Mr. President, for a small token of sanity.

Notable Quotables...

"The reality of the apostasy of faith in our time rightly and profoundly frightens us . . . Our love of Christ and of His mystical Body the Church makes clear to us the gravity of the evil which seeks to rob us of our eternal salvation in Christ.

But let us not give way to discouragement . . . But rather remember that the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary assumed into glory never ceases to beat with love for us, the children whom her divine Son gave to her as he was He was dying upon the cross."

Cardinal Burke, Devon England, 10/13/17

"During National Adoption Month, we celebrate the thousands of families who have expanded through adoption, and we acknowledge the strength and resiliency of the children who are still waiting to find their forever home . . .

My administration recognizes the profound importance of adoption for the American family. . . . Adoption is a life-changing and life-affirming act that signals that no child in America—born or unborn—is unwanted or unloved . . .

Adoptive parents are a selfless and loving part of God's plan for their future children."

President Donald Trump, November 2017

"We have a missionary imperative from Christ to convert the world. But there are at least five serious obstacles to evangelizing today, any one of which would already deal a serious blow to the endeavor. First, the privatization of religion. Second, the rejection of original sin and the assumption of universal salvation. Third, the widespread doctrinal and moral confusion in the Church. Fourth, the banality and irreverence of mainstream Catholic worship. Fifth, the utter lack of ascetical demands. When you put all these together, you get Catholics who don't think they should bother other people about religion, who assume that most people are already fine, who are not even quite sure they know what they believe, have nothing especially attractive to invite people to, and are not living and promoting a way of life that would respond to the needs of any serious searcher."

Peter Kwasnewski. Contributor LifeSite News, 11/29/17

Food for Thought

Aftermath of China's One-Child Policy

Pulitzer Prize winner Mei Fong, a Malaysian-American of Chinese descent, went to China to investigate the effects of its population control policies. The result was her book *One Child: The Story of China's Most Radical Experiment*. Fong wrote about forced abortions, forced sterilizations, babies kidnapped for adoption, and the anguish of parents who had lost their only living child to accident, disease or natural disaster. (A new word has been invented for such parents—*shidu*, literally, "lose only." There are a million *shidu* now in China, and their ranks swell by 76,000 a year.)

Fong also visited a sex-doll manufacturer, having a "hunch" that here could be found another result of the one-child policy that robbed China of baby girls. In 2016, she was proved correct: sales of newly affordable, lifelike sex dolls took off. One supplier sold 500 of them on China's "Singles Day." The average buyer of sex toys in China is a man age 18 to 29: exactly the demographic that has been robbed of the friendship and love of real women by the shortsighted "one-child" policy.

There will be 30 million more men than women in China by 2030, but China is already a world leader in human trafficking. Women from Burma, Vietnam, and North Korea have been recruited or kidnapped to work in Chinese brothels or be sold to poor Chinese farmers. Fong writes that a Vietnamese bride can make her trafficker up to \$18,500. Some of these foreign women may intend honest marriage, but like their new husbands, they fall victim to crooked marriage brokers, who sell them from village to village.

The damage to these women and women's dignity is obvious, but China's men have also been hurt. Chinese bachelors are "demonstrating lower self-esteem and higher rates of depression and aggression," she writes, and this has led to a rise in violent crime. Fong only glancingly mentions men's loneliness and the humiliation of remaining unmarried and childless in China's ancestor-worshipping society.

Reflections...

During the great Arian crisis in the 4th century the defenders of the Divinity of the Son of God were labeled "intransigent" and "traditionalist." Saint Athanasius was even excommunicated by Pope Liberius and the Pope justified this with the argument that Athanasius was not in communion with the Oriental bishops who were mostly heretics or semi-heretics.

And so, in this time of crisis:

Bishop Schneider's To Do List to Save the Faith Today

1. We have to encourage ordinary Catholics to be faithful to the Catechism they have learned, to be faithful to the clear words of Christ in the Gospel, to be faithful to the faith their fathers and forefathers handed over to them.
2. We have to organize circles of studies and conferences about the perennial teaching of the Church on the issue of marriage and chastity, inviting especially young people and married couples.
3. We have to show the very beauty of a life in chastity, the very beauty of the Christian marriage and family, the great value of the Cross and of the sacrifice in our lives.
4. We have to present ever more the examples of the Saints and of exemplary persons who demonstrated that in spite of the fact that they suffered the same temptations of the flesh, the same hostility and derision of the pagan world, they nevertheless with the grace of Christ led a happy life in chastity, in a Christian marriage and in family.
5. We have to found and promote youth groups of pure hearts, family groups, groups of Catholic spouses, who will be committed to the fidelity of their marriage vows.
6. We have to organize groups which will help morally and materially broken families, single mothers, groups who will assist with prayer and with good counsel separated couples, groups and persons who will help "divorced and remarried" people to start a process of serious conversion, i.e. recognizing with humility their sinful situation and abandoning with the grace of God the sins which violate the commandment of God and the sanctity of the sacrament of marriage.
7. We have to create groups who will carefully help persons with homosexual tendencies to enter the path of Christian con-

version, the happy and beautiful path of a chaste life and to offer them eventually in a discrete manner a psychological cure.

8. We have to show and preach to our contemporaries in the neo-pagan world the liberating Good News of the teaching of Christ: that the commandment of God, and even the sixth commandment is wise, is beauty: "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes" [Ps 19(18): 7-8].

9. Cardinals, bishops, priests, Catholic families, Catholic young people have to say to themselves: I refuse to conform to the neo-pagan spirit of this world, even when this spirit is spread by some bishops and cardinals; I will not accept their fallacious and perverse use of holy Divine mercy and of "new Pentecost"; I refuse to throw grains of incense before the statue of the idol of the gender ideology, before the idol of second marriages, of concubinage, even if my bishop would do so, I will not do so; with the grace of God I will choose to suffer rather than betray the whole truth of Christ on human sexuality and on marriage.

Upcoming Events...

2018 March For Life **Friday, January 19th.**

Details are as follows:

7:00–7:45am Mass for Life: St. Leo's Church
2427 Marietta Avenue

7:45–8:15am Light breakfast provided by the
Love for Life Team at St. Leo's

8:30am Buses depart for DC

11:30am Buses arrive at Air & Space Museum in DC

12:00 noon Rally for Life at the Mall

1:30–3:00pm March on Constitution Ave. to
Supreme Court Building

3:00–5:00pm Designated activities including:
visits to Congressional and Senate Reps;
visit to Pro-life exhibit and networking session.

5:15pm Buses depart for PA

7:30pm Dinner stop at Arundel Mall, MD

10:00pm Return to St. Leo's Church

The deadline for registration is January 15th.

Checks are payable to Catholics Defending Life (CDL).
Cost is \$10 per person; \$25 for families of three or more.
Free seats are also available.
Please bring cash for dinner and warm winter attire, including boots.
Signs are welcome and can be stored in the bus luggage compartment.

Please mark your calendars and join us in the continuing fight for life!

Prayer Corner...

*Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
Come manifest thy virgin birth:
All lands admire, all times applaud:
Such is the birth that fits our God.*

*Forth from his chamber goeth he,
That royal home of purity,
A giant in twofold substance one,
Rejoicing now his course to run.*

*The Virgin's womb that glory gained,
Its virgin honor is still unstained.
The banners there of virtue glow;
God in his temple dwells below.*

*From God the Father he proceeds,
To God the Father back he speeds;
Runs out his course to death and hell,
Returns on God's high throne to dwell.*

*O Equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now;
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.*

*Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness breathe a newer light,
Where endless faith shall shine serene,
And twilight never intervene.*

*All laud, eternal Son, to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Ghost, for evermore.*

Advent hymn, *Veni Redemptor Gentium* (Come Redeemer of the Nations), written by St. Ambrose

*Please help us to save money in producing this newsletter
by sending us your email address to LifespanPA@aol.com*