

Culture of Life

We are making progress!! But we must continue to PRAY and to stay involved.

So much has been happening that I prepared a review of many of the events. In the past few months we have seen Pro-Life laws passed in several states. Nebraska just passed a Pro-Life Bill to save Babies from the Abortion Pill. In May, the Governor of Louisiana, John Bel Edwards, a Democrat, signed into law Heartbeat legislation, which would ban abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detected.

The Alabama Legislature passed a near-total abortion ban, signed into law by Republican Gov. Kay Ivey. Recently, we've seen major abortion restrictions passed and signed into law in Ohio, Georgia, Alabama, Missouri, and, now, Louisiana.

Similarly, restrictive bills were introduced in Indiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington and Mississippi. Some states did not pass such bills and the liberal appointed judges are attempting to nullify the effects of others. In Rhode Island, New Mexico, and Washington, extreme pro-abortion legislation has been stopped. After Georgia passed its abortion law, the Disney COO said he can't see how Disney can continue to film movies in Georgia.

Legislation prohibiting abortion after six weeks is being considered in Texas, Missouri Florida, Maryland, Minnesota and West Virginia. Nebraska passed a Pro-life Bill to save babies from the Abortion Pill. If Governor Ricketts signs the bill into law, Nebraska will become the fifth state to require people be informed about the possibility of abortion reversal. But Arkansas, Idaho, South Dakota, and Virginia require doctors to tell women they can reverse their abortions.

But in 2019, bills that would protect abortion rights were introduced in Indiana, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Mexico, Nevada, New York, Rhode Island, Texas and Vermont. New York passed its bill. And it seems Illinois is about to pass one that is far worse than New York's. It enshrines Abortion as a "Fundamental Right". In California, they are set to pass SB-

24 which will force all state universities to dispense RU-486, the abortion pill, right on campus.

Missouri may become our first abortion-free state. RHS Planned Parenthood is the last remaining abortion facility in Missouri. Its facility license expired on May 31, 2019. Its license was not going to be renewed because of Planned Parenthood's refusal to comply with a licensing and public safety investigation. A state court just issued temporary relief to block Missouri from eliminating abortion access in the state.

The abortion lobby is truly afraid for what we've been working towards...the reversal of Roe v. Wade, states without abortion (hopefully, starting with Missouri), and huge movement towards our goal of making abortion illegal and unthinkable. That is why Planned Parenthood is attempting to market and distribute the abortion pill. It can mail the abortion pill even to states that ban abortion.

In May, Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life, co-hosted and spoke at the "Alive from New York" event in Times Square. The most powerful moment of the event was the over 20,000 people watching on a huge screen a 4D ultrasound of a live baby in its mother's womb and hearing the live baby's heartbeat. The event was a joyful celebration of the beauty of life grounded in science and technology.

*Additionally, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision in *Box v. Planned Parenthood* just this week. The decision upheld part of an Indiana law requiring that fetal remains after abortion be cremated or buried, rather than disposed as medical waste. However, the court did not weigh in on the broader issue of abortion on the basis of race, sex, or disability, although we anticipate hearing from the court in the future on this critical issue. No one deserves to lose her life just because she was born with Down syndrome or because of the color of her skin.*

As Justice Thomas commented in his concurring opinion, laws like this that bar such discrimination 'promote a State's compelling interest in preventing abortion from becoming a tool of modern-day eugenics.'

The Movie "Unplanned" opened on March 29th. Although it is not showing locally anymore, attempt to find it on the internet. The movie was more successful than expected. It has already grossed more than \$13 million. It

is a story of Abbey Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood director who eventually sees the evil of abortion, joins 40 Days for Life and becomes its most ardent Pro-Life speakers. It is a balanced depiction of what occurs in the abortion industry. One of the challenges with the Unplanned movie was getting all Americans to actually see the film. The Students for Life organization has a solution. This fall, they will be bringing Unplanned to more than 150 college campuses to screen. They are going right where Planned Parenthood's target audience is.

And just this Saturday, June 1, 2019 there was a good turnout of Pro-Life people from around the Charlotte Diocese that attended 40 hours adoration and Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral. Then we processed to the new Planned Parenthood facility in uptown only a mile from St. Patrick Cathedral. We were led by Fr. Bond and prayed the rosary for the safety of the unborn.

The new facility is expected to open in July, expanding the availability of abortions in Charlotte which services both North and South Carolina. The Pro-Abortion faction has been lobbying Charlotte City Council to pass a more restrictive Noise Ordinance for areas around abortion facilities and medical clinics. Please attend any of the upcoming City Council meetings to express your opinion.

The abortion issue will remain a key one going into the 2020 elections, so we must continue to PRAY and stay involved.

Please remember to donate diapers to the St. Matthew Respect Life Ministry by dropping them in the crib or collection boxes in the Narthex. They will go to support several local pregnancy centers.

Norm Gemignani

*Culture of Life Director
ngemignani@gmail.com
205-547-7919*