



PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

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St. Gabriel Pro-Life Committee

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US Birth Rate Lowest Since 1986

A provisional report characterizes the U.S. birth rate as the lowest it has been in three decades. The study shows that "the fertility rate of 1.7 births per U.S. woman also fell 2%, meaning the current generation isn't making enough babies to replace itself." Approximately 5.7 million babies would have been born in the past decade if fertility rates had not fallen from pre-recession levels. [Editor's note: approximately 10 million babies would have been born in the past decade if they had not been aborted.] If trends continue, experts say the U.S. can expect labor shortages, including for elder care when aging baby boomers need the most support. The U.S. could do more to encourage childbearing with parental leave, preschool expansion, childcare subsidies and other policies aimed at helping young adults struggling with student loan debt and housing costs. [AP](#), 5/15/19

Hungary Crafts Pro-Family Policies

Effective this July 1, a law in Hungary provides a new round of pro-family incentives, such as a 3,000-euro mortgage reduction for a second child, and a 12,000-euro reduction for a third. Effective in 2020, mothers with 4 or more children will enjoy a lifetime personal tax exemption. The family is one of the "necessary societies" in Catholic teaching. As Pope St. John Paul II once put it, "as the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live." Hungary is showing that pro-family policies are better for nations than ideological policies that deracinate and diminish the family. Since 2010, Hungary has seen marriage rates increase by a whopping 43% with their divorce rate dropping by 22.5%. Unsurprisingly, with the increase in marriage, 33% fewer women are having abortions today than they were eight years ago. Likewise, the national birth rate is currently at its highest in 20 years. [Catholic Herald](#), 4/25/19



Down Syndrome Teen is Canada's Pro-Life Advocate

Sarah Joy Walker is alive today because her mother flatly turned down an abortion. Alisa Ketchum Walker, Sarah Joy's mother, was five months pregnant when she discovered that the baby she was carrying had Down syndrome. "Yes, it's

difficult news to digest because of all the unknowns, all the questions, all the little fears that rise up as to how we will raise a child living with different difficulties. But step by step, as you accept and allow what God has given you, He gives Himself in turn. And it's amazing what can happen," she said. Ever since 17 year-old Sarah Joy first heard the story, she has been unable to forget that abortion could have ended her life simply because she had Down syndrome. She told her story to a large audience at the Alberta March for Life May 9. The annual event coincided with the national March for Life in Ottawa, Ontario, and others across Canada. Sarah Joy's address to the March for Life was her first public speech. She discussed a passionate and personal message on the sacredness of all human life and her fight against the abortion of babies with Down syndrome. "Having this crazy, out-of-the-blue chance to speak at the March for Life, it's pretty amazing," Sarah Joy said. "This will be the first time I've gone outside of my personal bubble to help other people. I want to get this done so that I'm able to spread God's word. I want to see that every baby lives and can be themselves no matter what." Alisa Walker's advice to expectant mothers is that while an abortion may seem like the best short-term option, the loss of a child can cause even greater long-term pain. She recommended that mothers seek advice and talk to people they trust before getting an abortion, and know that adoption is always an option for their child. "I think it's declaring the sovereignty of God and that all of life is God's sacred gift to us, from conception to our very last breath," Alisa said. "It means that there is hope. If you're facing difficult circumstances, there's hope that there will be a way, God will make a way." "You trust God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind," Sarah Joy added. "Because God is always with you through everything. I believe if you have faith, you can never lose it, and I'm so, so glad that God is with me." [Pilot](#), 5/10/19



PROJECT MUSTARD SEED

The letter recipient for this month is:

ADOBE

Operations: computer (software: Acrobat, Flash, Macromedia products).

Please write to:

Mr. Shantanu Narayen
Chairman & CEO
Adobe Systems, Inc.
345 Park Ave.
San Jose, CA 95110

Tell him to
stop funding
Planned
Parenthood.

www.adobe.com

Adobe has been on The Boycott List since 2004 and we last wrote to them in September 2014. Thank you for your continued support of our project. Now, more than ever, it is important for us to be active in the fight against Planned Parenthood.

Action Alert

The Allegheny County Council is considering a proposed ordinance (No. 11000-19) that would ban what they term "conversion therapy" in an effort to prevent young people from seeking the help of a counselor to work through unwanted same-sex attraction, feelings, or behaviors. The ban would also prevent young people who struggle with gender dysphoria from obtaining a counselor's help to assist them in feeling comfortable with their own biological sex. It is bad public policy. PRAY for the defeat of this proposed ordinance—for the protection of freedom of speech for counselors and preservation of the rights of young people and their parents to choose the therapy that meets their needs. Go to <https://pafamily.org/action/freedomtocounsel/> to voice opposition to this proposed ordinance.

PAFamily.org, 5/17/19

The PA House of Representatives voted to pass the Down Syndrome Protection Act, House Bill 321. This legislation would prohibit the killing of unborn children based on a diagnosis of Down syndrome. Currently, the majority of those diagnosed in the womb with Down syndrome are aborted. The bill now moves to the PA State Senate. Go to pafamily.org/protect to express support to your Senator for the bill.

PAFamily.org, 5/15/19

Breakthrough Cure for Deadly Disease

A diagnosis of Sickle Cell Anemia (SCA) strikes fear into the hearts of patients and their families. The disease can be debilitating, excruciatingly painful and often fatal. That is why a dramatic new breakthrough cure for SCA using adult stem cells is getting the attention of the medical community and ethnic populations targeted by the ailment. This is truly an exciting development! SCA affects approximately 100,000 people in the U.S. Half of adults with SCA die by the time they reach their early 40s. It is an inherited condition predominantly found within the Black community; however, it is also common among the Hispanic population. Until recently, there was no known cure. Now adult stem cells are providing a cure to this punishing illness that affects so many of the population. Adult stem cells are making a critical difference to millions of people regarding their quality and length of life – all without the need to kill human embryos to advance these miraculous treatments. [Life Issues Institute](#), 5/16/19

Court Ruling Bans Catholic Social Services

A federal appeals court ruled against foster families and the Catholic foster care agency working with them to provide loving and stable homes for foster children in Philadelphia. The Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with the City of Philadelphia on banning the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Catholic Social Services (CSS) from its foster placement program. The city ended its contract with CSS because the archdiocesan program, adhering to Church teaching on marriage, would not place kids with same-sex couples. In March 2018, the City of Philadelphia had issued an urgent call for 300 new foster families. Nevertheless, despite the serious need of homes for 6,000 children in its foster care system and CSS' record as one of the city's most successful foster agencies, the city abruptly banned CSS from placing any children. The city did this even though not one LGBTQ couple had ever approached CSS seeking certification and the agency never prevented a child from finding a home.

[LifeSiteNews](#), 4/25/19

Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person – among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life. (CCC 2270)

Since it must be treated from conception as a person, the embryo must be defended in its integrity, cared for, and healed, as far as possible, like any other human being. (CCC 2274)