

# Oregon, That's Life

*The Culture of Life Newsletter of the Oregon Knights of Columbus*

April 2021 Edition: Vol. 5, Number 04

Patrick and Teresita Parson † Oregon Life Couple † [ppparson@yahoo.com](mailto:ppparson@yahoo.com)

## **From the Directors**

We hope this Holy Week and Easter are of special significance and joy for you. Christ has risen!

Life is fragile; Let's work together to build it up. Remember, Oregon: *THAT'S LIFE!*

### **March for Life**

Oregon Right to Life will conduct a physical Walk for Life on Saturday, April 17. Meet at the State Courthouse steps by 2:30 p.m. at 900 Court St. NE in Salem. The more Knights who participate, the more impact the march will have. Our state leaders and news media need to hear from us.

### **State Government Not Listening**

1,452 messages were emailed to the Oregon Senate Health Committee asking the Senate to hold a hearing for SB 586, the Born-Alive Infant Protection bill. The bill, introduced on January 19 to the Senate, would require abortion providers to deliver life-saving care for a baby born alive during an abortion. The Senate Committee chairperson chose to ignore the requests; a hearing was not scheduled, thereby stopping any progress of the bill.

Opponents of this and similar legislation claim policies are already in place making such a law redundant. They need reminding that the CDC acknowledges at least 143 induced terminations in the U.S. during the 12-year period 2003 to 2014.

### **God's Will Is of No Concern**

During debate in the U.S. Congress over the mislabeled "Equality Act" on Feb. 25, Florida Rep. Greg Steuber stated: "The gender confusion that exists in our culture today is a clear rejection of God's good design. Whenever a nation's laws no longer reflect the standards of God, that nation is in rebellion against him and will inevitably bear the consequences."

Rep. Jerry Nadler of New York responded by saying: "What any religious tradition describes as God's will is no concern of this Congress."

What more can we say about our Congress other than God forgive and protect us all.

## **Same-Sex Union: No Blessing**

On March 15 the *Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith* published the Vatican's response to the question: "Does the Church have the power to give the blessing to unions of persons of the same sex?" The response is a definite "Negative", as follows:

*It is not licit to impart a blessing on relationships, or partnerships, even stable, that involve sexual activity outside of marriage (i.e., outside the indissoluble union of a man and a woman open in itself to the transmission of life), as is the case of the unions between persons of the same sex. The presence in such relationships of positive elements, which are in themselves to be valued and appreciated, cannot justify these relationships and render them legitimate objects of an ecclesial blessing, since the positive elements exist within the context of a union not ordered to the Creator's plan.*

*Furthermore, since blessings on persons are in relationship with the sacraments, the blessing of homosexual unions cannot be considered licit. This is because they would constitute a certain imitation or analogue of the nuptial blessing invoked on the man and woman united in the sacrament of Matrimony, while in fact "there are absolutely no grounds for considering homosexual unions to be in any way similar or even remotely analogous to God's plan for marriage and family".*

*The declaration of the unlawfulness of blessings of unions between persons of the same sex is not therefore, and is not intended to be, a form of unjust discrimination, but rather a reminder of the truth of the liturgical rite and of the very nature of the sacramentals, as the Church understands them.*

The response emphasizes that individuals who manifest the will to live in fidelity to the revealed plans of God as proposed by Church teaching may receive a blessing, but that God does not and cannot bless sin. The response does not address what kind of action should be taken against a Catholic who officializes over a same-sex union.

### 40 Days for Life

The winter campaign ran Feb. 17 - Mar. 28. Three campaigns were held in Oregon: Beaverton, Eugene, and Salem. World-wide, an estimated 454 unborn children's lives were saved during the vigil. See <https://www.40daysforlife.com/> for more information.

Although the Winter-Spring campaign has finished, you can pray for the lives of unborn children any time you want. Are any Councils willing to commit to praying one hour each week in front of an abortion facility all year round? What a significant way of defending life that would be.

If we can help your Council plan an activity like that, let us know. We would love to encourage such effort. Maybe it can become a live-saving habit!

### Covid Cases in the US and Oregon

According to the U.S.CDC, as of 3/25/2021 there were 29,834,734 cases of covid-19 in the United States, with 542,584 deaths (slightly less than a 2% mortality rate).

According to covidusa.net, as of 3/25/2021 there were 162,383 cases of covid-19 in Oregon with 2,368 deaths (slightly less than a 1.5% mortality rate).

### Oregon Assisted Suicide

The Oregon Health Authority reported that 245 people ended their lives in Oregon in 2020 through legally assisted suicide, a 28% increase over 2019.

Reasons patients chose to end their lives were:

- Concern about being a burden: 53.1%
- Less able to engage in activities making life enjoyable: 94.3%
- Loss of dignity: 71.8%
- Losing autonomy: 93.1%
- Losing control of body functions: 37.9%

Since assisted suicide was legalized in Oregon in 1997, a total of 1,905 people have died from it.

### Unborn Children Feel Pain

A January 2021 abstract of the American College of Pediatricians acknowledged evidence indicates that unborn children as young as 12 weeks may feel pain.

### Day of the Unborn Child

March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord as well as Day of the Unborn Child, was a busy day. Following the lead of our bishops in the USCCB, your State Life Couple sent letters to seven different pharmaceutical companies urging them to develop covid and other vaccines that have no connection with abortion. Just a small simple action that might work with others to make a difference.

### Legalized Abortion and Maternal Mortality

One of the common arguments used by abortion advocates is that restrictions on abortion will increase the deaths of pregnant women. The American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AAPLOG) is suggesting otherwise.

Citing a study in the online medical journal BMJ Open that analyzed a 10-year study from 2002 to 2011 in Mexico, AAPLOG found that maternal mortality rates were no higher in states that outlawed abortion than in states with more permissive abortion laws.

### Pro-Life Quote for the Month



*We did not happen to be – we were chosen by God to exist.*

Mother Angelica

“Mother Angelica on Prayer: And Living for the Kingdom”, p.287, EWTN Publications, Inc, (2017).

### Scriptural Verses to Remember

*2 Chronicles 33:6* - It was he, too, who immolated his children by fire in the Valley of Ben-hinnom. He practiced soothsaying and divination, and reintroduced the consulting of ghosts and spirits. He did much evil in the LORD's sight and provoked him to anger.

*1 John 3:11-12* - For this is the message you have heard from the beginning: we should love one another, unlike Cain who belonged to the evil one and slaughtered his brother. Why did he slaughter him? Because his own works were evil, and those of his brother righteous.