

Oregon, That's Life

The Culture of Life Newsletter of the Oregon Knights of Columbus

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From the Directors

Through the years, it has occasionally been suggested we get “too political” in our newsletter, going so far as showing blatant bias for or against specific government officials. We can only say it is difficult to describe actions defined by our Church as inherently evil (such as abortion and assisted suicide) and the efforts by government to boost them or remove them without sounding partisan. We call it the way we see it.

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

LAUNCH 2021

Oregon Right to Life is holding the annual LAUNCH program, a pro-life leadership retreat for students age 16-21. This year will be a scaled-back version at the beach! There is space for 15 students, and ORTL will provide transportation from their Keizer office.

LAUMCH will be from August 4-6 in Rockaway Beach. This is a great opportunity for young people interested in learning how to promote the culture of life wherever they are. All application materials must be returned by July 16. This year's cost will be \$100.

See <https://www.ortl.org/launch/>

National Pro-Life Bridges Day Rescheduled

National Pro-Life Bridges Day, when teams hold banners bearing the message “*Abortion takes a human life*” on highway overpasses during rush hour, has been rescheduled to July 16.

Is there any Council bold enough to be the first group to do this in Oregon? The activity is coordinated by the Pro-Life Action League: <https://prolifeaction.org/50bridges/>

U.S. Birthrate Falls to New Low

A study released by the National Center for Health Statistics shows that the general fertility rate in the United States has been on a steady decline for the past 6 years. In 2020 the general fertility rate was 55.8 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44, a record low. This is far below the “replacement” level, which means the slight population growth we see today is being boosted by immigration.

Burial of Unclaimed Remains

Pro-lifers often say that we care for life at all stages, from conception to natural death. The Knights of Columbus take their care for life even beyond that.

On May 2, members of the Oregon Council of the Knights of Columbus met with other groups and individuals at the Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Klamath Falls for the burial of 143 unclaimed or abandoned human remains. One set of remains had been unclaimed for over 57 years.

The remains came from Harney, Jackson, Klamath, and Lake counties of Oregon, as well as one from Riverside, California. The interment in the cemetery Potter's Field was presided over by Diocese of Baker Bishop Liam Cary.

A Joint Honor Guard from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Pelican Post 1383, and Marine Corps League Crater Lake Detachment 373 paid honor to the seven U.S. military veterans being buried with the others. Local officials also attended, including the mayor of Klamath Falls and the captain of the Klamath Falls Police Department.

A similar interment ceremony had taken place four years ago at Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery in 2017 when 148 abandoned remains were buried. Since that time 14 sets of those cremains have been claimed by family members.

At the closing of this year's ceremony, Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery President Benjamin Quen asked Knights throughout Oregon to work with their own local funeral homes and cemeteries in establishing Potters Fields within their communities. He stated “We're certain that there are countless numbers of abandoned and unclaimed cremains sitting on shelves throughout Oregon. They too deserve the respect to have a dignified burial.”

The Knights of Columbus is a global organization of Catholic men who follow the four principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. They are known for their many works of corporal mercy, which includes burying the dead.

America: For or Against Posterity?

On May 28 the Biden administration proposed a budget removing the Hyde Amendment which prevents taxpayer money from being used to fund most abortions. The Hyde Amendment is estimated to have saved more than 2 million babies from abortion. If the Biden budget is approved, we will now be paying for abortions with both our Oregon taxes and our federal taxes.

If you have not contacted your legislators from Oregon yet, this would be a good time to do so. Let them know our taxes should pay for something better than abortion. Find your legislators through:

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/OR>

Charlie Gard, Alfie Evans, and Now...

Trusting lives to the care of a hospital is not always going to turn out the way one expects, especially in the United Kingdom.

In May an attorney for Evelina Childrens Hospital in London announced the death of Pippa Knight soon after her sixth birthday. Born on April 20, 2015, Pippa began having seizures at twenty months from acute necrotising encephalopathy.

Pippa received wide publicity when the hospital concluded she would be best served through the removal of her life support system. Pippa's mother fought against this and tried to have Pippa taken for treatment at home. Although the hospital did not wish to continue treatment, it also refused to allow Pippa to receive treatment anywhere else. The courts sided with the hospital.

This case is reminiscent of Charlie Gard in 2017 and Alfie Evans in 2018, when British courts ruled with the hospitals that the children not be allowed to be taken elsewhere for treatment. Both young children died after life support systems were removed against their parents' wishes.

Some Good News

The city of Blue Hill, Nebraska, has become the 25th city in the nation to outlaw abortion within city limits.

Chimera - It's Coming

If you are not familiar with the term "chimera", you unfortunately will become more acquainted with it in the future. In today's use of the word, a chimera is an organism combining cells from two or more species.

On May 27 the U.S. Senate voted against an amendment that would have prohibited the creation of animal-human hybrid organisms by combining human and non-human DNA. The "*Human-Animal Chimera Prohibition Act*" (HR 3542/S.1800) failed completely along party lines, with 48 Republicans voting in favor of the bill and 49 Democrats voting against it. That means, of course, our own two Oregon senators voted against the amendment, therefore allowing the continuation of human-animal hybridization experimentation.

Let us not forget that genetic enhancement of human embryos is immoral under Catholic teaching.

Pro-Life Quote for the Month



Human life is distinct and sacred, and research that creates an animal-human hybrid or transfers a human embryo into an animal womb or vice versa should be completely prohibited, and engaging in such unethical experiments should be a crime.

Senator Mike Braun (Indiana) on the amendment to outlaw animal-human hybrids

Scriptural Verses to Remember

2 Kings 3:27 - So he took his firstborn, who was to succeed him as king, and offered him as a burnt offering upon the wall.

Tobit 2:7-8 - Then I wept. At sunset I went out, dug a grave, and buried him. My neighbors mocked me, saying: "Does he have no fear? Once before he was hunted, to be executed for this sort of deed, and he ran away; yet here he is again burying the dead!"

1 John 3:10 - In this way, the children of God and the children of the devil are made plain; no one who fails to act in righteousness belongs to God, nor anyone who does not love his brother.