

Oregon, That's Life

The Culture of Life Newsletter of the Oregon Knights of Columbus

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Patrick and Teresita Parson † Oregon Life Couple † ppparson@yahoo.com

From the Directors

Forgive us if this newsletter seems disjointed in any way. The articles are in a constant state of fluidity, and your editors sometimes feel more like swimmers than like writers. But we do what we can to try to help you be informed in different life-related areas.

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

What's Happening?

The fall *40 Days for Life* campaign is under way in five Oregon cities: Bend, Eugene, Klamath Falls, Portland, and Salem, running from September 22 through October 31. <https://www.40daysforlife.com/>

Additionally:

- October is *Respect Life Month*.
- October 3 is *Life Chain Sunday*

World Suicide Prevention Day

We neglected to mention that September 10 was World Suicide Prevention Day. Suicide is an insidious threat to many people in need of help and support. According to the NIH (National Institute of Mental Health), in 2019 suicide was the tenth leading cause of death in the United States, claiming the lives of over 47,500 people. 906 of those deaths occurred in Oregon. That does not include the 191 persons who took their lives the same year through the Oregon *Death With Dignity Act*.

If you are in crisis, call the toll-free National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

House of Representatives Bill to Allow Abortion

On September 24 the U.S. House of Representatives passed the *Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA) of 2021*, which would make the right to abortion a law rather than a Supreme Court ruling.

The bill was passed by a vote of 218 to 211, with only one Democrat (Henry Cuellar of Texas) voting against the bill. Oregon Representatives Blumenauer, Bonamici, DeFazio, and Schrader all voted in favor of the bill, which was endorsed by the White House. Only one Representative from Oregon, Cliff Bentz, voted against the bill. Thank you, sir.

Texas Heartbeat Act

On September 1 Texas SB8, the Texas Heartbeat Act, went into effect. This law prevents the abortion of unborn children after their first detectable heartbeat, which is usually about six weeks after gestation. An estimated 45,000 children are expected to be saved each year from passage of this law.

An emergency appeal was made against the law on the grounds that it would prevent 85% of abortion patients from receiving care, and cause many abortion clinics to close. The U.S. Supreme Court voted 5-4 to deny the emergency request, while allowing litigation to continue challenging the constitutionality of the Texas law.

On the same date the law went into effect, President Biden released a statement calling the law extreme, outrageous, and a blatant violation of constitutional rights, closing with: "My administration is deeply committed to the constitutional right established in *Roe v. Wade* nearly five decades ago and will protect and defend that right."

Also in response to the Texas Bill, Speaker of the House Pelosi announced the House would vote within a month to protect abortion throughout the country (see *House of Representatives* article).

At behest of President Biden, on September 9 the Department of Justice filed a lawsuit to overturn the Texas abortion ban, claiming that abortion is a constitutional right. And the United Nations told the Supreme Court that the Texas law violates international human rights law.

An Oklahoma man was arrested after threatening the lives of Texas legislators who voted in favor of SB8. The Texas Right to Life chapter in Houston was forced to evacuate headquarters because of a bomb threat, and members of Texas Right to Life throughout the state have been threatened since the Heartbeat Act took effect.

Standing up for life is not always easy or safe. But if it can be done in Texas, maybe it can also succeed some day in Oregon.

McCarrick Court Case

On September 3 in Dedham District Court, Massachusetts, disgraced former-cardinal Theodore McCarrick pled “not guilty” to three counts of indecent assault and battery on a person over 14. He was ordered to post \$5,000 bail, to surrender his passport and not leave the country, and to have no contact with children or the victim. His next court appearance is scheduled for October 28.

On September 16 three more sex abuse lawsuits were filed against McCarrick for past incidents, bringing the total to six against the former cardinal.

Other Supreme Court Abortion Cases

Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization is not the only abortion-related case expected to come up before the Supreme Court. Here are some others:

- *Cameron v. EMW Women’s Surgical Center, P.S.C.* is an appeal by the Kentucky Attorney General to be allowed to intervene in the defense of a state law banning dilation and evacuation abortion procedures.
- *Schmitt v. Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region, Inc.* petitions the Court to overturn lower court hearings which ruled a ban on discriminatory abortions is unconstitutional.
- *Rutledge v. Little Rock Family Planning Services* asks the Court to review an Eighth Circuit decision which claimed existence of a Constitutional right to abort Down syndrome children.
- *Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany v. Lacewell* asks the Court to hear their case against a New York requirement to include abortion in insurance plans.
- *Box v. Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky Inc.* asks the Court to review a lower court decision regarding parental notification laws for minors undergoing abortion.

A Catholic Nation?

On September 7 Mexico’s Supreme Court ruled that laws penalizing abortion are unconstitutional.

Google Bans Abortion Pill Reversal Ads

The ads, which have saved hundreds of lives, have been labeled by Google as “unreliable claims”.

Supreme Court Abortion Case

The Supreme Court will hear *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health* on December 1. This case is a challenge by a Mississippi abortion facility, Jackson Women’s Health Center, against a 2018 Mississippi law prohibiting abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

The Mississippi Attorney General hopes to convince the court that there is no constitutional right to abortion, and *Roe v. Wade* should be overturned.

Obviously there is considerable opposition to the bill by abortion-minded groups including the city of Portland, whose mayor promised to ban goods, services, and city-sponsored travel to Texas on account of the Heartbeat Law. (That idea was quietly dropped, although Portland did pass a resolution to give \$200,000 to abortion groups.) And the Satanic Temple, which claims the abortion of unborn children is a religious ritual, has challenged the Texas law on religious freedom laws.

The Court is expected to release its ruling on the case in June of 2022. Pray that it will make a decision to protect unborn life.

Pro-Life Quote for the Month



Our creator endowed us with the right to life and yet millions of children lose their right to life every year because of abortion. In Texas, we work to save those lives. That’s exactly what the Texas Legislature did this session.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott before signing the Texas Heartbeat Act into law on May 19.

Scriptural Verses to Remember

Job 19:13-14 / My family has withdrawn from me, my friends are wholly estranged. My relatives and companions neglect me, my guests have forgotten me.

Jeremiah 32:35 / They built high places to Baal in the Valley of Ben-hinnom to sacrifice their sons and daughters to Molech; I never commanded them to do this, nor did it even enter my mind that they would practice this abomination, so as to bring sin upon Judah.

John 2:5 / His mother said to the servers, “Do whatever he tells you.”