

# Oregon, That's Life

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## From the Directors

Where are the missionaries? Our state and our nation are falling deeper into the culture of death. A deep conversion in our country is necessary before hearts will change. Let us each be a missionary of life as we spread God's love for both the born and unborn.

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

### LAUNCH 2021

The Oregon Right to Life LAUNCH leadership training for students age 16-21 will be from August 4-6 in Rockaway Beach. 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, is set for July 16. No Councils have expressed interest in this project sponsored by the Pro-Life Action League: <https://proliferation.org/50bridges/>

### Bishops Avoid Communion Discussion

After a USCCB committee voted to begin a teaching document on the Holy Eucharist, much controversy arose over whether it would include national policy on withholding Communion from politicians who promote abortion. When asked his views on such a move by the U.S. bishops, President Biden responded "That's a private matter and I don't think that's going to happen." It looks like the president was right.

On a statement issued by the USCCB on June 21, the bishops stated: "*There will be no national policy on withholding Communion from politicians. The intent is to present a clear understanding of the Church's teachings to bring heightened awareness among the faithful of how the Eucharist can transform our lives and bring us closer to our creator and the life he wants for us.*" Will the USCCB remember Church Catechism 218? "*Anyone conscious of a grave sin must receive the sacrament of Reconciliation before coming to communion.*"

## Oregon Legislators Endorse Infanticide

On June 10 the Oregon Senate voted 18 to 11 against SB 586, and on June 15 the Oregon House voted 37 to 22 against HB 2699.

The bill on which our state legislators voted was the *Born-Alive Infants Protection Act*, which would require medical care to be given to a baby who survives a failed abortion procedure.

In essence, our state legislature has endorsed infanticide, which is defined as the act of deliberately killing a child under one year of age.

They are following the national trend, since at the federal level the U.S. Congress has also been unwilling to provide protection to abortion survivors. On February 4 of this year the U.S. Senate failed to attain enough votes for passage of the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act*, which would require that infants who survive an abortion be given medical care. Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley voted against the proposed measure.

Opponents of such legislation claim policies are already in place making such a law redundant. They need reminding that the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) acknowledges at least 143 induced terminations in the U.S. during the 12-year period 2003 to 2014. Probably more realistically, *Human Life International* estimates approximately 431 babies survive the 862,000 abortions committed in the United States each year (0.05% total).

On September 25, 2020, President Trump signed the "Born Alive" executive order into law, ensuring that federal facilities provide life-saving medical care for babies who survive an abortion. This order is in jeopardy with now-president Biden rescinding many of the Trump executive orders which were intended to provide protections to the unborn.

All this unfortunately illustrates the need to change hearts and minds both here in Oregon and also the rest of the United States. In addition to prayer, we also need to continue educating both ourselves and others. All life, born and unborn, has value.

### **National Men's March in Washington D.C.**

The first “*National Men's March to End Abortion*” was held in Washington D.C. on June 12. As the organizers stated, “There is a man connected to every abortion. Men are a big part of the problem; it's time for all men to take responsibility and be a big part of the solution.” Approximately 300 men participated.

### **Philadelphia and Catholic Adoption Agency**

On June 17 the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Catholic Social Services after the city of Philadelphia refused to continue contracting with the agency for not certifying same-sex couples as foster parents.

### **China and Children**

The Chinese government implemented a 1-child policy in 1980 because it had determined the country's growth rate was too high. Forced abortions and sterilizations were heavily used to achieve this policy. Then in 2009 China started allowing some parents to have 2 children. In May 2021 China announced married couples would be allowed to have 3 children. More children are being allowed due to China's aging population of almost 1.4 billion people.

An estimated 13 million unborn babies are aborted each year in China, while according to census reports there were 12 million children born in 2020.

### **Most Premature Baby Celebrates First Birthday**

Richard Scott William Hutchinson was born on June 5, 2020, at the gestational age of 21 weeks and 2 days, and weighing only 11.9 ounces at birth. He was born 4 months early, and doctors gave him zero chance of survival. He required special care and was not able to go home with his parents until late December.

On June 5 Richard celebrated his first birthday, achieving Guinness World Records status as the world's most premature baby.

### **Fair Volunteers**

Oregon Right to Life is looking for volunteers at their fair booth, tentatively scheduled Aug. 27 - Sep. 6. If interested, contact the ORTL office at 503-463-8563.

### **Supreme Court to Hear Abortion Case**

The Supreme Court has announced it will hear the case *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health*, which challenges the Mississippi ban on abortion after 15 weeks of gestation (development since conception).

What can we expect? One possibility is a decision that there is no automatic constitutional right to abortion, and for the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*. This is what we hope to see. Such a decision would not ban abortions, but it at least would allow states to ban or restrict abortion within their jurisdictions.

A second possibility is the Court upholding the Mississippi ban but not addressing *Roe v. Wade*. And a third possibility is the Court reinforcing *Roe v. Wade* and ruling against the Mississippi law.

The Court will hear oral arguments in October. Pray the Court arrives at a fair decision for the unborn and recognize they have a right to live.

### **Pro-Life Quote for the Month**



*“I will never sign a bill that involves the authorization of murder. I cannot stop the executive from deciding, that is up to parliament. But I do have the liberty, if I don't agree with a bill, to resign and go home, I have no problem doing this.”*

Malta President George Vella  
(after the introduction of a parliament bill  
on May 12 to decriminalize abortion)

### **Scriptural Verses to Remember**

Psalm 106:37-38 = They sacrificed to demons their own sons and daughters, shedding innocent blood, the blood of their own sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, desecrating the land with bloodshed. They defiled themselves by their actions, became adulterers by their conduct.

Luke 21:16 - You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 - Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God, which you are, is holy.