

Family & ProLife News Briefs

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Judge's Contempt for Defenders of Life

In *Beal v. Doe* (1977), Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall expressed his contempt for defenders of life. "I am appalled," he wrote, "at the ethical bankruptcy of those who preach a 'right to life' that means, under present social policies, a bare existence in utter misery for so many poor and their children." It is worth noting that Clarence Thomas, who became a Supreme Court justice, was born in his parents' wooden shack in Pin Point, Georgia. After his father abandoned the family, he was raised by his grandfather in a poor Gullah community. Thomas' earliest known ancestors were slaves. ... Taken to its logical conclusion, Marshall's argument would imply that someone like Clarence Thomas, now the longest-serving member of the Supreme Court, might have been better off being aborted.

Justice Marshall was well educated, but he may not have read ... the autobiography of Ethel Waters, conceived through rape in a dismal suburb of Philadelphia but went on to become an immensely successful jazz singer, & a distinguished stage and screen actress. He may not have known about Wilma Rudolph, the 17th child born to poor black parents. Despite being crippled at an early age, she won three gold medals in running events at the 1960 Rome Olympics.

Political leaders should be leading the poor out of their poverty rather than consigning them to an early extinction on the gratuitous assumption that poverty will always be their curse. Without believing in a provident God, hope vanishes & despair sets in. People in high places can have low opinions of other people. [excerpt, Donald DeMarco, 'The Bishop Who Predicted Today's Culture of Death - 50 Years Ago,' [www.ncregister.com 2/12/26](http://www.ncregister.com/2/12/26/)]

1500 BC: worship animals, sacrifice babies;

2026 AD: worship animals, sacrifice babies.

The Bible: There is nothing new under the sun.

Practice Real Love

We talk a lot about fighting for life, and Lord knows it is worth fighting for. But the mothers drawn to those terrible abortion "clinics" (so called), are not enemy combatants, they are the first casualties, alongside their unborn children, of a terrible failure of love. They are the victims of a culture of love's true opposite. Abortion is the terrible, logical, inevitable consequence of what happens in a society in which people ultimately exist to be used, not loved.

In the debate about abortion and life, we speak much of freedoms & rights. But, ultimately, the only truly, objectively unalienable freedom is the freedom to love. And to love those mothers, not in the abstract but individually, is our absolute obligation. A love which is not expressed directly & out loud is no love at all. Our most basic, necessary gesture is for all of us to swallow our fears of appearing ridiculous, of being rejected & disparaged, & speaking the truth we know with love. [excerpt, Ed Condon, thepillar@substack.com 2/20/26]

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Scourges of Online Betting and Porn

According to a recent Siena poll of Americans who:

- do online betting: 22%; with 50% of 18-49 year-old men
- view pornography: 67%; with 75% of all teenagers

According to a recent NPR survey:

- 30% believe that violence is the inevitable path forward

Decades of research suggest that pornography alters the brain, creates dependency, and leaves its habitual consumers far less likely to partake in healthy sexual relationships with other human beings. We've become a nation of porn-addled, stoned gamblers because we attempted to solve a mighty spiritual crisis with the feeble tools of political policy. Jordan Peterson, a Canadian psychologist became a cultural sensation simply by advising young Americans to make their beds each morning. He speaks plainly about things once taught matter-of-factly by mothers and fathers.

How do we get young people to swear off self-destructive behaviors? We tell them to: Make your bed. Stop watching porn. Delete the FanDuel app. Spend less time on your phone and more time in church or synagogue. Do it because you're a human being, created in God's image, not some animal governed solely by its appetites. We need to find a stiffer spine. Society's lost boys (and girls) don't want marketing, they want real talk, the kind you can only get from a serious grown-up who loves you very much, so much so that he'll be firm and demanding when strong words are needed. When they can't find grown-ups who speak directly, without equivocation, they rush to petty demagogues who urge them to burn down the house, never telling them that doing so will leave them homeless.

Let us parent today's errant children (some of whom are well into adulthood). Give them clear, unequivocal moral instruction, & they won't turn their insecurities into political performances. Our politics & technology have changed, but not human nature. All we need is a firm hand, sometimes caressing us lovingly, sometimes giving us a much-needed shove in the right direction. [excerpt, Liel Leibovitz, www.FirstThings.com Jan. '26]

A Way to Teach Kids to Respect Human Life

For nearly 12 years, American Life League's Culture of Life Studies Program has served parents, teachers, and students by providing authentically Catholic pro-life materials for kids in pre-K-12th grade. What began as a small program has grown exponentially. They now have downloadable lesson booklets that are in hundreds of schools and home-schools across the world.



Head of American Life League Judie Brown said, "The Culture of Life Studies Program provides the educational tools we need to teach our children to respect all human beings as a gift from God. When children are taught

at a young age to understand that every human being's life is a blessing, they grow up with the strength to defend others."

More information may be found at www.all.org

When You're Old, Who Will Care for You?

Death and dying are seldom easy. There's the agony of a quick death: The chest tightening, cramping, the heart beating too fast and then not at all. Or flames scorching and bubbling the skin, smoke filling the lungs. Maybe only those who go in their sleep are spared. A long death is agonizing, too, and the man who succumbs to cancer after years of chemotherapy has no doubt suffered great physical pain. But a long death inflicts a special sort of suffering on the family: Grief, yes, but annoyance and exhaustion, too.

But what do hospitals do when they can't rely on the availability of grownup children to manage a parent's aftercare following a procedure? Being friendless and tribeless and old is a fairly fresh option. It would have meant certain, imminent death not so long ago. But modernity has "liberated" us. We can do without the family. Respect for individual liberty demands it, in fact. No longer shall the father lord over his family. No longer shall the child saddle his parents with demands for food, shelter, love. Think of all the women free to take advantage of their peak earning years, unburdened by kids! But who helps thee peak earners when they slow down? [excerpt, Natalie Sandoval, *Daily Caller*: What Happens to the "Old, Useless, and Unloved?" www.LifeNews.com 2/16/26]

Political and Anti-Religious Violence

In their annual report *The State of Religious Liberty in the United States: Annual Report of the Committee for Religious Liberty*, The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee for Religious Liberty praised new opportunities to expand school choice and faith-based partnerships with the federal government, while warning of rising political violence, immigration enforcement fears, and ongoing conflicts over gender ideology.

The six areas of critical concern for religious liberty in 2026 include: "political and anti-religious violence," "unjust terms and conditions on federal grants, and unreliability of government," "access to sacraments for ICE detainees and immigration enforcement at houses of worship," "school choice and the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit," "repeal of provisions that prevent religious organizations from participating in government programs," and "further repudiation of gender ideology."

Looking ahead to the nation's 250th anniversary, Archbishop Sample said it offers Catholics "an opportunity to reflect on how the Church has enriched American life" even as religious liberty debates continue to unfold in courts, Congress, and the culture. [excerpt, Mary Rose, US bishops release annual religious liberty report praising school choice and citing six areas of concern, www.RefineLife.co 2/18/26]

ChatGPT Refuses to Write Pro-Life Messages

Our movement exists to defend those who cannot speak. No artificial intelligence should tell us when or how we do that. It labeled my basic description of the President's pro-life record as "targeted political persuasion" and shut the door. I pushed back against an AI tool I pay for. I asked for a caption that declared Joe Biden "the most pro-choice president we have ever had" and congratulated him on his stance. The program refused that request too. On the surface that looks "neutral." The machine will not craft messages for or against

specific officeholders. It sits in the middle and tells everyone to calm down. But this policy hides a deeper problem.

For Big Tech, defending unborn children counts as "politics," not human rights. When I ask for help writing about the dignity of the child in the womb, I receive a lecture about election rules. When I ask for help speaking to my own movement on my own platforms, the tool informs me that I have stepped into forbidden territory. ChatGBT trains users to see the defense of unborn children as one more partisan talking point that respectable people should keep at arm's length.

Corporate committees decide what counts as "harmful," "controversial," and what counts as "safe." In this case, they decided that helping a pro-life advocate address his own supporters about the record of a president crosses a line. This AI tool stands inside a worldview that treats every strong moral claim as a threat to its own authority. Social media throttles pro-life ads. Search engines bury pro-life resources while elevating abortion providers. Now AI tools that we pay for tell us that describing a pro-life record goes too far. If a platform won't let you speak plainly about the killing of unborn children, then that platform does not deserve your trust or your money.

That does not mean retreat from the fight. It means you refuse to hand your voice to systems that treat your deepest convictions as dangerous content. It means you invest in human writers, real relationships, and tools that respect open debate. It means you teach your children that the measure of truth does not depend on what an algorithm agrees to print. Close the tab. Cancel the subscription. Tell your friends why. Use your own mind and your own voice. Do not let anyone, human or machine, train you to treat the lives of unborn children as a topic too "political" to discuss. [excerpt, Raimundo Rojas, ChatGPT Refuses to Make Pro-Life Image, Says It's Too "Political," www.LifeNews.com 2/16/26]

I Stopped Hiring Ivy Leaguers

In *The Atlantic* (1/26), Rose Horowitz reports on students who claim disability for ADHD, anxiety & depression:

- public 2-yr colleges: 4%
- Harvard: more than 20%
- Stanford: 38%
- Brown: more than 20%
- Amherst: 34%

Either rich kids at top schools are more emotionally fragile and psychological vulnerable than median kids, or they lie to get disability status to secure more testing time, not a good trait in an employee. As I wrote in a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed a few years ago, I am less inclined to treat these Ivy grads looking for work as a sign of promise. [R.R. Reno, *First Things*, Feb. 2026]

Normalizing the Abnormal Must End

A Rasmussen survey found that 70% of Americans are concerned about school-age children being exposed to sexual material not age appropriate. Homosexual men dressed as women (so-called drag queens) demand to perform before children, including sexually explicit acts. It's not free speech, it's one step away from pedophilia. This Spring, Harvard is offering a class on drag queens. Next fall there will be one on "Queer Ethnology" taught by a drag queen star. Recently, several drag queens crashed the Emmy Awards. In a recent study of college campuses, students were afraid to discuss transgender issues. Defending normalcy is considered taboo, especially at top universities. Normalizing abnormality is dangerous. It leads to the sexual exploitation of children, ruining them physically and psychologically. [William A. Donohue, *Catalyst*, 12/25]