

Family & ProLife News Briefs

(faithful, authentic Christian information)

Life Education Council, Inc.

September 2026

The ProLife Movement is Gaining Ground

The overturning of *Roe* was halftime in the battle to end abortion. Abortion giant Planned Parenthood closed a record number of facilities in 2025 and is on track to close more in 2026. According to abortion-advocate Guttmacher Institute, 73% of abortion pills are distributed through brick-and-mortar locations rather than via mail. The fewer facilities, the better.

Further, reports on pill-induced abortions count pills *sold*, not abortion pills *used*. States and individuals stockpile the pills, creating a false narrative on actual abortions. Then there is the negative word-of-mouth from those who have taken RU-486 with its horrific and graphic outcomes. Two more positive developments: a record number, more than 3,000, of pregnancy resource centers helping women in need at no charge, and the widespread success of abortion-pill reversal.

In 1973 leading abortion advocate Dr. Bernard Nathanson revealed that he had made up the number of abortions to make everyone believe America needed legalized abortion. (Years later, he converted to Catholicism.) The abortion industry today is using the same tactic - inflating the numbers to convince Americans that abortion is common, and trying to demoralize pro-lifers. Yet, the expected rush of interstate abortion travel never materialized. Birth rates are rising in pro-life states. Law deters abortion.

Now new challenges face the pro-life movement. Yet we must acknowledge that we are winning for the first time in decades. And no matter what your state laws are, you can change a heart and save a baby. This is a time for the cardinal virtue of fortitude, joined to the virtue of humility. Let's own the victories, embrace the crosses of new challenges, and trust that life will continue to prevail over death. [excerpt, Shawn Carney, *Nat. Cath. Register*, 8/23/26]

Recent Developments

- Prayer vigils outside abortion businesses, prayer and fasting and community outreach are kicking off 40 Days for Life on Sept. 23rd, the feast of Padre Pio, running through Nov. 1st, All Saints' Day. The organization has trained record numbers of local leaders. Vigils have reached people in more than 1,000 cities in 63 countries. Why not join a prayer vigil in your area? Visit www.40DaysforLife.com
- Criticizing California's targeting of abortion-pill-reversal ministries and urging support for women who choose life. San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone and Oakland Bishop Michael Barber opposed the effort to stop Heartbeat International and RealOptions from offering reversal and seeking up to \$20 million in fines.
- A health system in Michigan will make a six-figure payout to ex-physician assistant Valerie Kloosterman who was fired after refusing to follow LGBT-related policies. University of Michigan Health-West will also create religious accommodations for employees who object to transgender-related acts or pronoun use on religious grounds.
- Also in Michigan, a court ordered state officials not to enforce a 'conversion therapy' ban against Catholic Charities counselors engaged in therapy to help children with gender dysphoria & identity.

"Make Abortion History" is a comprehensive educational campaign designed to change voters' abortion positions to pro-life. Developed by Created Equal, the multi-step program includes:

- a preparatory phase that uses streaming TV ads and online advertising.
- a core persuasive phase that includes door-knocking, leafleting, and dialoguing in public places.
- a reinforcing phase that encourages pro-life actions.

In a test city in Ohio in 2025, the program demonstrated the ability to significantly move citizens to the pro-life position. Other states are encouraged to use the program. To find out more, visit www.createdequal.org to access some of their video promotions and materials.

Women's Rights

"It has become abundantly clear that neither the pro-abortion left nor the increasingly misogynistic online right speaks to the needs, desires, capacities and obligations of modern women," said Erika Bachiochi, legal theorist, Catholic scholar and author of *The Rights of Women: Reclaiming a Lost Vision*. "It's high time for a new women's movement to provide a positive, alternative vision of women's flourishing."

A growing movement of scholars, journalists and advocates will be gathering in Rochester, NY to present a radical alternative to modern progressive feminism, one rooted in natural law, human dignity and mutual interdependence. "A Better Way Forward for Women" is a national conference to be held Sept. 17-19, aimed at reclaiming the philosophical roots of the early women's rights movement.

Featuring female thought leaders, the panels will tackle issues ranging from women's holistic health-care to the cultural pressures facing Gen Z women. A central focus of the gathering is a pushback against hyper-individualism and "radical autonomy," replacing it with a vision centered on the reality of human interdependence. Chosen for its historical ties to the 19th-century abolitionist and women's rights movements, Rochester is the home of Susan B. Anthony.



The event culminates in the public signing of a "Declaration of Interdependence" addressing modern ethical challenges surrounding childbearing, bodily integrity and family life. "It is unjust for children to be poisoned or dismembered as they develop in the safety of their mother's wombs, to be chemically or surgically castrated in their formative years, or for adults to place their own desires ahead of the needs of children," Bachiochi said, quoting from the declaration's principles. "And it is unjust for women to bear all responsibility for pregnancy and childbearing, or for society to champion those who are unencumbered by responsibilities as the standard-bearers of equality." For info, email Erika Bachiochi at ebachioc@asu.edu

Ending the Job of Surrogacy

Italy, under pro-life Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, is leading a global campaign to end birth surrogacy. At the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, her country announced it was launching a global moratorium on surrogacy to protect women and children from exploitation and abuse.

"Women should never be reduced to instruments of reproduction and children should never be treated as a subject of a transaction," insisted Eugenia Roccella, Italy's Minister for Family, Natality and Equal Opportunities. She spotlighted the magnitude of the multi-billion-dollar global surrogacy trade & the need for a unified global response. "Italy believes that supporting mothers is essential to women's freedom and dignity. Only then can every woman be truly free to decide whether & when to have children." Cameroon's Ambassador to the UN said his country criminalizes surrogacy because "neither the body of a woman nor the life of a child should become the object of a commercial transaction."

Yet, many nations support surrogacy. At the UN, no idea is too deranged, whether it's buying and selling unborn babies, aborting millions of them, calling sodomy "marriage," giving kids "sexual rights," making prostitution normal, or censoring pro-life voices. Together with the Vatican & other pro-life countries, The Center for Family & Human Rights (C-Fam) works constantly at the UN to promote strong support for family and life values. [excerpt, C-Fam letter, 8/2026]

For Married Couples

A. Book: *The Marriage Gap: How to Understand, Communicate, and Meet Your Spouse's Four Deepest Needs*

Authors: Devin Schadt and Kim Schadt

"Most couples don't drift apart because they stop caring. They drift apart because they stop understanding."

The book gives practical advice for building, or rebuilding, the intimacy, joy, and fulfillment your marriage was made for.

Built on four complementary needs, both his and hers, this raw, real, wholly original marriage book features eight candid conversations between the authors about what men and women truly want and why. They also interviewed a range of couples from diverse backgrounds across the U.S. and wove their voices into every discussion. [Available wherever books are sold.]

B. "A Must for All Couples" That's how lots of couples feel who spend a weekend together in a **Marriage Encounter**. Its goal is to uncover the secrets to a lasting, supportive, transformed marriage. "When we take our closest relationship for granted through the grind of everyday life, we fall into unconscious and often unhealthy habits. Even when marriage is going smoothly, there are always opportunities to make it work better." Married couples of any denomination, mixed faith or without religious affiliation are welcome. To become the best version of yourselves together, apply at <https://wwme.org>

The Supreme Court's First Amendment jurisprudence has weakened the ability of local communities to restrict pornography. The naive stupidity of the 1960s Supreme Court obscenity decisions alone should make us more trusting of the people than of federal judges to define their own rights and the boundaries of those rights. [Vincent Phillip Munoz, The Founders and The Common Good, *First Things*, Aug/Sept 2026]

A Pregnant Girl Walks In

I remember one girl who came in and said: "I have to get an abortion; I'm fine, I just have to know how many weeks along I am." I didn't know what to do, so I went behind the ultrasound machine and prayed. I said, "Jesus, I don't know what to do." Then into my mind's eye came a picture of the most beautiful young man – Jesus. I asked the mother, "Would you like to hold your baby's hand?" She said, "You're crazy! You're insane! I'm out of here." I said, "Please, please." She put her hand on her belly, and we watched the ultrasound. Little by little, the baby's hand reached up to her, and touched her through her womb. That baby girl was born on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and baptized - now she is a teenager and her mom is a designer.

Women in crisis pregnancy are lost and have no one to love, no one to love them. In the initial encounter, you have to look into her eyes and see her soul and her heart. You can see in her soul that she wants to be loved. It all comes down to love. The love comes from God, and if they feel that love coming from you, they will come back. [excerpt, interview of pregnancy center worker Linda by Sr. Zelig Maria Louis, SV, *Imprint* magazine, Sisters of Life, Winter 2026.]

Students as Election Canvassers

In 2026, the Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America group has deployed and will continue to deploy more than 1,500 students, completing 50,000 visits to voters in a single weekend surge. "Our enthusiastic, trained, passionately pro-life student canvassers saturate a region once their boots hit the ground." www.sbaprolife.org

NOTE TO OUR READERS:

We are expanding our outreach. Send us email addresses of people and churches you think would like to receive our free newsletter. THANKS!

This monthly newsletter is emailed to individuals and dozens of churches. Edited since 2013 by Frank Tinari, Ph.D., it has had over 30,000 readers and is posted on church and diocesan websites. Email tinarifr@shu.edu for your free subscription.

Singles Dating Platforms

Fighting against the commodification of single people, Madigan Maere criticizes popular dating apps for reducing human beings to superficial 'hot or not' commodities that promote endless swiping rather than real engagement. She founded CommitmentISM (<https://commitmentism.com>) an exclusive matchmaking platform that uses a blind-introduction process: single Catholics fill out an in-depth questionnaire and are paired purely based on their shared values and spiritual compatibility. Singles can listen to one another, building connections based on personality and faith before physical appearance even enters the equation. [excerpt, *National Catholic Register*, 8/9/26]

A different approach at www.candidating.net is where dating is focused on people, not profiles. Candid is a Catholic virtual speed dating platform where practicing Catholics meet face-to-face, one real conversation at a time. On the night you select, you'll have 4 or 5 seven-minute conversations back to back - camera on, no profiles to swipe, no chat tag. There's a timer visible and rotations happen automatically. After each date, note whether you'd see them again. It's private and they never know unless they pick you too. When two of you match, we open a chat. The rest is up to you. Visit their website for details.



Is Existence Becoming Merely Virtual?

In the Aug/Sept 2026 issue of *First Things*, editor R. R. Reno wrote: Polling suggest that Gen Z isn't happy with its increasingly virtual existence. But the lure is strong, and an all too human weakness of willpower keeps us tethered to things that we know are not good. In her "Girls" substack, Freya India describes her peers' descent into simulated lives:

Life is now, first and foremost, content. We put on makeup to look good for Instagram. We travel to get good TikToks. We make memories to market them online. Other people have become props for our posts, boyfriends have turned into tripods who take endless pictures of us. Beautiful scenery is nothing but a backdrop for selfies, friends are accessories to pose with. We have become co consumed by our online lives that very little exists outside them.

If You Favor Science ... you might enjoy this article (7/28/26) by Dr. Bill Lile entitled *Fearfully & Wonderfully Made: The Retina's Light-Sensitive Cells* and another, *The Truth About Late-Term Abortions* (8/7/26). Or perhaps you are interested in helping pregnant moms. Then read *How Crisis Pregnancy Centers Save Lives Every Day* (6/14/26). These and other well-documented articles are found at Dr. Lile's website, <https://www.prolifedoc.org/>

Maybe you want to use a video for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday this October. His website has 3-minute, 7-minute and 11-minute versions that cover topics such as "Treating God's Preborn as Patients in the Womb," and "The Miracle of Abortion Pill Reversal." Dr. Lile, the Pro Life Doc, is a board certified OB/GYN who uses cutting edge medical animations and biblical truth to equip churches, schools, and organizations to defend the pre-born with confidence and compassion. He says: "All patients have rights. Pre-born babies are patients, too! They deserve proper care and legal protection, just like the rest of us. It is crucial that we work to advocate for their right to life and dignity, as they are the most vulnerable patients of all."

The doctor speaks at schools, churches, pregnancy resource centers, and events to educate and inspire others to defend life. He wrote a Pro-Life Doc curriculum that equips students, churches, and organizations with the scientific and biblical foundation to stand for the preborn.