

Lifespan

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you.” Jeremiah 1:5

2011 July/August/September

Worldwide News... [Source: SPUC]

Australia—The Australian authorities are investigating an abortion clinic in the state of Victoria based on allegations that an attending practitioner purposefully infected almost 50 women with a strain of hepatitis C. The Victorian police and the Medical Practitioner’s Board of Victoria revealed that the patients’ infections are an identical genetic match in 22 of the 44 confirmed cases to the strain of hepatitis C carried by James Latham Peters, the anesthesiologist who attended the abortions of the infected women at the Croydon Day Surgery Center. Hepatitis C results in serious chronic illness which can eventually lead to liver failure among other problems. Peters has been prohibited from practicing medicine. He also reportedly has a history of drug usage and arrests for possession of child pornography. Peters had also been previously convicted for forging medical prescriptions. Croydon Day Center knew of Peters’ history and past convictions and hired him regardless.

Belgium—In a recent press release, Belgian doctors boasted of successful organ transplants that had been harvested from euthanized patients, illustrating how far down the slippery slope of utilitarianism the world has traveled. In an article written for *Newsweek* in June of 1993, Wesley J. Smith, anti-euthanasia activist and author, wrote, “*We don’t get to the brave New World in one giant leap. Rather the descent to depravity is reached by small steps. First, suicide is promoted as a virtue. Vulnerable people...become early casualties. Then follows mercy killing of the terminally ill. From there, it’s a hop, skip, and a jump to killing people who don’t have a “quality of life,” perhaps with the prospect of organ harvesting thrown in as a plum to society.*” Well, we have arrived at the dawn of the Brave New World. Pay close attention the following description of the procedure and commentary surrounding the transplants that came from the euthanized patients. It is absolutely chilling. It is also important to note that all the donors suffered from a **non-malignant disorder and the taking of their organs was done before the patients were legally brain dead.** From the press release: *The donors were admitted to the hospital a few hours before the planned euthanasia procedure. A central venous line was placed in a room adjacent to the operating room. Donors were heparinized immediately before a cocktail of drugs was given by the treating physician who had agreed to perform the euthanasia. The patient was announced dead on cardio-respiratory criteria by three independent physicians. The deceased was then rapidly transferred, installed on the operating table, and intubated. The thorax and abdomen were shaved, disinfected and draped. A rapid stemo-laparotomy was performed. The abdominal team took care of the liver and kidney preservation with a rapid flush cooling technique via a cannula inserted into the abdominal aorta. The thoracic team then opened the pleural cavities and*

quickly inspected both lungs before topical cooling with ice-cold saline was started. The non-malignant conditions were probably neuromuscular disabilities euthanasia/organ harvesting promoters have targeted in a Power Point presentation as splendid subjects for this process because their organs are generally not damaged.”

China—China’s one-child policy which has caused the deaths of millions of children has even further repercussions on this suffering country. A human rights group that monitors the Chinese policy and its unfortunate victims has reported that a Chinese family-planning official has been accused of murdering a man who was simply trying to protect his father from physical abuse. On March 21, family planning officials entered the home of Xu Shuashuai to seize his sister for a forced sterilization (an action resulting from her failure to present herself for the procedure after having her designated “legal child”). Unable to find the woman, the officials beat Xu’s elderly father. When Xu tried to protect his father, one of the Chinese officials stabbed him twice in the heart with a long knife; Xu died en route to the hospital. Most likely, there will be no justice for Xu and his family, who will undoubtedly suffer the loss of his support (as he was likely the only son in the household). For China itself, an estimated 37 million women who should have been born were not, causing a gender imbalance in the nation of epic proportions. It is this imbalance that is the force behind sexual slavery, not only in China, but the countries surrounding it.

Costa Rica—Pro-abortion forces worldwide are threatening Costa Rica to comply with their demands or face penalties for alleged violations of human rights. The crime?—in 2000, the Costa Rican Constitutional Court ruled that IVF was unconstitutional because it violated the right to life of the embryo. The Center for Reproductive Rights challenged this assertion based on the premise that denying IVF to couples in the tiny nation somehow violated their human rights. The Costa Rican dilemma is yet another example of how Western anti-life bullies threaten weaker nations and completely disregard their right to national sovereignty and self-determination. Currently, Costa Rica is the only country in the Americas to prohibit IVF.

Hungary—A new pro-life constitution passed by the Hungarian Parliament has produced a maelstrom of protest from European institutions and the pro-abortion lobby. The new constitution calls for the protection of the fetus from the moment of conception and as such the provision will lead to the restriction or elimination of abortion by way of legislative reform or constitutional challenge. The Hungarian government has declared its intention to stand firm against the anticipated outside meddling from groups that wish to nullify the rights of a sovereign country to determine such matters for themselves.

India—A new study analyzing the prevalence of sex-selection abortions in India reveals that as many as 12 million girls have been killed over the last thirty years specifically because of their gender in a society that values boys over girls. The trend toward smaller families in India only insures that the figure will rise in the future. Many urban Indian women have begun to limit their families to one child and as such, the preference for that child to be a boy will only be stronger.

Russia—Russia has finally awakened to its demographic crisis and is desperately trying to turn the tide that began with its communist roots. In Russia today, abortion has become such a pervasive form of birth control that the number of abortions annually exceeds 4 million; yet, there are only 1.7 million live

births each year. The result of the birth deficit is a reduction in the Russian population from 148.5 million in 1995 to 143 million today. In the near future, Russia will be unable to support its aging population and enormous welfare programs and the nation will face total economic collapse. To prevent this inevitable scenario, the Russian government is desperately trying to cut the abortion rate by one million per year. New legislation was introduced that would remove abortion from the list of covered medical services under the national health care plan, increase monthly welfare payments to pregnant women and render late term abortions completely illegal.

Switzerland—In 2007, of the 400 assisted suicide patients that ended their lives in Swiss clinics, 132 were foreigners. For years, the Swiss have had an open door policy for foreigners with respect to the decision to seek assisted suicide. Many who have died in the Zurich based Dignitas Clinic were not terminally ill, but simply depressed or mentally ill. Earlier this spring, a referendum was put before the Swiss voters in an attempt to ban the practice of suicide tourism in the country. Zurich voters were either uninformed or apathetic about the facts on the issue and failed to pass the referendum.

National News... [Source: SPUC]

New York—After weeks of lobbying and political bribes and promises, the New York state legislature legalized gay marriage. Governor Andrew Cuomo immediately signed the bill into law, making New York the sixth state to recognize gay unions as legitimate marriages. Not surprisingly, the Democratic members of the House Senate supported the bill, but they were joined by three Republicans who betrayed the voting constituency they claimed to represent and used the excuse of last minute “exemptions” as the basis for their “equal rights” vote. The exemption protects churches, religious orders (like the Knights of Columbus, for example), non-profit entities under a religious group and any employee of such organizations, including clergy, from being forced to participate or officiate same-sex ceremonies or face penalties for not doing so. The irony of the situation is this—if gay marriage is so right, then why the exemptions? The actions of these few states and the liberals who are behind this orchestrated attempt to destroy the foundations of our Christian culture—namely, the family—know very well that if gay marriage is legal in one state but not another, the inconsistencies in the law will eventually force the issue before the Supreme Court, where Americans will be at the mercy of appointed, unaccountable men and women who are legislating from the bench. If thousands of years of cultural norms are uprooted by the Court, the exceptions will also be negated and we will see the day that Catholic and Christian clergy are forced to marry gay couples or face prosecution.

In other news, Alliance Defense Fund attorneys have filed suit against the city of New York over a law passed by the city that targets pregnancy centers, forcing them to abide by strict advertising regulations. Essentially, the law requires pregnancy centers to post signs to dissuade women from seeking abortion-alternatives because they themselves do not offer abortions. Mayor Bloomberg even admitted upon signing Bill 371-A into law that it may indeed be unconstitutional, but he signed it anyway, clearly showing his own political motivations. In January, a federal judge struck down a similar Baltimore law that was the subject of a lawsuit brought by the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Given this precedent, it is unlikely that the New York City law will be upheld.

Tennessee—The Tennessee State House and Senate have approved a pro-life amendment to the state constitution that will allow the state to limit and restrict abortions if approved by the voters at large. Lawmakers made the bold move in order to reverse the consequences of a State Supreme Court ruling in 2000 which made it impossible for the voters to pass any laws limiting or restricting abortion. In the 2000 case of *Planned Parenthood v. Sundquist*, the state Supreme Court found a “right to abortion” in the state constitution and that any law relating to abortion is subject to “the highest level of judicial review”, known as strict scrutiny. As a practical matter, judicial scrutiny gives greater protection to abortion than is required under the US Constitution. As a result of this ruling, Tennessee’s laws requiring parental consent, a 48 hour waiting period, and bans on late term procedures were all struck down. Additionally, the law requiring abortions to be performed at hospitals was reversed, allowing for abortions to be done in clinics and other locations. Each of these restrictions represented common sense protections that would never be questioned in other medical settings, yet were struck down by activist court judges. If *Roe v. Wade* were overturned, abortion would still be legal in Tennessee as a result of this radical ruling. With the passage of the proposed pro-life amendment to the state constitution (SJR 127), lawmakers will place the measure on the ballot for approval in the next upcoming gubernatorial election in 2014.

Pennsylvania—A pro-life display at Clarion University was shockingly vandalized before Easter, clearly illustrating the battle between principalities in the matter of abortion. The display, entitled the Cemetery of Innocents, contained 350 white crosses erected to memorialize the 53 million unborn children who have died since *Roe v. Wade* legalized abortion in 1973. The vandals pulled up the crosses, turned them upside down in satanic fashion, and dripped blood over many of the crosses. In front of the marker left by the pro-life students to explain the purpose of the memorial, a vandal wrote the word “pro-choice” in blood and mockingly painted infant’s feet in blood.

Missouri—The Missouri legislature has passed a bill that will ban all abortions past the point of viability. Should the bill become law, it will require abortionists to first determine if the unborn child is viable and if the baby is deemed not viable; the practitioner will need to issue a report to the state health department indicating the reasons for his assessment. This new no-tolerance policy towards late term abortions will prevent the senseless murder of children who would otherwise clearly survive outside the womb, but are killed because they are not wanted. Under the new proposed law, no abortion could be performed after viability unless the mother’s life was endangered by a “physical disorder, physical illness or physical injury” or when continuation of the pregnancy would create a serious risk of “substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function.” A doctor performing an illegal late-term abortion could face fines, imprisonment and the loss of his or her medical license. Lawmakers and pro-life advocates realize the magnitude of the measure should it become law. In the *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* decision in 1992, the Supreme Court itself stated that “*viability...is the time which there is a realistic probability of maintaining and nourishing a life outside the womb, so that the existence of a second life can, in reason and all fairness, be the object of the state protection that now covers the rights of the woman.*” Since 1992 and certainly since 1973, the dramatic growth in our knowledge of the unborn child and rapid advances

in neo-natal technology that allow for us to care for and even treat the fetus have made the case for the personhood of the unborn. Today, children born prematurely are viable at increasingly earlier stages of development and that trend will only continue. To date, Iowa has passed a similar ban.

Louisiana—On behalf of a patient who suffered serious injuries after receiving an abortion at the Delta Abortion Clinic of Baton Rouge, Operation Rescue filed suit against resident abortionist Mary Frances Gardner. The patient, whose complications were never reported to the Department of Health & Hospitals as is required by law, suffered injuries so devastating that she was required to undergo a hysterectomy. The patient alleged that in April of 2009, she went to Delta to obtain the RU486 abortion pill. After experiencing continuous pain for several days, she returned to the clinic for an ultrasound. She was told she had “a lot of crap inside that needed to come out” and was given a second pill. Failing to abort at home, the patient came back to the clinic for a D&C procedure with Gardner. Gardner performed the procedure without anesthesia, causing intolerable pain. The patient also alleged that Gardner was verbally abusive and extremely rude and insensitive to her pain. Following the abortion, the patient visited her family physician who determined that the scarring in her uterus from the abortion was so extensive that it required a hysterectomy. The Delta clinic has a long history of abuses and violations for filthy conditions. Delta was also associated with Philadelphia abortionist Gosnell and two women died from botched abortions at the clinic but the clinic was never held accountable.

New Mexico—A New Mexico resident has stirred quite a controversy with his attempt to highlight the plight of men who suffer from the abortion experience. Greg Fultz, who now faces a lawsuit from his former girlfriend, erected a billboard in June with the words, “*This would have been a picture of my 2 month old baby if the mother had decided NOT TO KILL our child.*” The billboard shows a picture of Fultz holding the blank outline of an infant. Fultz’s girlfriend has sued and claims that the billboard violates her right to privacy and wants the billboard removed. The former girlfriend did not consult with Fultz as to the fate of the child he fathered, but now claims that the baby died as a result of a miscarriage and not an abortion. In the end, Fultz did achieve his goal—to highlight the plight of men who are an equal parent to a developing child, but lack standing when it comes to the decision of abortion.



Delaware—Two of the abortion facilities associated with Philadelphia abortionist Kermit Gosnell that were under investigation in Delaware will likely remain closed. Gosnell received a tumult of media attention for the discovery of fetal remains, infanticides and unsanitary conditions at his clinic that was dubbed “a house of horrors” by the media. Gosnell also performed abortions at the two Delaware facilities once a week; the other abortionist at the clinics, Panzy Myrie, had improperly

represented herself as a licensed physician in online advertisements for the clinics but did not even hold a medical license in the state of Delaware.

Political Action Corner...

2012 is rapidly approaching and Americans will need to choose between two very different paths for this once great nation to set its feet upon. It has become impossible anymore to even debate in good faith that the Democratic Party is anything but an ardent disciple of the culture of death. Virtually all of those in positions of power are ardent supporters of abortion rights, beginning with its leader, President Barack Obama. Virtually all of President Obama’s political appointments have been radical pro-death supporters from abortion to euthanasia to gay rights. The woman who has been chosen to take on the leadership role at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, Rep. Allyson Schwartz of PA, has had a perfect pro-abortion record in Congress (4 terms) and both co-founded and acted as Executive Director of an abortion clinic in Philadelphia for 13 years (1975-1988). Schwartz is taking on the position vacated by Florida Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who was just appointed to head the DNC. Schultz also has a stellar abortion rights record. A holy man once said that “you shall know a tree by its fruit”—so indeed.

Consider recent developments:

- The Democratic House & Senate of 2010 gave us Obamacare, which funds abortions through tax dollars and attempts to strip away the rights of prolife doctors and hospitals who do not wish to participate in what they see as murder. The Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act allows taxpayer funded abortions through insurance plans, federally qualified health centers, and health plans administered by the federal government. In this most recent budget battle, the Republican controlled House successfully passed a measure to defund Planned Parenthood and codify a long-standing policy of preventing tax dollars from being used to fund abortion. These measures were narrowly defeated in the Senate, where the Democrats have a slight majority. Planned Parenthood has shown itself unworthy of the support of the federal government—it has been involved in numerous scandals involving minors and the failure to report statutory rape and sexual trafficking, it has lied to the public in its claim that the organization performs mammograms (they do not—the only refer) and have consistently been unable to account for federal funds received in their annual reporting. To circumvent the mandate imposed by the federal government, states have begun to pass bills to opt out of funding Planned Parenthood at the state level; in virtually all cases, Democrats voted to fund the abortion provider and Republicans voted to defund.

- Indiana, along with North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Kansas, are four states that have decided to go forward with the measures defeated in the Senate. (Ohio is currently voting on a similar measure and more states are sure to follow suit.) Unhappy that its friends at Planned Parenthood are losing out on taxpayer funds in Indiana, the Obama Administration is suing the state to force it to fund the abortion provider. Governor Mitch Daniels signed into law a bill which cuts the \$2-3 million Planned Parenthood receives in federal funds via the Indiana government through Medicaid. The law also contains several pro-life provisions that directly affect abortion, such as banning abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy based on fetal pain. The legislation

also contains provisions to end all state-directed funding for businesses that do abortions, to protect “pain capable” children beginning at 20 weeks, to opt out of abortion coverage in any state health exchanges required under Obamacare, to require informed consent and to require abortionists to maintain local hospital privileges in the event of a woman injured during an abortion. Hours after the bill was signed, Planned Parenthood filed suit and challenged the constitutionality of the bill, demanding an injunction. It was denied. Now, Obama wants to exercise the right of federal review of the law in an attempt to force the state to comply with his administration’s pro-abortion policies.

- The Obama Administration has also filed papers with the federal appeals court in Atlanta seeking to overturn a Florida judge’s ruling in declaring Obamacare unconstitutional. US District Judge Roger Vinson ruled in January that the individual mandate is unconstitutional and hence, the entire law is as well. To date, Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming have joined Florida in the lawsuit. The state of Virginia filed its own lawsuit and a federal judge struck down the individual mandate as well. These challenges will eventually find their way before the Supreme Court, were the lines are divided between those ideologically in support of abortion and those who are not.

Consider carefully as we move towards 2012—know your representatives, their record and their beliefs before you vote.

What can you act on right now to make a difference in PA?

Mensch Amendment to Senate Bill 732

The Mensch Amendment to Senate Bill 732 would hold abortion facilities to the same fire and safety standards, personnel and equipment requirements, and quality assurance procedures as other freestanding ambulatory surgical facilities. The need for reform is evident—the state’s abortion industry should not be exempt from commonsense safety standards that apply to other surgery centers.

Please send a message of support for the Mensch Amendment to Senate Bill 732.

<http://www.votervoices.net/link/clickthrough/ext/164937.aspx>

Did You Know?...

- St. Michael’s College in Vermont has refused to give academic credit to a student who performed their internship with Planned Parenthood. The school held fast despite criticism, stating that to have given the credit would be to approve of the practices of Planned Parenthood, which are inconsistent with Catholic teaching.
- In 2010, the World Association of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides hosted a no-adults welcome panel at the UN where Planned Parenthood was allowed to distribute a brochure entitled, “Healthy, Happy & Hot.” The brochure, aimed at young people living with HIV, contained explicit and graphic details on sex, as well as the promotion of multiple forms of casual sex. In 2004, a report revealed that more than one quarter of Girl Scout councils in the US work with Planned Parenthood. Of the 315 councils at the time, 17 admitted a relationship, 49 reported that they did not, and 249 refused to disclose.

- Adult stem cells continue to produce amazing results! A team of researchers at the University of Minnesota have announced that they have successfully grown a human heart from adult stem cells. Additionally, after following an AIDS patient for two years who was treated with adult stem cells in 2008, researchers are announcing a tentative cure! In 2008, patient Brown was treated for leukemia with an adult stem cell transplant. Knowing that Brown had AIDS, the doctors chose stem cells from a donor whose cells lacked a key protein that the AIDS virus must bind to infect a cell in the hope that the transplant would not be invaded by the AIDS virus and rendered ineffective against the leukemia. Not only did Brown recover from the leukemia, but the AIDS virus seems to have disappeared from his system.

- Due to advancements in pre-natal testing, laboratories are promising a test for Down’s syndrome based solely on a blood sample from the expectant mother, an improvement over the current method which requires the insertion of a needle into the womb and carries the possible risk of miscarriage. Standard protocol has been for doctors to recommend the Downs testing for all expectant mothers. The impact of this protocol has not been positive; existing prenatal testing is followed by high termination rates and the new method is sure to exacerbate the problem. Currently, 84 to 91% of all Downs diagnose in the US result in termination.

- Old Navy stores have announced that it will sell “gay pride” T-shirts in support of President Obama’s proclaimed “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month”. The retailer plans to donate 10% of sales to the “It Gets Better Project”, a pro-LGBT campaign. **Please boycott Old Navy and let them know why!**

- A new study, conducted by the Public Religion Research Institute, shows that Roman Catholics are more supportive of homosexual special rights than the general public and other Christians.

Reflections...

Life Worth Living

by Anne Marie DiCarlo

The world stopped for a brief moment in March to take notice of a baby named Joseph. Who is baby Joseph and why is his story important? You see, baby Joseph is 14 months old and he is dying. Joseph Maraachli was born with a fatal neurological disease. Since last October, baby Joseph’s parents have been fighting a battle with the Canadian hospital where Joseph has resided almost since birth. Joseph’s parents requested that the doctors perform a tracheotomy to facilitate their son’s breathing as he is unable to breathe without the assistance of a machine. The hospital deemed any further medical intervention “futile” and took the parents to court to demand a removal of the breathing tube to expediate Joseph’s death. Priests for Life became aware of the Maraachlis’ struggle and stepped in, facilitating a transfer for the child to Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center in St. Louis where the tracheotomy was performed. Joseph’s parents know that they will eventually be unable to save their son, but they have bought time to hold his hand and marvel at their special gift from God.

Our society is all for the expedient, painless fix. If the ending is bad, let’s just cut to the chase. Unfortunately, when one cuts to the ending, we miss the journey and sometimes the journey is necessary for reasons we cannot even understand. I

think of my own personal journey in dealing with the death of my father two years ago. Dad had Parkinson's Disease and eventually developed Alzheimer's as well. Dad suffered patiently for almost a decade, but it was in the last year that he truly carried Christ's cross. Dad eventually became unable to move, to feed himself or even swallow. I would visit him daily, sometimes twice a day, and he did not know me at all. I began to think that those advocating a quick end might just be right when I had my moment along the journey that made it all worthwhile. While trying to get Dad to swallow a few spoonfuls of yogurt, he raised his head and smiled at me; he squeezed my hand and told me that he loved me. For that minute, there was light in his eyes and my Dad was with me, just as he had always been before, and then he was gone. I never saw him again—he remained trapped inside his ailing body until he died a month later, but I was given a special gift that never would have been if we had taken the expedient route. God does things in his own time and we can all hope to be obedient to His wisdom.

I think that Baby Joseph's parents are telling the world the same thing. Joseph's parents simply want to care for him for however long or short his life will be and experience the journey with him. No life is "not worth living"—we all matter, regardless of the length of the journey.

Using Children as Pawns

by Monsignor Ignacio Barreiro-Carámbula
Interim President, Human Life International

When a child is made an orphan due to the death of his parents or because he has been abandoned by his natural family, society incurs an obligation to ensure that he is cared for. The best solution is to find a family to adopt him. It is very sad for a child to have to grow up in an institution. Even the best institutions cannot provide the warmth and the love that a family can.

In selecting an appropriate adopting family, authorities must exercise the utmost care. First and foremost, those who are chosen must be a stable married couple composed of a husband and his wife. Strangely, even this common sense requirement is now not only open to public debate, but the object of an attack by secular extremists who resent the traditional family. They would like to see cohabiting heterosexual and homosexual couples receive the same consideration as the unquestionably best situation for children—the natural family.

It is surprising that a cohabiting couple should be interested in adopting a child. How can two persons who are not ready to make a life commitment to each other be ready to make a joint life commitment to raise and educate a child? A couple that applies to adopt a child has to demonstrate a degree of maturity and integrity that goes well beyond the fact of merely not having a criminal record.

It has been argued that if we do not allow cohabiting couples to adopt then many orphans will remain without adoptive parents. Whoever makes this claim has the obligation to present evidence to back it up.

Further, two persons of the same sex can never offer the complementary formation that a married man and woman offer. In order to grow to a healthy maturity, a child needs healthy

masculine and feminine role models that are clear and well defined.

We are increasingly seeing such basic truths under attack in America. Various city councils and state legislatures are forcing private institutions to legalize adoption for couples that do not have a stable relationship, or are formed by persons of the same sex. The Boston Catholic Charities affiliate was forced to stop providing adoption services due to its failure to dispense with its core values and give children to unmarried persons. In the District of Columbia, the legalization of same sex unions resulted in the closure of a local Charities foster care and public adoption program because this law required the agency to provide services to homosexual couples.

Now we are experiencing this same problem in the State of Illinois: the Diocese of Rockford on May 26th was forced to end its adoption and foster care program because it could not accept the requirements of a new civil unions law. The Rockford diocese spokesman underlined that, "The agency is being forced to opt out of contracting with the State of Illinois for these services because of the Illinois legislature's failure to enact an explicit amendment to the new Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Unions Act"

Adding to the deluge, on May 3rd Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA) introduced a bill entitled the "Every Child Deserves a Family Act." Its 52 co-sponsors in the House include Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.). This House bill would prohibit "discrimination in adoption or foster care placements" based on sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status of any prospective adoptive or foster parent, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved.

We have to be grateful to the Lord that with the current House membership this bill will not pass; but if that were to change in 2012 we will be confronted with the serious prospect that this horrible bill might become law. If this were to happen, it would mean the end of the Catholic adoption agencies in the U.S.

These local legislative trends are very concerning first and foremost because they are against the best interests of the children. It seems that many politicians and activists are more concerned about protecting the supposed rights of adults than the rights of the children—which for any person of good will should be the paramount consideration. A country that sees children as pawns in advancing a radical ideology has very serious problems, and we must do all we can to expose this fact.

It is also very important to note that these laws are also a serious infringement upon the right of conscience of religious institutions. Indeed, they are further evidence of the slow sliding of contemporary democracies into tyrannical regimes that disregard the most basic human rights of its citizens.

We must work to reverse this trend. Let us also hope and pray that the Lord will send us courageous leaders that can effectively make the case in the public square, and ensure that children, and all of us, are guaranteed our most basic human rights.

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