

# PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

A Monthly Publication of the  
St. Gabriel Pro-Life Committee

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## Midterm Elections Yield Important Pro-Life Gains

Voters in both Alabama and West Virginia approved amendments to their state constitutions that declared those states opposed to abortion and declared that nothing in their constitution required the states to fund abortions. Both races were hard fought—with Planned Parenthood (PP) putting \$1.3 million into Alabama and an undisclosed amount in West Virginia. In the end, the babies won!

[Wednesday Stopp Report](#), 11/7/18

## US Abortion Rate Drops to Record Low

There were 2% fewer abortions in 2015 than in 2014, representing a 24% decline since 2006, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). (Note: the actual number of abortions is undoubtedly higher and such conclusions confounded because abortion data are not legally required, e.g., CA, MD, and NH provided no abortion data.) Of the abortions reported, almost 60% were for women in their twenties. Almost 60% of women who had abortions were already mothers, and almost 44% had previously had at least one other abortion. Perhaps the most encouraging news was that teenage abortions dropped 41% since 2006. Tragically, at least six women died from abortion-related complications in 2014—all of which were from legal abortions, not back-alley procedures. “Several stories have primarily credited increases in contraception use for the abortion-rate decline,” Ave Maria professor and pro-life researcher Dr. Michael New [wrote](#) Wednesday at *National Review*. He continued, “In reality, a key factor behind the 50% abortion-rate decline since 1980 is the fact that a smaller percentage of unintended pregnancies now result in an abortion...Pro-life legislative, political, and educational efforts have had a measurable positive effect...This new abortion data from the CDC should hearten pro-lifers across the country and give them some encouragement to continue their lifesaving work.”

[LifeSiteNews](#), 11/21/18

## Down to One

Missouri has one remaining active abortion center after PP's clinic in Columbia, MO [failed](#) to meet the state requirement that abortionists have admitting privileges at a hospital close to the abortion facility. The center stopped providing abortions after the state did not renew its abortion license, but it remains open while offering other services. The state's lone abortion facility is a PP location in St. Louis.

[World News Group](#), 10/8/18.

## Wilkes-Barre PP Obligated to Relocate

The Kirby Health Center in Wilkes-Barre will not renew PP's lease at the end of the year. The PP Wilkes-Barre unit is 1 of 14 PA “feeder clinics”—aborting babies via morning-after pills while referring patients to any of PPs 10 other PA facilities for surgical abortions. More than ten times as many Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide comprehensive health care services without the conflicting interest of direct profit from abortion. In 2015, FQHCs served more than 800,000 patients (a 2% increase from 2014) with over 11,000 prenatal services, nearly 50,000 pap tests and over 25,000 mammograms. PP, on the other hand, saw 95,614 patients (a 3% decrease), gave zero prenatal services, zero mammograms and administered 24% fewer pap tests—all while profiting from more than 17,000 abortions. Still, PP and their limited abortion-centered services receive taxpayer funding on par with FQHCs, demonstrating that PP is a political operation, reportedly spending a whopping \$2.5 million on the 2018 elections in Pennsylvania.

[PAFamily.org](#), 11/1/18

## Woman Regrets Choosing Euthanasia

Eighteen years ago in Oregon, Jeanette Hall refused treatment for cancer because of its distressing side effects like losing her hair. Facing death within six months, and therefore legally qualified for euthanasia, she demanded “the pills” from Dr. Kenneth R. Stevens, Jr, the oncologist to whom she had been referred. Getting to know her better, Dr. Stevens pointed to her purpose for living. She finally accepted the treatment. The [video](#)—a scene from the film [Fatal Flaws](#)—tells the end of the story, when five years later she recognized that had Dr. Stevens been pro-euthanasia, she would not be alive to thank him for saving her life. The film features powerful stories from people who have had close encounters with assisted suicide, people who oppose it, as well as interviews with leaders of the death lobbies in the Netherlands and the United States. It was screened in Guernsey (UK) while their legislature was debating assisted suicide. After watching the film one of the sponsors of the assisted suicide bill announced the film had changed his mind. Guernsey then defeated the assisted suicide bill by 24 to 14.

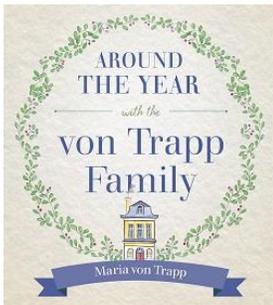
[LifeNews](#), 11/21/18

## Another Victory for Student Free Speech

To start-off the 2018 school year, student members of a bible club at a central Pennsylvania high school submitted for approval a flyer announcing their upcoming meetings. The principal disapproved the flyer because it included a Bible verse, Mark 15:16: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation," which was considered tantamount to establishing a religion. Without the Bible verse, the flyer could be posted. However, a student club's flyer at a public school may indeed contain Bible verses or religious words like "pray," "God," and "Jesus." In fact, public schools must treat student's religious speech on an equal basis with student's secular speech. Attorneys at the Independence Law Center drove that point home, and school officials eventually approved the bible club's flyer, agreeing to cease applying its policy in a viewpoint discriminatory manner. Many students would have deferred to the principal without knowing their rights or how to defend them. Fortunately, these students knew their rights, and respectfully attempted to communicate them to their principal. But when the principal refused to relent, the Independence Law Center was there to ensure those rights were protected.

[PAFamily.org](http://PAFamily.org), 10/29/18

## Have a Von Trapp Family Christmas



Most people only know the young "Fräulein Maria" as the beloved governess from the iconic motion picture, *The Sound of Music*. However, Maria Von Trapp was a pious wife and a seasoned Catholic mother that gave herself unreservedly to keeping her large family Catholic. She did this by

observing in her home the many feasts of the Church's liturgical year with poems, prayers, food, song and fun. She wrote down these traditions and recipes to pass them on and share with others. Brought back into print by Sophia Institute Press, *Around the Year with the von Trapp Family* is chock full of stories and games to delight children and ideas for turning life's events such as anniversaries, baptisms, graduations, birthdays, wedding receptions, and even funerals into feasts celebrated in the Lord. Maria's efforts to enliven her family's faith will inspire readers to provide a similar Christian structure and vibrancy in their own homes to make them places of warmth, love and peace.

[ChristianNewsWire](http://ChristianNewsWire.com), 11/21/18

*A child is never a curse. It can be a cross for the mother.  
..But a child is always a blessing.* –Pope Francis,

[zenit](http://zenit.net), 11/6/18



## PROJECT MUSTARD SEED

The letter recipient for this month is:

### ARTHUR MURRAY

Operations: **education** (dance), **entertainment** (dance),  
**personal care** (dance).

Please write to:

Mr. John Kimmins, President  
Arthur Murray Intl, Inc.  
1077 Ponce de Leon Blvd.  
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Tell him to stop  
funding Planned  
Parenthood

<http://www.arthurmurray.com>

Arthur Murray has been on The Boycott List since we last wrote to them in May 2012.

## Irish Bakers Win Landmark 'Gay Cake' Case

In 2014, Ashers Baking Company declined to make a cake for gay rights activists decorated with Sesame Street characters Bert and Ernie and the phrase "Support Gay Marriage." The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom ruled that the bakery had not discriminated when it refused to make a cake with a slogan supporting same-sex marriage. The five-judge panel was unanimous in overturning a lower court ruling by deciding the company should not be forced to put a message on their products at odds with their faith.

[World News Group](http://WorldNewsGroup.com), 10/10/18

## Boys-Only Outdoor Adventure Group Numbers Surge

The spike in visits to the Trail Life USA ([www.traillifeusa.com](http://www.traillifeusa.com)) website since the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts organizations began feuding is only the latest marker of the group's rise to become the country's leading faith-based, boys-only organization, as it continues to see explosive growth. Enrollment in Trail Life USA during the past quarter is up 36% over last year. Many who have joined Trail Life troops or started new ones were formerly involved with the Boy Scouts, but became disenchanted with its move to include girls. Attacking political correctness that ignores the differences between the sexes, Trail Life USA CEO Mark Hancock says that normal boyhood has come to be viewed as "some sort of social disease that needs to be eradicated." Founded in 2013, Trail Life USA has more than 800 troops in 49 states, with a total membership of more than 30,000. Through troops chartered by local churches, Trail Life offers a K-12 program centered on outdoor experiences that build young men's skills and help them grow on a personal level and as role models and leaders for their peers.

[ChristianNewswire](http://ChristianNewswire.com), 11/14/18