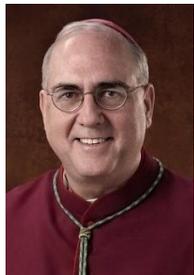


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Pro-life is Mercy



The pro-life movement must be one of mercy, said Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, homilist at the Mass that opened the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. The vigil preceded the nation's annual March-for-Life. Taking issue with the idea that pro-lifers care only about the unborn, the archbishop

pointed to the care and work of volunteers who give their time and money to support pregnancy centers and other programs for pregnant women in difficult circumstances. "We are concerned about the life and dignity of the human person wherever it is threatened or diminished," said Archbishop Naumann, chairman of the US Bishops' pro-life committee. Pro-lifers should have mercy not only for an unborn child or for a frightened expectant mother, but also for post-abortive parents who "deeply regret authorizing the killing of their own child," for abortion advocates "who verbally attack [pro-lifers] and label us extremists," and for those who work in the abortion industry. It was mercy that led to "amazing Paul-like conversions of abortion advocates," who have gone on to "become the powerful pro-life apologists," said Archbishop Naumann. "May our advocacy awaken the hearts of others to know Jesus' desire for them to experience abundant life in this world and to share with him eternal life in paradise."

[NCR](#), 1/18/19

Generation Life

Students and young adults made up the bulk of the crowd at the 46th Annual [March-for-Life](#) in Washington, D.C., proving that a new generation has taken-on the pro-life mantle. Though families pushing strollers and elderly men and women assisted by walkers or wheelchairs also came, the majority of demonstrators seemed to be in their early 20s or younger. After a rally at the National Mall in chilly temperatures, they marched to the Supreme Court to demand more protection for unborn babies. Many of them held signs reading "Defund Planned Parenthood," "I am the pro-life generation," and "Choose life." The march first began in 1974, one year after the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision. Many of the participants in the March-for-Life were not alive to see abortion legalized, but they hope to be around when unborn babies win back their right to life. "We just want to end it," said Patrick Denney, a 17-year-old high school student from Indiana.



[World News Group](#), 1/21/19

Keep Love and Courage in the Fight for Life

Catholic Rep. Chris Smith praised the theme of this year's March-for-Life—*Pro-Life Is Pro-Science*—and pointed to advanced ultrasound technology as confirming what the scientific community has known for decades: that the unborn child is a living human being. While science continues to show the humanity of the unborn child, Smith emphasized the importance of having courage and showing love to both mother and child when advancing the pro-life cause. Even the admonishment to love one's enemy must be taken seriously. "That's the hardest one of all, I think," he said, "to pray even for the abortionists, the way 40-Days-for-Life and all these different great ministries do... This movement is all about love, reconciliation, care and compassion — and what an inspiration that is," he reflected. "The pro-life people I have found — I mean, I've been in it for 46 years, worked at it in every level, from pregnancy-care centers to right-to-life organizations — they're the most selfless, generous people I have ever met," he said. "They just [do so] quietly, without any fanfare; that's where the selflessness comes in: just trying to save the most innocent among us from a certain death in an abortion." Smith has hope that the courage and love of the pro-life movement will prevail, whether due to legislative efforts, scientific advancements or a cultural shift.

[NCR](#), 1/15/19

New York Expands Abortion "Rights"

NY legalized late-term abortion on the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. [The sweeping law](#) would remove the state's ability to prosecute a Kermit Gosnell-type offender or a person who kills a child in utero through domestic abuse, for example. The new law, called the Reproductive Health Act, will:

- Allow abortion even after 24 weeks
- Allow abortions performed by health practitioners other than doctors.
- Make health practitioners who botch abortion or injure women liable under the health law rather than the criminal code.
- Disallow investigation of death caused by "suspected criminal abortion."

Much of the news coverage described the law as "codifying *Roe v. Wade*" to preserve NY's "right" to abortion in the event the U.S. Supreme Court overturns *Roe*.

[World Magazine](#), 1/23/19



PROJECT MUSTARD SEED

The letter recipient for this month is:

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American Majority Would Restrict Abortion

A new poll shows that while most Americans identify themselves as “pro-choice,” the vast majority of the same group support increased restrictions on abortion. The Marist Poll sponsored by the Knights of Columbus (K of C), surveyed 1,066 American adults between Jan. 8 and 10. “We actually have an enormous amount of support [for restricting abortion] from Americans of all political stripes,” said Andrew Walther, K of C Vice President. “We’re not really looking at a lot of people at the extremes, as we often hear in the debate in Washington,” said Marist Poll Director, Barbara Carvalho. “But we actually see one where there is a good deal of common ground on a whole host of policy positions.” Only 25% of those who identified themselves as “pro-choice” said they believed abortion should be available to a woman at any time during a pregnancy. Moreover, 42% of pro-choice respondents said that they believed abortion should only be legal during the first trimester of pregnancy. In total, 55% of those surveyed said they identified as “pro-choice,” compared to 38% who claimed to be “pro-life” and 7% who were unsure. [NCR](#), 1/16/19

Attitude Adjustment Needed

Over the course of the 46 years of decriminalized abortion, various polling agencies have sought to capture the attitude of Americans about abortion. These polls generate many data and statistics. Let’s focus on just one—what percentage of Americans think abortion should not be allowed under any circumstances. Of course, we would like that number to be 100%. The actual numbers fall far short. When a Gallup poll asked that question in a 1976 poll, the answer was 21 %. Towards the end of 2018, the Knights of Columbus also paid for an abortion-attitudes poll by Marist Polls, the answer to the question was 16 %. Thank God that the pro-life movement has saved millions of preborn babies over the years. However, we are not changing attitudes. After all this time, over 80 % of Americans still think it is okay to kill God’s creation some of the time. As we move forward in 2019, we need to pray and ask God how we can help Him change attitudes. At its roots, abortion is a spiritual battle and we must turn to God in earnest prayer and find out what it will take to get a lot more people to see that child-killing as wrong—all the time.

[Pro-Life This Week](#), 1/18/19

Victory for Child-Placement,

In a resounding victory for faith-based child placement agencies, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on Wednesday said a South Carolina adoption and foster care agency may continue to work only with families that share its Christian beliefs. A [letter](#) from HHS to South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster granted Miracle Hill Ministries, which handles about 15% of the state’s foster care placements, an exception to the department’s nondiscrimination clause. “The government should not be in the business of forcing foster care providers to close their doors because of their faith,” Lynn Johnson, assistant secretary for the HHS Administration for Children and Families, said Wednesday. “Religious freedom is a fundamental human right.”

[World Magazine](#), 1/23/19

Pro-Life Contests

Interested in winning a cash prize? Write a pro-life essay about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, or stem-cell research (grades 7 – 12), or record and submit a speech (grades 9 – 12) on any of those subjects. Submit essay entries by March 4 and video/oratories by April 15, 2019. For rules and details, visit <https://www.paprolife.org/for-students/>, or contact the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation at 717-541-0034 or lifelines@paprolife.org.