

Family & ProLife News Briefs

May 2022

Easter, Springtime ... Life is Precious

A Great Gift: Listening to Each Other

In the first 60 seconds of the new 12-part video series *Into Life: Love Changes Everything*, beautiful imagery of the cosmos, nature and diverse people of all ages grace the screen; a woman's gentle voice echoes a message of profound hope. "From all eternity, God desired that you be. He wanted to make you in his own image & likeness, a unique and unrepeatable reflection of his eternal glory. **There's nobody like you**, and there never has been nor ever will be anyone like you. You are good. You are sacred. You are chosen," Sister of Life Marie Veritas narrates. *Into Life* invites the viewer to journey with the sisters as they strive to underscore the dignity and magnificence of every human life.



The videos introduce new ideas from the New-York-based Sisters of Life to build a culture of life and solidarity, offer the opportunity for prayer and reflection, and develop skills for accompanying women through an unexpected pregnancy. The series places strong emphasis on accompaniment and the art of spiritual listening. Ss. Marie said: "So many people have never been truly listened to. **Listening brings healing.** One of the greatest gifts we can give to each other is to listen. It's transforming."

"Our hope is that every person who watches this series will come to know deeply that their life is a gift, that they are good, made in God's image, and that their life has profound meaning and worth," Sister Marie said. "It is not only a resource for pro-life work but for the whole scope of human relationships, because it's ultimately about upholding each other, about listening and accompaniment, and about affirming the other in their goodness and worth. It's about loving in truth. When we know we're loved, we can soar." For more info and to watch the series, visit intoliferies.com.

[Lisa Hende, *Our Sunday Visitor*, 4/24/22]

From ancient creation myths to the *Rambo* and *Dirty Harry* films, the principle is the same: order that is destroyed through violence is restored through a righteous exercise of greater violence. And then there is Jesus. The terrible disorder of the cross (the killing of the Son of God) is addressed not through an explosion of divine vengeance but a radiation of divine love. He says, "Shalom"—"Peace be with you." When Christ confronts those who contributed to his death, he speaks words not of retribution but of reconciliation and compassion. He opens up a new spiritual world and thereby becomes our Savior. [Bishop Robert Barron, *Daily Gospel Reflection*, 4/21/2022]

Unborn Baby Gets Lung Surgery

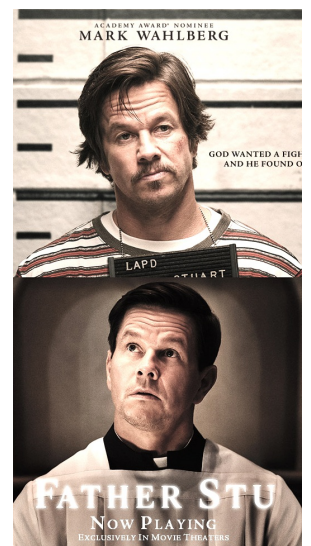
Last year, an ultrasound detected problems with an unborn girl who began to show signs of heart failure. Dr. Darrell Cass, director of the Cleveland Clinic fetal surgery program, decided to operate. First, surgeons made an incision into the mother's uterus. Then, Cass brought the baby's arm through the opening and inserted an IV. A hospital photo shows the girl's tiny hand resting against Cass's finger as he inserts the needle.

A heart surgeon and anesthesiologists monitored the baby girl and mother while Cass removed the lesion from the baby's right lung. Then they closed the baby's chest, placed her back inside her mother and stitched up the mother's uterus. The unborn baby girl stayed in her mother's womb for 12 more weeks before she was born in December at nearly full term.

The successful lung surgery on a 24-week unborn baby represents a new milestone in medicine. The Ohio hospital reported the baby girl now is thriving at home after her birth in December. Cass said the infant's lungs are functioning normally now; she is expected to live a normal, healthy life. [M. Bilger, *LifeNews.com*, 4/5/22]

What is Marriage? In every civilization, marriage is a public institution. It is a public manifestation of mutual love, trust and total commitment. The vows are profound and so critical that they apply until one spouse dies. Each takes the vows fully without qualification. Full sharing and intimacy are fundamental to marriage, so that "the two may become one." Thus, such intimacy outside marriage is immoral. Marriage aims for the good of the other, and the procreation and upbringing of offspring. [See *Catechism of the Catholic Church*]

Fr. Stu Movie is an unlikely story of real-life Stuart Long, a burnt-out boxer from Montana, a non-Christian who tries to make his way in Hollywood. Even as Stu was planning a life of movie stardom and marriage, God was about something else entirely. To his surprise and that of many others, he faced down his mother, father, girlfriend and associates in order to follow God's call to be a priest. Father Stuart Long died June 9, 2014, at the age of 50. The film about him was produced and funded by its star, Mark Wahlberg, who is Catholic. Rated R mostly for language, it has been touching hearts and souls in dealing with life's toughest moments.



Thousands at Spain's Pro-Life Festival

The March and the Seventh Festival for Women and Life took place early April in Toledo, Spain. Monies collected helped finance the Mater Project, an archdiocesan response to the needs of mothers at risk of procuring abortion and those in vulnerable situations.

During the event, pro-life group representatives read a document stating that “**abortion is not a form of women’s liberation,**” but rather “is the greatest violence against women and that’s why we women have never been such slaves as we are now. We demand that all political parties make the determination to defend the unborn and not allow a child to be rejected under any circumstances.” [*National Catholic Register*, 4/24/22]

How to Fool Parents About Their Kids

Workshops from the “2021 LGBTQ+ Issues Conference” held by the California Teacher Assoc. provided strategies for subverting parents, conservative communities, and principals on issues related to sex and gender identity. Teachers and LGBTQ club leaders discussed how to do “**mind tricks**” on middle-schoolers, how to evade accountability by not keeping records or misnaming LGBTQ clubs, & how to stalk students’ internet activity in order “to personally invite Because that’s really the way we get the bodies in the door. Right?” Any resemblance to predators and pedophiles is purely coincidental. [*Salvo*, Spring 2022, <https://abigailshrier.substack.com/how-activist-teachers-recruit-kids>]

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In the United States, abortion takes the lives of over 600,000 babies every year. Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health could change that.

We pray that the Court will do the right thing and allow states to once again limit or prohibit abortion, and in doing so protect millions of unborn children and their mothers from this painful, life-destroying act. We invite all people of good will to uphold the dignity of human life by joining us in prayer and fasting for this important case.

ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM E. LORI

Chairman, Committee on Pro-Life Activities



CNS Photo/Bob Roller

For High School Students

The Catholic Newman Society [newmansociety.org] reports on fun and spiritual programs at Catholic colleges. Whether or not you plan to attend a Catholic college, a summer program at one of the faithful colleges recommended in *The Newman Guide* can be enriching. Summer programs are a great opportunity for high school students to strengthen their academic and extracurricular skills, grow in their spiritual lives, get a head-start on college visits, learn from distinguished professors, make lifelong friends and experience what faithful Catholic education is all about. Here are some options:

- Ave Maria Univ, FL: 12-day Summer Shakespeare Camp
- Belmont Abbey College, NC: two one-week sessions, the first virtually, in July
- The Benedictine College, KS: 7-day Immersion program allows students to choose topics. Also, students can earn three hours of college credit on a “Journey with Dante,” a three-week trip in Italy.
- The Catholic University of America, DC: week-long summer programs focused on architecture, performing arts, mathematics or theology.
- Christendom College, VA: “The Best Week Ever,” a choice of five different one-week sessions
- Franciscan University, OH: three-day Catholic conferences with the theme “Fearless”
- Magdalen College, NH: 2-week summer programs of study, hiking, bonfires, etc.
- Thomas Aquinas College, CA and MA: Great Books 2-week summer programs
- Thomas More College, NH: Exploring New England through books and the sea
- The University of Mary, ND: summer program to encounter Jesus
- Wyoming Catholic College: 7-day Great Books study and western outdoor activities

*More than \$800,000 is the amount that Michigan officials will pay in legal fees to two Catholic child placement agencies after the state wrongly barred the organizations from receiving state funds because they do not place children with same-sex couples. [*Our Sunday Visitor*, 4/10/22]*

Pro-lifers see unborn life as the life of a human being, with full dignity and rights as human. But Western civilization has now adopted relativism that views something immoral, such as abortion or cohabitation or euthanasia, only if and when an individual person sees it as wrong for himself or herself. But science says life begins at conception. And studies show cohabitation reduces the chances of future marriage success. And the elderly should be given care, not a death option.

This free monthly newsletter is used by dozens of churches as a bulletin insert, and since 2013 has had over 30,000 readers. To receive a copy in your inbox, email Frank Tinari, Ph.D. at tinarifr@shu.edu

