



# PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

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

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## Pro-abortion Politician Denied Communion



Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki is denying communion to U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, who has long supported and promoted abortion. In a [statement](#) posted on the Diocese of Springfield website, Bishop Paprocki writes, "Fourteen Catholic senators

voted against the bill that would have prohibited abortions starting at 20 weeks after fertilization, including Sen. Richard Durbin, whose residence is in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois...Canon 915 of the Catholic Church's *Code of Canon Law* states that those 'who obstinately persist in manifest grave sin are not to be admitted to Holy Communion.' In our 2004 Statement on *Catholics in Political Life*, the USCCB said, 'Failing to protect the lives of innocent and defenseless members of the human race is to sin against justice. Those who formulate law therefore have an obligation in conscience to work toward correcting morally defective laws, lest they be guilty of cooperating in evil and in sinning against the common good.' Because his voting record in support of abortion over many years constitutes 'obstinate persistence in manifest grave sin,' the determination continues that Sen. Durbin is not to be admitted to Holy Communion until he repents of this sin. This provision is intended not to punish, but to bring about a change of heart. Sen. Durbin was once pro-life. I sincerely pray that he will repent and return to being pro-life." [A 2013 letter from Pope Francis](#) holds that pro-abortion politicians should not be eligible for communion in the Catholic Church. In part, the text states, "[people] cannot receive Holy Communion and at the same time act with deeds or words against the commandments, particularly when abortion, euthanasia, and other grave crimes against life and family are encouraged. This responsibility weighs particularly over legislators, heads of governments, and health professionals....These are the guidelines we need for this time in history."

[LifeNews.com](#), 2/22/18

## Gerber Selects Baby with Down Syndrome

One year-old Lucas Warren from Dalton, Georgia is the first child with Down syndrome to be named a Gerber baby since the contest started in 2010. Lucas was chosen from more than 140,000 entries to be the 2018 Gerber Spokesbaby. "Every year, we choose the baby who best exemplifies Gerber's longstanding heritage of recognizing that every baby is a Gerber baby," said Bill Partyka, CEO and president of Gerber. "This year, Lucas is the perfect fit." "We're hoping this will impact everyone — that it will shed a little bit of light on the special needs community and help more individuals with special needs be accepted and not limited," dad Jason Warren said. "They have the potential to change the world, just like everybody else."



[Today.com](#), 2/7/18

## PA Bills Would Protect Down Syndrome Babies

Children with Down syndrome would experience new protection under bills being introduced in the PA Legislature. The measures would ban the abortion of babies who have been diagnosed with Down syndrome in the womb. Currently, PA babies can be aborted up to 24 weeks gestation, except in cases of sex selection abortion, which is banned. (Pennsylvania has been at the forefront of protecting baby girls from abortion solely based on their sex.) Parents report often being pressured by doctors and others to abort babies diagnosed with Down syndrome. Studies show that 60% - 90% of babies given a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome are aborted. Contact your State Senator and State Representative in support of House Bill 2050 & Senate Bill 1050. Use the Citizen Action Center to email both today: [tinyurl.com/ValueAll](http://tinyurl.com/ValueAll)  
[PA Pro-Life Federation](#), 2/12/18



March 13 is the Special election for those in parts of Allegheny, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland Counties. Visit [PAFamilyVoter.com](http://PAFamilyVoter.com) for election information.



## PROJECT MUSTARD SEED

The letter recipient for this month is:

**MALIN+GOETZ.**

Operations: **fragrances, home** (décor: candles), **personal care** (feet, hair, hands, lips, skin, toiletries).

Please write to:

Mr. Andrew Goetz  
Malin+Goetz  
330 7th Ave. Floor 21  
New York, NY 10001

Tell him to  
stop funding  
Planned  
Parenthood

Malin+Goetz has been on The Boycott List since 2009 and we last wrote to them in May 2013.

### If It Weren't Sad, It'd be Laughable

- Switzerland has followed New Zealand and a few other localities to outlaw boiling live lobsters because they feel pain.
- Switzerland has amended its constitution to recognize the individual dignity of plants. A bioethics committee, assigned to explain the reasons for so doing, stated in its report, *The Dignity of Living Beings with Regard to Plants*, that since plants share biochemical traits with us at the cellular level, it is immoral to “decapitate” a wildflower. The point is that this great concern does not exist when it comes to protecting the lives of unborn, suicidal, sick, disabled, and mentally ill people. Switzerland allows “suicide tourism.” [LifeNews.com](http://LifeNews.com), 1/16/18

### Adult Stem Cells Help Woman Walk Again

A car accident when she was 16 paralyzed Laura Dominguez-Tauer from the neck down. An experimental procedure using her own adult stem cells has enabled her to walk with the help of a walker. “The stem cell procedure made my upper body a lot stronger and I can feel my entire body now,” Dominguez-Tauer said in a video newly released by the Charlotte Lozier Institute (CLI). Since her accident and recovery, Dominguez-Tauer has gotten married, had a baby boy, and started a gym called [Beyond the Chair](#). Adult stem cells have shown validated success in treating the most intractable conditions – not only spinal cord injury, but stroke, autoimmune disease, cancer, and more,” said Dr. David Prentice, Vice President and Research Director of CLI. The video is part of CLI’s [StemCellResearchFacts.org](http://StemCellResearchFacts.org) initiative, which has published 16 video testimonials of patients who have undergone successful therapies for a variety of conditions using adult stem cells.

[LifeSiteNews](#), 2/8/18

## Catholics and embryo adoption

The longest-known case of a frozen human embryo successfully coming to birth happened in Tennessee last November when Emma Wren Gibson was born to Tina Gibson, who nine months earlier had been implanted with an embryo that had been frozen since 1992. Tina, who was born in 1991, and her husband received the embryo through the National Embryo Donation Center, a Knoxville-based group offering implantation of donated frozen embryos for infertile parents seeking children. How should Catholics respond when they learn that a friend or family member has done in vitro fertilization and now has frozen embryos? What should be done with all the frozen embryos who now exist? The short answer to this vexing question is that, ethically, there is very little we can do except to keep them frozen for the foreseeable future. As the Church condemns separating human reproduction from the procreative act of husband and wife, no other morally acceptable options seem to exist. Our sinful choices have consequences. The original decision to carry out in vitro fertilization invariably has serious repercussions and causes real complications, including these kinds of dilemmas for which no sound moral resolution is apparent.

[OSV Newsweekly](#), 2/7/2018

### Pro-Life Hero Remembered by Her Hometown

As Black History Month winds to a close, a new bust of Mildred Fay Jefferson, MD, and a plaque listing some of her notable accomplishments were unveiled in her hometown of Carthage, TX. Dr. Jefferson (1926 – 2010) was the first black woman to graduate from Harvard Medical School. She became the first female surgical intern at the prestigious Boston City Hospital, the first female doctor at the former Boston University Medical Center, and the first female admitted into the Boston Surgical Society. She was also credited by President Ronald Reagan as the person who converted him to being pro-life. Dr. Jefferson was one of the American pro-life movement’s architects and helped to found the National Right to Life Committee, serving as its president from 1975 to 1978. Dr. Jefferson was awarded 28 honorary degrees from colleges and universities. When asked why she was so involved in the pro-life movement, Dr. Jefferson said, “I became a physician in order to help save lives. I am at once a physician, a citizen, and a woman, and I am not willing to stand aside and allow the concept of expendable human lives to turn this great land of ours into just another exclusive reservation where only the perfect, the privileged, and the planned have the right to live. The right-to-life cause is not the concern of only a special few, but it should be the cause of all those who care about fairness and justice, love and compassion and liberty with law.”



[ALL News](#), 2/23/18