



# PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

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St. Gabriel Pro-Life Committee

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Pat Barnett, Editor 412-926-9792

## ***Humanae Vitae* Marks 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The 50th anniversary of Blessed Paul VI's 1968 encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (*Of Human Life*) was marked at an April 4-6 symposium titled *Embracing God's Vision for Marriage, Love and Life* and hosted by The Catholic University of America. Helen Alvare, law professor at George Mason University, was among the medical and legal experts addressing the damaging effects of artificial contraception and abortion on health care, law and society. Alvare traced the roots of making birth control and abortion constitutional rights in the U.S., beginning with repeal of state laws banning unwed cohabitation, pornography, birth control and abortion in the 1950s and 60s, resulting in a decline of legal safeguards for women and children. The purpose of those laws was to protect children so they would be raised with a married mother and father. "Poor women and poor children have suffered the most since contraception," she said. The heart of *Humanae Vitae* affirms that the unitive and procreative meanings of conjugal love are inseparable, said scholar Elizabeth Kirk, who writes and speaks on matters of family law and religious freedom. "It specifically notes that all couples are called to live fully fruitful lives, even if they are infertile, she added. "The beauty of *Humanae Vitae* is that it tells infertile couples that conjugal love expressed fully and faithfully always carries both meanings," even if it does not result in biological children, said Kirk. The teaching "brings great comfort and consolation to infertile couples," who can discern other ways that God is calling their particular marriage to bear fruit, such as through adoption. "Infertility is just one example of how our human suffering can bear spiritual fruit," Kirk said. In keynoting the symposium, Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, who chairs the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, said it is imperative that the church make known why it upholds its teaching, as reiterated in *Humanae Vitae*, so that Catholics and the world understand God's plan for humanity.

[The Boston Pilot](#), 4/9/18

## **An Archbishop's Touching Encouragement**

In a 2014 column in the archdiocesan paper, *The Leaven*, Archbishop Joseph Naumann outlined his new policy saying that "as a small gesture to encourage Catholic married couples to be generous in their openness to life, I am offering to baptize any child who is at least a couple's third child...My purpose in doing this is to demonstrate my personal support for those couples who take seriously the call to be generous in cooperating with God's grace in giving life." Archbishops have many responsibilities and busy schedules. Taking time to baptize numerous infants is no small action and it means a lot in the great battle for Christian culture. Indeed, this small action is a victory that should be known and celebrated. When performed out of love for God, such seemingly insignificant actions have far-reaching effects both in Heaven and on Earth. Baptisms bring new souls into the Church, filling the ranks of the Church Militant with those who will eventually, with God's help, transform American society into a culture of life. The family is a key part of any return to God.

[The American TFP](#), 4/27/18

## **Major Defeat for HHS Mandate**

The Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate forcing Catholic non-profits to provide coverage for abortion-inducing drugs, contraception, and sterilization, was dealt a lethal blow. U.S. District Court Judge David Russell issued a permanent injunction stopping the federal government from enforcing the mandate against the Catholic Benefits Association (CBA). He also issued a declaratory judgment, holding that the mandate was illegal, violating the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The CBA, chaired by Baltimore Archbishop William Lori, represents more than 1,000 Catholic employers, including 60 dioceses and archdioceses, as well as many religious orders, colleges and universities, hospitals, and other ministries. Judge Russell's ruling binds not only the current administration, but also all future administrations. Catholic employers who belong to the CBA are now free from attempts by the federal government to coerce them into providing morally offensive healthcare coverage. This is a smashing victory for religious liberty and a stunning defeat for the pro-abortion industry and its allies

[Catholic League](#), 3/28/18

## **Be Careful What You Ask For**

Planned Parenthood Keystone in PA caused quite a stir in early April when it sent out a message that it wanted to hear from a "Disney Princess who had an abortion." In a fantastic example of "be careful what you ask for," a former Disney Princess went public with an article well worth reading titled [I Was a Disney Princess, I Had an Abortion, and It Almost Ruined My Life](#).

[The Federalist](#), 4/12/18



## PROJECT MUSTARD SEED

The letter recipient for this month is:

### GLAXOSMITHKLINE

Operations: **medical devices/diagnostics/ research** (Acprotec flu mask), **medications/ treatments** (analgesics/anti-inflammatories: Excedrin, Panadol, Voltaren, feet: Lamisil, gastrointestinal: Benefibre, Citrucel, Ex-Lax, Gas-X, Prodiem, Tums, lips: Abreva, Zovirax, nasal/respiratory: Acfed, Breathe Right, Buckley's, Cholinex, Coldrex, Flonase, NeoCitran, Theraflu, Thrive, skin: Abreva, Ansolar, Bactroban, Impruv, Keri, Lac-Hydran, Lamisil, Lipacn, Spectro, Uremol, Zeasorb, smoking cessation: NicoDerm, Nicoree, Niconell, NiQuin, weight: alli), **nutrition** (Benefibre, Cetebe, Horlicks, Maltova, Oscal, Runoscorbin, Viva), **personal care** (oral: Aquafresh, Astringinsol, Biotene, Chlorhexamed, Corega, Corsodyl, Dr. Best, MacLean's, Polident, Poligrip, Pro-Email, ProNamel, Sensodyne, Super Wernets, Synthol), **pharmaceuticals/prescriptions** (dermatology, gastrointestinal, mental health, migraine, nasal/respiratory, smoking cessation), Sefel Laboratories.

Please write to:

Ms. Emma Walmsley CEO  
GlaxoSmithKline, PLC  
980 Great West Rd.  
Brentford, Middlesex  
London TW8 9GS UK

Tell him to  
stop funding  
Planned  
Parenthood

www.gks.com

Please note this recipient is in the United Kingdom. First class postage is \$1.15

### Latest on Student Privacy Lawsuit

The Boyertown case—involving an unwritten school policy that allows boys into girls' locker rooms and vice-versa—is scheduled to be argued on May 24 before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Philadelphia. Additional students seek to join the lawsuit to protect their privacy rights. Please pray for the three judges who will hear this case—and for the many children in the Boyertown Area School District and other districts who live with such offensive policies.

[PA Family Council](#), 4/7/18



**Tuesday May 15 is Pennsylvania Primary Election Day.** Please visit [LifePac](#) for election information.

### Alfie Evans RIP

Five days after a children's hospital yanked his life support without his parent's permission, 23 month-old Alfie Evans died. In a case reminiscent of 11 month-old Charlie Gard's last July, Alfie's death comes after a massive legal battle between the hospital and his parents, Tom and Kate. The legal battle sparked anger nationwide in England and internationally as people stood up for Alfie's parents and strongly opposed courts and hospitals making life and death decisions for patients over their families objections. A British doctors group, The Medical Ethics Alliance, [expressed its horror over the treatment of Alfie Evans](#) that it called a "medical tyranny." Italy's Healthcare Chief slammed the decisions by UK courts to treat Alfie the way that they had. The President of the Italian National Institute of Health lambasted the UK High Court's decision that allowed the children's hospital to remove life support over the objections of Alfie's parents. Pope Francis repeatedly spoke on Alfie's behalf and [urged that Alfie's parents be allowed to bring him to Italy](#). [Members of Parliament are leading a new campaign](#) for a law to prevent the tragic situation that happened to Alfie Evans and his parents from happening to any other family.

[LifeNews.com](#), 4/28/18

### French President Encourages Catholic Voice

In an address to the French bishops—a rare public meeting between Church and government leaders in France—President Emmanuel Macron stressed the importance of a Catholic voice in the country's political debates, particularly on bioethical issues. "What strikes our country ... is not only the economic crisis, it is relativism; it is even nihilism," said Macron. "Our contemporaries need, whether they believe or do not believe, to hear from another perspective on man than the material perspective," he continued, "They need to quench another thirst, which is a thirst for absolute. It is not a question here of conversion, but of a voice which, with others, still dares to speak of man as a living spirit... You consider that our duty is to protect life, especially when this life is defenseless. Between the life of the unborn child, that of being on the threshold of death, or that of the refugee who has lost everything, you see this common trait of deprivation, nakedness and absolute vulnerability," said Macron. "I believe in a political commitment that serves the dignity of man," he said. "The link between Church and State has deteriorated, and that it is important for us and for me to repair it," he told French Catholic leadership. A baptized Catholic, Emmanuel Macron [was elected president of France](#) in May 2017—the youngest president to ever be elected in France. Upon his election, Pope Francis urged him to strengthen France's Christian roots and "respect for life."

[CNA/EWTN News](#), 4/11/18