

Family & ProLife News Briefs

July 2021

Some Wins for Kids ... and Some Concerns

Adoption Services Deemed Legal

In *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia* the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that Philadelphia can't tell 200-year old Catholic Social Services to violate its faith as a condition of its city contract & could not be forced to place **foster children** with same-sex couples. The court found that 20 other agencies with foster-service contracts are available to work with such couples.

Sharonell Fulton, a named plaintiff who has fostered more than 25 children in 25 years, said: "Faith-affirming foster care and adoption agencies are crucial in our community. ... Some families choose to foster or adopt only if they can partner with an agency that shares their religious values." [WSJ, 6/24/21]

Attorney Lori Windham of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty said: "It's a beautiful day when the highest court protects foster moms.... **Taking care of children**, especially children who have been neglected and abused, is a universal value that spans all ideological divide."

According to Justice Alito, the ruling was based on relatively narrow grounds & still "leaves religious liberty in a confused and vulnerable state." The *Wall Street Journal's* editors agree: "The Little Sisters of the Poor, who object to ObamaCare's contraceptive rule, have been to the Supreme Court twice, and the President has pledged to keep harassing the nuns. Unlike the liberals of old, today's secular progressives are openly hostile to religious liberty, which needs a Supreme Court willing to defend it." [WSJ, 6/18/21]

OSV KIDS - A New Monthly Magazine

For kids aged 2 to 6, the magazine contains fun, faith-filled games, activities, stories, tear-out cards, coloring pages, and more. Children receive the magazine in the mail addressed to them, and will be engaged and faith-inspired with the first pages they open.

Instead of the family coming together around a screen, here is a simple way to get together, unplug, and deepen their Catholic identity as a family. According to the publisher, *Our Sunday Visitor*, a subscription is a perfect gift to a grandchild, a godchild, or one's own toddler. [OSVKids.com]

Saint John Paul II: "I plead with you! Never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid."

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

She Left Banking to Do Sonograms

"I have been a Diagnostic Registered Medical Sonographer for 7 years. When I made the decision to go into the medical field from banking, I knew I wanted to be part of **helping save lives**.



Never did I imagine that walking into Life Choices Resource Center (Metuchen, NJ) would allow me to utilize my skill to help save the lives of the MOST vulnerable – the unborn! As a Sonographer, I show women that their baby has a heart that is beating and they are beautifully forming into little beings God has intended them to be. I am so

very proud & Blessed to be a part of this wonderful team and the special journey God has put me on, helping and serving the women and families we help." Jamie Ippolito-Trott [Life Letter, Spring 2021]

Billboards Help Babies & Their Moms

PROLife Across America, *The Billboard People*, is rated very high in financial efficiency by Charity Navigator, and rated compliant with Catholic doctrine by the Lepanto Institute. The non-profit placed 8,500 billboards last year, covering 46 states & DC, and received 2,810 call to its **800-366-7773 Hotline for Help**, and 600 email help requests like the following:

"I'm 23 years old and 9 weeks pregnant. I know I shouldn't abort because it's a baby growing in my womb, but I'm scared to go through pregnancy without being married. I'm not ready to be a mother but going through all the pain pregnancy and birth just to give this baby up doesn't sound easy. I really don't know what to do."

A 20-minute virtual celebration explains how the organization responds to such calls, and may be viewed at www.prolifeacrossamerica.org/lov



Catholic Student Wins Florida State Univ. settled with student Jack Denton who sued the school over his removal from his position of president of the student senate for **religious statements** he made on a private text forum. A lawyer in the case said universities should encourage robust debate, "not punish students for expressing their beliefs." [Our Sunday Visitor, 6/15/21]

Sexting Problem: Parents Can Help

Research indicates that sharing of nude selfies and other sexually explicit messages among teens & tweens is getting worse: 1 in 7 teens have sent sexts, 1 in 4 have received them, & 1 in 8 have forwarded them without consent.

A 2019 study found that more than three times as many girls as boys **felt pressured** to send a sext. Teens will sometimes use one photo to blackmail another teen for increasingly explicit ones, or leak them for revenge after a breakup. Girls can receive requests for nudes from male classmates as well as strangers on social media from middle school through college.

Counselors worry that sexting can have a long-term impact on teens' developing sense of self-worth and view of what constitutes a healthy relationship.

Parents can help:

- **Start the conversation early.** For kids 10 & under, talk about what healthy relationships look like, what consent means & how to be a good digital citizen. You can talk about sexting more specifically as they get older.
- **Discuss reported abuse.** If you hear news about a minor who has been charged with possession of child pornography, discuss it. In about half the states, teens who engage in sexting can be prosecuted and added to sex-offender registries.
- **Calm down.** If you learn your child has been asking for or sharing nude photos, compose yourself first, don't overreact, and say, "Let's sort this out together."
- **Delete, delete, delete.** Once discovered on a phone, delete immediately. In some states, just having nude selfies can be considered possession of child porn. [Julie Jargon, *WSJ*, 6/9/21]

"Every time I'm asked for a nude photo, I think, 'So, this is how every guy looks at me?' It tends to make girls more insecure. Stop giving attention to guys who ask for them. Block them. Think about who could see the photos." Vivie Myrick, singer / social-media activist.

Can You Have the Baby & Still Achieve Your Life's Goals?

Last year, a brave March for Life attendee sent us these photos of her son on graduation day with these encouraging words:

"My son was born days after I completed my first semester at Columbia Law School. I rejected the need to choose between motherhood and my dreams of becoming a lawyer. I would have never graduated with honors or gotten my dream job without him pushing me to be better every single day." [March for Life]



Fatherhood is So Rewarding

Many men in our culture seem to carry with them an undercurrent of fear about becoming husbands & fathers – they are not pursuing the commitment of marriage & parenthood with very much energy. It's easy for men of my age (30s) to get caught up in a culture that **promotes career attainment**, worldly accomplishment, & even entertainment consumption as the primary point of life, with a wife & family being a kind of optional add-on if it suits their fancy. When men believe that they can find ultimate fulfillment in the material world while ignoring the masculine roles of husband & father that our Creator established, they will instead find disillusionment, emptiness and loneliness.

As a father of three boys under the age of five, fatherhood has given me an **incredible sense of purpose** and a very clear mission for my life. We men thrive when we feel we are living out and pursuing a distinct quest with clear objectives. Fatherhood is the most primordial, fundamental, and instinctual role that our Creator designed for men. We are privileged with the task of imaging God the Father's love, tenderness, compassion, & strength to our children. We have been given a vulnerable infant & a mother to protect & provide for. **The mission is very clear**, it requires intense commitment, & it is extremely exhilarating.

You'll see the world through the eyes of a child again and will be witness to a renewed sense of innocence. In the process you'll learn new things about yourself on a daily basis. You'll find reservoirs of strength that you can draw from that you had no idea you even had. Over time, you'll find yourself instinctually knowing what you need to do as a father in certain situations, because our Creator has built the capacity for fatherhood into the very nature of man. You will discover like never before what it is to **love another human being** -- the incarnation of your spousal love -- so completely & fervently. The intensity of this love will surprise you, will overcome you when you least expect it, & will also break your heart. [Dan Hart, "American Fatherhood Is in Decline," Family Research Council, 6/18/21]

Priests for Life & the 2022 Elections

In order to block radical pro-abortion policies, Priests for Life believes preparations need to begin now. "Along with the usual election activities, outlined at www.ProLifeVote.com, we also need to be working on election integrity. On the federal level, it means resisting bills like H.R. 1/S.1 which would ruin our electoral process by federalizing it and throwing security measures out the window. On all issues, please remember to sign up for our ongoing election training calls, at www.ProLifeVolunteer.com.