Your Monthly Digest of Life Issues in the News June 2018



# Hello there!

We've researched and found the most relevant and worthy articles to educate and equip you in affirming and protecting Life.

We encourage you to share these stories and updates by email or social media!

We have also included our most recent AFL blog posts. You can read all our blog posts on our <u>website</u>.

## Abortion

<u>US Supreme Court Strikes Down Law Forcing</u> <u>Pregnancy Centers to Promote Abortion</u>

In the *National Institute of Family and Life Advocates v. Becerra* case, the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that the state of California cannot force



pregnancy centers to promote abortion. In 2015, Support Anglicans For Life: Donate Today!

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Speaker and Workshop Videos are now online! a law was passed that forced

pregnancy centers in the state to provide written information about obtaining tax-funded abortions and required clinics without medical licenses to post disclaimers that they did not provide medical services. Pregnancy centers argued that this was an infringement of their right to free speech, and the Supreme Court agreed. "As with other kinds of speech, regulating the content of professionals' speech 'pose[s] the inherent risk that the Government seeks not to advance a legitimate regulatory goal, but to suppress unpopular ideas or information," Justice Clarence Thomas wrote in his majority opinion. <u>Read more</u>.

### Human Rights and "The Magical Birth Canal"

Here is a funny, refreshing tool for pro-life apologetics. Produced by Canadian pro-life organization Choice42, this video asks how one obtains "human rights". The answer? The magical birth canal! I'm not kidding. Watch and share, it's worth it. It also makes a great point. Because if it's illegal to kill a child after it's born...what makes that child less human in the womb? Point made. <u>Read more</u>.



Quick Links: Our Website <u>Products</u>

## **End of Life**

People in Pain: A Pair of High-Profile Suicides Brings Attention to a Growing Crisis

In June of this year, within days of each other, famous designer Kate Spade and celebrity chef and author Anthony Bourdain committed suicide. Being pubic figures brings with it a certain amount of scrutiny and gossip. But what seems to be clear, for both Bourdain and Spade, was that neither outwardly *seemed* to be at risk of suicide. They were successful and famous, living the "dream". Yet their deaths remind us that suicide is sadly more common than we want to believe. In fact, national suicide rates, according to the CDC, have increased 25% in the last two decades. What is happening? What is



going on in the minds of so many people, like Bourdain and Spade, who show no obvious signs of mental health disorders? With suicide rates showing no signs of abating and assisted suicide being approved <u>by more people and organizations</u>, the puzzle of increasing suicide rates will continue to devastate our culture. <u>Read more</u>

#### **BioEthics and the Futility of People**

We rely on the expertise of physicians, nurses, and other medical specialists, and most people in the medical profession seek to care for their patients and to "do no harm". But, while these doctors and nurses provide essential experience and knowledge, patients should have the right to choose medical care that honors their life and their values. However, Udo Schuklenk, co-editor-in-chief to the journal *BioEthics* definitely disagrees. In a recent article in said publication, Schuklenk wrote with horror about the public backlash from "academics, activists and religious lobbyists with no clinical qualifications and no first-hand knowledge of the facts of the matter" in the Alfie Evan's case. In Schuklenk's world, the patient would let the doctor determine his or her treatment and to make the decision as to when further treatment would be "futile". But when we declare that treatment is futile, ethicists such as Schuklenk more often than not mean that people *themselves* are futile. <u>Read more</u>.

### **Sexual Purity**

The War Against Abstinence: The Last Great Sexual Taboo

I was talking with someone recently about television shows we watched as children. I used



to regularly watch the black and white "I Love



Lucy" episodes with my grandmother in the evenings. I laughed, somewhat ruefully, remembering the two beds in Ricky and Lucy's bedroom, because television censorship wouldn't permit viewers to see that two married people

slept in the same bed! While that censorship was certainly extremely conservative, 60 years later we have sadly gone to the other extreme; viewers barely blink when television and movies depict everything from extramarital affairs to incest. In fact, there seems to be only one last great sexual sin in our time: virginity. <u>Read more</u>.

## AFL Blogs

Rest in Peace Alfie Evans: Matters Sacred and Irreversible



Matters as sacred and irreversible as life and death deserve, indeed demand, plain speaking. The Court's words dishonor Alfie and his parents and undermine whatever legitimate moral authority the state may have in matters pertaining to children.

<u>"You Have Your Whole Life Ahead of You...You Should Get an Abortion." – A Father's</u> <u>Story</u>



"At conception a spark of life, part of your DNA, is growing in the lady you love. Don't abandon her and your baby because it's inconvenient or hard. They need you now more than ever. Don't look back on Father's Day when you're 60 and wonder what should've been. God calls us to lead.

THIS is the time when you must lead."

#### <u> Action Ideas for Life – Fatherhood</u>



Each month we will offer a list of action ideas so you can defend, honor, and celebrate Life in your



churches and communities on our Take Action page. This month, we are looking at fatherhood.

#### Anglicans in Action – Caring for the Elderly



The second greatest commandment in all of Scripture is to love your neighbor as yourself. I want to encourage you to think about an elderly individual this week in your community that you can show love and respect to.

#### Introducing Young Anglicans for Life: Sex Education and Abundant Life



The worst thing the Church could do is to water down sex education. We were made to have relationships, and when we fail to help young people navigate how sex and relationships fit into the broader category of life, we are failing the God who created relationship to be a wonderful gift

for us.

If you have questions, concerns, or thoughts, please feel free to contact us!

Sincerely, <u>Robin Ferguson</u> Editor



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