

# St. Mary Catholic Church Respect Life

League City, Texas

January 2014



*Forty-one years and over 55 million unborn children lost since the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that allowed abortion on demand to the end of the second trimester and Doe v. Bolton that allowed abortion through the ninth month. In the US, an abortion occurs every 20 seconds with a late-term (over 5 months) every 30 minutes of the day. 77,000 unborn Texas babies will lose their lives in 2014.*

*As Catholics, we believe that Human Life is sacred from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death.  
Pray for all God's children, our families and our country.*

## 2013 REVIEW OF THE YEAR

**JAN** - Texas Rally for Life in Austin drew more than 5,000 people to the Capitol in Austin to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Roe v Wade decision. Over 400,000 join the Washington DC March For Life.

**MARCH** - French police use pepper spray, tear gas and batons against 1.4 million participants in a pro-traditional marriage rally in Paris. The participants that included children, elderly people and priests gathered to oppose a draft bill legalizing same-sex marriage and gay adoption. While in the US, 10,000 rallied and marched peacefully to the Supreme Court with two simple messages: "Respect Our Votes!" and "Kids Deserve a Mom and a Dad!"

**APRIL** - Archbishop Leonard of Belgium is attacked by four topless women representing FEMEN (an anti-religion protest group) at a university in Brussels. He remained in prayer as the women douse him with water and chanted. During Christmas Day 2013, a member of this same group would disrupt mass by climbing up on the cathedral's altar and stand topless with the words "I am God" written across her chest.

**MAY** - Philadelphia abortionist Kermit Gosnell is charged with four counts of first-degree murder for delivering late-term live babies and then cutting their spinal cords. Houston abortionist Douglas Karpen would come under investigation from information provided by former employees with pictures of large aborted babies that were nearly decapitated. A grand jury would later refuse to indict him.

Vermont legalizes physician-assisted suicide and allows the state in the coming years to drop even the so-called 'safeguards' against abuse that Oregon, Washington, and Montana have in place.

*Some 40,000 people are estimated to have gathered in Rome to participate in their March for Life with participants from all around the world.*

**JUNE** - Thousands of prolife supporters travel to the Texas state capitol to show support of bills SB5 and HB2 while many more took to emails and petitions to their elected officials. Fortnight For Freedom begins.

**AUG** - A U.S. Army Reserve Equal Opportunity training brief describes "Evangelical Christianity" and "Catholicism" as examples of "religious extremism," according to the Archdiocese for the Military Services and the Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty.

**SEPT** - The Little Sisters of the Poor, a 175 year-old organization, files a first class-action lawsuit against the federal contraception mandate. While the mandate has an exemption for religious employers, the Little Sisters of the Poor do not meet the narrow criteria to qualify because they are not affiliated with a specific house of worship. The sisters, who operate 30 homes for needy elderly persons in the U.S., would face millions of dollars in IRS fines if they do not comply. On Dec 31<sup>st</sup> the Supreme Court provided a temporary injunction protecting the Little Sisters but the Obama administration quickly filed to appeal the decision. According to Lifeneews in an interview after the decision, the White House said forcing the Catholic nuns to pay for those objectionable things that run counter to Catholic Church pro-life teachings strike's the right "balance." Currently, Eric Holder and the Justice Department are insisting that the nun's sign a form (permission slip) to allow other people to provide contraceptives, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs on their behalf.



**OCT** - *Several thousand people line the streets for Poland's March for Life.*

**OCT cont.** Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers sue to prevent enforcement of two key provisions of HB 2 -- the requirements that abortion doctors have privileges at a local hospital and that the RU-486 abortion drugs be administered in the presence of the abortion doctor according to the FDA safety protocol. Tx Attorney General Greg Abbott appealed to the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, which overruled the lower court and put the provisions temporarily into effect until a court hearing scheduled for Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Catholics at a Navy base were banned from attending worship services because of the partial shutdown of the federal government. A Catholic priest who serves the community on the military base "has been prohibited from even volunteering to celebrate Holy Mass without pay and was told that if he violated that order, he could be subject to arrest.*

**NOV-** Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2013 (ENDA) is passed by the U.S. Senate. The bishops noted that ENDA goes beyond prohibiting unjust discrimination and threatens religious liberty by punishing as discrimination the religious or moral disapproval of same-sex sexual conduct, while protecting only some religious employers.

Bishop David Zubik, Diocese of Pittsburgh, told a district judge that he would not comply with the HHS mandate under any circumstance. Fr. Scott Jabo, president of Cathedral Preparatory School in Erie, testified that the fines could come to \$2.8 million a year, nearly one-third of its \$10 million budget and would shut down Catholic schools. A federal district court issues a preliminary injunction.

*Thousands of enraged feminists abuse a large group of men protecting the Buenos Aires cathedral. The men peacefully pray the Rosary while 700 Catholics along with their Bishop pray inside. The women burn an effigy of Pope Francis and chant "keep your Rosary off our ovaries" while police just watch. Note: this is the same chant heard at the Texas State Capitol in June.*

**DEC** - Archbishop Cordileone said. "As with the House bill, the Marriage and Religious Freedom Act introduced in the Senate would prohibit the federal government from discriminating against religious believers who hold to the timeless truth that marriage is the union of one man and one woman. Increasingly, state laws are being used to target individuals and organizations for discrimination simply because they act on their belief." Archbishop Lori added, "Among the many protections in this bill, the federal government would not be able to deny individuals and organizations a grant, contract, or employment because of their religious belief that marriage is the union of one man and one woman."

*Tens of thousands of pro-life Spaniards rallied in central Madrid at an open-air Roman Catholic mass to honor family values and support the government's tightening restrictions on abortion.*

Sunday January 19<sup>th</sup> Rosary for Life after the 10:30 am mass St. Mary's in League City

Sunday January 19<sup>th</sup> Shrine of the True Cross Life Chain 2-3:30 pm in Dickinson

Wednesday January 22<sup>nd</sup> follow on EWTN, the annual March For Life Rally in Washington D.C.

Saturday January 25<sup>th</sup> 2014 Texas Rally For Life at the State Capitol. Bus is available from Annunciation Church after 8 am mass. Cost is \$25. Contact Life Advocates 713-682-5433 or [lifeadv@lifeadv.net](mailto:lifeadv@lifeadv.net). Teen youth bus is only \$5 contact cool youth group 832-360-3664.



For the Archdiocese Galveston-Houston Respect Life Newsletter go to the "newsletter" under "resources" in [www.archgh.org/RespectLife/](http://www.archgh.org/RespectLife/)

Join in prolife prayer **First Friday Adoration** 6pm in the St. Mary Chapel, League City  
**First Saturday Respect Life Mass** 10 a.m. at Shrine of the True Cross, Dickinson  
**Pray for Our Nation** Thursdays 12:30 at Mary Queen, Friendswood



Join thousands of Catholics across the country coming together in prayer for a "culture of life" for 9 days from Saturday, January 18 - Sunday, January 26!