

PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

A Monthly Publication of the
St. Teresa of Avila Pro-Life Committee

Issue No. 165 June 1, 2017

Dianne Machesney, Editor 412-366-7869

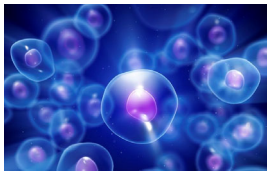
Two Countries Grant Legal Personhood to Rivers, But Not Unborn Babies

In today's society, it seems that more things are being designated as protected "persons" under the law – except human beings in the womb.

Two countries, New Zealand and India, recently granted personhood rights and protections to rivers within their borders. Other countries have seen groups argue for personhood rights for chimpanzees, dolphins, whales and plants.

Arguing for personhood for the Ganges and Yamuna rivers in India, environmentalist lawyer Ritwik Dutta told *the Mint*: "It is an extension of the philosophy of allowing a river to flow freely—as was intended in its nature. Any interference with the river as a whole, including construction of dams, takes away from its essential and basic character."

<http://thefederalist.com/2017/04/10/can-rivers-granted-legal-personhood-not-human-babies/>
<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/lwxheezmdiazU5mWtiWU2K/Uttarakhand-HC-recognizes-Ganga-and-Yamuna-rivers-as-living.html>



Scientists: New Fertility Technique "Raises Specter of Embryo Farming on Unimaginable Scale"

A new fertility procedure that could allow sperm and eggs to be made from people's skin may lead to "embryo farming" on a massive scale and drive parents to have only "ideal" children, researchers have warned.

The procedure, in vitro gametogenesis (IVG) involves reprogramming adult cells into a younger, more versatile state, then growing them into functioning sex cells. The technology has so far only been demonstrated in mice, and is illegal to attempt on humans in the UK and US.

However, Eli Adashi, professor of medical science at Brown University in Rhode Island, Glenn Cohen, a professor of law at Harvard Law School, and George Daley, dean of Harvard Medical School, argue in the journal *Science Translational Medicine* that it may be possible to make human eggs and sperm from skin "in the not too distant future".

The paper lists among other hypothetical scenarios the possibility of creating sperm and egg cells from more than two people, or even from just one; for example making sperm from a woman's skin cells to fertilize her own eggs.

<http://stm.sciencemag.org/content/9/372/eaag2959>



Senate Confirms Supreme Court Nominee Neil Gorsuch

The Senate voted April 7 to confirm Judge Neil Gorsuch's Supreme Court nomination despite strenuous opposition from pro-abortion groups like Planned Parenthood and a filibuster from pro-abortion Democrats. Senators voted 54-45 for Gorsuch with a few Democrats voting with all Republicans for his nomination.

Gorsuch is 49 years old. He and his wife, Louise, have two daughters and live in Boulder, Colorado.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2017/04/07/senate-confirms-supreme-court-nominee-neil-gorsuch-over-democrat-and-pro-abortion-opposition/>

Court Rules Nurse Fired for Refusing to Assist Abortions Must Do Abortions to Keep Her Job



Ellinor Grimmark is a nurse in Sweden who filed a claim that the hospital where she worked discriminated against her because she refused to participate in abortions.

Newly-graduated, Grimmark was fired from her position because she refused to assist abortions. Even though there was a shortage of midwives at the time she was fired and even though she is willing to take on double shifts, she has been denied a job ever since. One employer had first agreed to hire her in spite of the "complication", but withdrew the offer when her story began to spread in media.

The Swedish Appeals Court decided Wednesday that the government can force medical professionals to perform abortions, or else be forced out of their profession.

Because the ruling in *Grimmark v. Landstinget i Jönköpings Län* contradicts international law protecting conscientious objection, Grimmark is now considering whether to take her case to the European Court of Human Rights.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2017/04/12/court-rules-nurse-fired-for-refusing-to-assist-abortions-must-do-abortion-to-keep-her-job-2/>



PROJECT MUSTARD SEED

INTUIT

Operations: **Computer** (software: Lacerte, Mint, ProSeries, QuickBooks, Quicken, Snap Tax, TurboTax), **financial** (e-commerce, payment processing: Go Payment), **internet** (e-commerce, website development, webstie hosting).

Please write to:

Mr Brad D. Smith, Chairman & CEO
Intuit, Inc
2700 Coast Ave.
Mountain View, CA 94043
650-944-6000

Tell him to
stop
funding
Planned
Parenthood

www.intuit.com

We last wrote to Intuit in January, 2013. Remember this project only works because of your active participation.



Target Takes Stock of Damage

It only takes one look at the Wall Street Journal's bar graph to debunk every Target soundbite since last year.

After the retailer opened its restroom and changing room doors to both men and women, there's no hiding the impact of the near 1.5 million-person boycott. "Target picked a side and pretty much said to the rest of us that we don't matter," said one North Carolina shopper. "They should have just left it as." Privately, I'm sure the company agrees.

Read the whole Wall Street Journal article here:

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/how-target-botched-its-response-to-the-north-carolina-bathroom-law-1491404107>



Iowa Set to Join National Trend With 20-Week Abortion Ban

The Iowa House of Representatives has passed a bill that would ban abortions after 20 weeks into pregnancy, require a three-day waiting period for abortion and require an ultrasound for women considering an abortion.

Last month, the Iowa Senate approved the 20-week abortion ban, but it must now review and approve provisions the House added, such as the three-day waiting period and other changes.

Gov. Terry Branstad is expected to sign the bill. At a pro-life rally, he pledged to be "a strong advocate for the unborn."

The House bill, passed by a 55-41 vote, would also require a woman seeking an abortion to be given a chance to view the ultrasound and hear the baby's heartbeat. She would also be given information about adoption.

The state of Missouri, will also consider a ban this legislative session.

[National Catholic Register 4/10/17](http://www.nationalcatholicregister.org/2017/04/10/17)

President Donald Trump Signs Bill to Overturn Obama Rule Forcing States to Fund Planned Parenthood

President Donald Trump signed into law April 13 a bill to overturn a rule President Barack Obama put in place preventing states from defunding the Planned Parenthood abortion business. The rule from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) prevented states from blocking Title X funding to abortion companies like Planned Parenthood.

In recent years, several states receiving Title X family planning grants have opted to direct those funds to county health departments, community health centers, or other types of providers, in preference to organizations engaged in objectionable activities, such as Planned Parenthood, a mega-marketer of abortion that has also been involved in selling aborted baby parts.

H.J. Res. 43, means that states, if they chose, could continue to attempt to redirect Title X funds away from objectionable organizations like Planned Parenthood. <http://www.lifenews.com/4/13/17>

Cancer Patients are Opting to be Euthanized Because They Can't Afford Chemo

A new study on America's oldest physician-aided suicide program shows that numbers of those being euthanized have been steadily increasing, and reveals that some are opting to end their lives because they cannot afford chemotherapy.

The study, published in [JAMA Oncology](http://www.jamaoncology.com), is one of the first detailed analyses of the Death with Dignity Act, which passed in the state of Oregon 18 years ago. It shows a 12 percent yearly increase in lethal prescriptions from 1998 to 2013, with an unexplained jump of nearly 30 percent in 2015.

It was found that in 25.2% of cases, inadequate pain control was given as a reason for desiring euthanasia.

It was also reported that 3% of patients used the law because the cost of chemotherapy was too high. There are known examples of this happening—patients were told that their medical insurance would not pay for cancer treatment, but would cover assisted suicide.

<http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaoncology/article-abstract/2616352>

Artificial Wombs: Scientists Successfully Helped Premature Lambs be Born, are Babies Next?

Scientists have been able to keep premature lambs alive for weeks using an artificial womb that looks like a plastic bag, according to a study published in [Nature Communications](http://www.nature.com).

The animals, which were able to move, open their eyes, and swallow normally, were "born" when researchers removed them from the sacs. Tests showed they had developed normally and their lung function "essentially caught up to that of a mature infant," said Emily Partridge, a research fellow at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, one of the lead authors.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2017/04/25/artificial-wombs-scientists-successfully-helped-premature-lambs-be-born-are-babies-next/>

