“Every human life is a gift to the world. Whether born or unborn, young or old, healthy or sick, every person is made in the holy image of God. The Almighty Creator gives unique talents, beautiful dreams, and a great purpose to every person.”

from the Presidential Proclamation designating January 22, 2021, as National Sanctity of Human Life Day

President Donald Trump

DOE Publishes Frequently Asked Questions for Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools

Last Friday, the Department of Education published the document Frequently Asked Questions—Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) to guide state education agencies and private schools interested in participating in the program. The EANS was established through the latest COVID-19 relief bill to provide funding and reimbursements for a variety of expenses, including cleaning supplies, air purification systems, COVID-19 testing, and technology to provide distance or hybrid learning. Funds are available through the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) grants and will be distributed by the state education agency (SEA) to ensure that Christian schools are not considered direct recipients of federal financial assistance. The AACS has developed a new white paper to help our ministries understand the program and to provide steps for schools wishing to participate. The AACS will send out updates as new guidance becomes available.

National School Choice Week Next Week!

National School Choice Week (NSCW) begins next week! Beginning January 25, families and schools that participate in school choice programs are encouraged to highlight the positive impact that school choice opportunities have had in the lives of thousands of students. While NSCW usually includes thousands of events across the country, with a record of 51,300 events last year, this year the organizers are encouraging participants to find creative virtual ways to celebrate in an effort to help stop the spread of COVID-19. For materials and ideas, please click here.

Coming Up—March for Life, January 29, 2021

The March for Life organizers have announced that the rally portion of the annual event will take place virtually this year on January 29, 2021. After consideration, the March for Life organizers released a statement explaining the decision was made “in light of the fact that we are in the midst of a pandemic which may be peaking, and in view of the heightened pressures that law enforcement officers and others are currently facing in and around the Capitol.” The March has been held for the last 47 years to mark the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion and to bring awareness to pro-life efforts to save lives by ending the practice of abortion. The annual event has never been canceled, and this year’s organizers are working to ensure this year’s virtual event provides the same strong message that every life is valuable. The organizers indicated that the event will continue in person next year. For more information on how to be involved in the virtual event, please click here.
Article Attacks Christian Textbooks for Being Pro-Donald

This week, the progressive Huffington Post published an article attacking the popular Christian K-12 curriculum publishers Abeka and BJU Press for their Christian worldview and their portrayal of politics under President Donald. The Huffington Post examined three textbooks from the two publishers, noting “a skewed version of history and a sense that the country is experiencing an urgent moral decline.” The piece also characterized the books as being sympathetic to racism and blamed the publishers for the violence that took place at the Capitol on January 6. Although the Huffington Post piece paints Christian curriculum publishers as “anti-Democrat, anti-science,” and “anti-multicultural,” the views espoused by Abeka and BJU Press reflect an enduring Christian worldview that is anchored in biblical teachings about moral truth. Ironically, the Huffington Post article only serves to highlight the ascension of progressive, Marxist ideology among the elites in American media, academia, and government and their increasing intolerance toward Christianity and people of faith. Far from creating division and violence in society, the worldview displayed in Christian curriculum encourages Christian engagement in the political process in order to enable every human being to live a full and satisfying life within the framework of eternal truth. Despite the aspersions cast on these publishers, Christians can be confident that the Bible’s message of hope and salvation are essential to a rejuvenation of true freedom and a return to the American principles that created the most prosperous nation in human history.

Supreme Court Pro-Life Ruling

Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Food and Drug Administration can indeed require that a doctor see a patient in person before prescribing the abortion pill. The in-person rule is in place because the potential harm to the mother is mitigated when a doctor can perform an ultrasound to ensure the pregnancy is under 10 weeks and there are no other complications. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), joined by pro-abortion organizations, sued the FDA over the requirement, claiming that the pandemic restrictions should allow for the pill to be prescribed without a doctor’s visit. The decision by the Supreme Court was not made on the merits of the rule itself, but rather on the basis that the FDA had the authority to make such a rule. Chief Justice John Roberts, who authored the decision, wrote that he recognizes a need for women to have access virtually, but he did not “see a sufficient basis here for the District Court to compel the FDA to alter the regimen for medical abortion” and that “courts owe significant deference to the politically accountable entities with the ‘background, competence, and expertise to assess public health.’” The decision allows the rule to stay in effect while litigation is ongoing in the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals. With the change of administrations this week, there is the possibility that new pro-abortion FDA officials may withdraw the requirement and allow the drug to be distributed without an in-person appointment.

In Case You Missed It:

Weekly Market Update provided by Jeff Beach of the AACS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch

Practical Legal Help for Christian Schools: ADF Ministry Alliance

The 1776 Report released by the President’s Advisory 1776 Commission

Missouri Is First Abortion-Free State

Pro-life Students Win Lawsuit, Ending Restricted Speech Zones on Oregon College Campus