

Humanity of the Unborn Child Act

On March 1, the lower house of Oklahoma's state legislature passed HB 2797, the *Humanity of the Unborn Child Act*. The bill would establish a programme in the state's public (government) schools to educate students about babies' development and growth throughout the nine months of pregnancy. The state senate will now consider the bill.

If the bill passes and the state's governor signs it into law, it should survive pro-abortion challenges in the courts. As veteran pro-lifer Dave Andrusko notes, the US Supreme Court ruled in *Maher v Roe* in 1977 that the US Constitution does not restrict "the authority of a State to make a value judgment favouring childbirth over abortion, and to implement that judgment by the allocation of public funds".

Students Follow Baby's Gestation throughout School Year

Inasmuch as babies' nine-month gestation in the womb coincides with US schools' nine-month school year, back in 1997 Father Daniel Mode, then chaplain to Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, Virginia, originated a "Pro-Life, Pro-Love Campaign" in which each student prays a spiritual adoption prayer for a preborn baby every day. On every Monday, the students receive a photo of a baby at that week's stage of growth in the womb. The students also take part in pro-life volunteer work, hold baby showers, raise funds and build a pro-life memorial. Then, at the end of the school year, the students have a birthday party for their "newborn baby." Every school can do this!

Later on, Father Mode, a naval reservist, shifted gears and became a chaplain in the US Navy. Ministering to personnel in Afghanistan and elsewhere, he earned the Bronze Star for bravery. He is the author of *The Grunt Padre*, a 2003 biography of the Servant of God Vincent Capodanno (1929-1967), a Maryknoll priest and Navy chaplain who posthumously received the Medal of Honor for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life" while ministering to wounded Marines under fire.

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