



**USCCB LEADER.** Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., succeeded Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in a vote at the conference's November assembly in Baltimore. CNA/Addie Mena



**40 YEARS OF CONSCIENTIOUS OPPOSITON.** An estimated 1 million pro-lifers gathered in Washington for the March for Life on Jan. 25 to stand up for the right to life from conception to natural death. Brendan Hoffman/Getty Images



**NEW VENTURE.** Former presidential candidate Rick Santorum (shown with some of his children) is now in the business of making family-values movies, as CEO of EchoLight Studios. 2012 Spencer Platt/Getty Images



**PRO-LIFE VICTORIES.** Hobby Lobby's president, Steve Green, and his mother, Barbara Green, stand outside the federal courthouse in Oklahoma City July 19 after being given a temporary exemption from a federal requirement to offer insurance coverage for abortion, contraception and abortion-inducing drugs in their health-insurance plan. New York nonprofit entities won a similar decision on Dec. 16. AP photo/The Oklahoman, Brianna Bailey

# 2013 in Review

## Pro-Life Gains Amid Religious-Freedom Battle

**W**hile the U.S. Supreme Court dealt a blow to supporters of marriage in 2013, the pro-life movement made significant gains. A 40th-anniversary March for Life in Washington drew an estimated 650,000 to 1 million marchers, while Texas prohibited abortion after 20 weeks of a woman's pregnancy. In addition, California Gov. Jerry Brown, a onetime seminary student and proponent of abortion rights, vetoed legislation that would have allowed women to sell their eggs for commercial use and legislation that would have removed the statute of limitations only for sexual-abuse cases involving the Church. Finally, an NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll in April revealed that 52% of U.S. citizens believe that abortion should be illegal or only legal in cases of rape or incest.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued the final rule on its contraception, sterilization and abortifacient mandate. EWTN, the parent company of the Register, renewed its lawsuit, along with the state of Alabama, to protest the mandate. Hobby Lobby was among the litigants that won a reprieve against the HHS mandate, which a court ruled substantially burdens the owners' religious beliefs. Nonprofits in the New York Archdiocese also won a similar decision. Church statistics showing that Atlanta is the fastest-growing diocese in the country underscored the fact that the once solidly Protestant South is becoming a hotbed of Catholicism.

Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., one of the oldest dioceses in the country, succeeded Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York as president at the U.S. bishops' fall meeting in Baltimore.

Abortionist Kermit Gosnell pleaded guilty to killing two children after they survived his abortion attempt, casting a horrific light on the practices of Planned Parenthood and what Pope John Paul II called the "culture of death." The case, covered heavily by Catholic media outlets, was picked up by the mainstream media after weeks of ignoring it.

Presidential candidate Rick Santorum got into the family-values movie business, joining EchoLight Studios as CEO. And the country answered the Boston Marathon bombing and the West, Texas, fertilizer plant explosion with prayer and action, with churches and local and national charity agencies being among the first to respond with aid.



**UNEXPECTED SUPPORT.** Pro-abortion rights Gov. Jerry Brown of California vetoed two important pieces of legislation: one that would have suspended the statute of limitations only for sexual-abuse cases involving a member of the Church and another that would have allowed women to sell their eggs for commercial purposes. Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images



**SETBACKS.** The U.S. Supreme Court — clockwise from lower left, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Anthony Kennedy, Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas, Elena Kagan, Stephen Breyer and Ruth Bader-Ginsburg (both partially hidden), Antonin Scalia and Sonia Sotomayor — dealt a blow to the institution of marriage June 26, when it struck down part of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), ruling that it denied legally married same-sex couples equal protection under the law. In a separate decision, it further ruled that the California voter initiative that defined marriage as between one man and one woman (Proposition 8) be remanded to the San Francisco district court that originally ruled Proposition 8 unconstitutional. John Moore/Getty Images



**HEART OF TEXAS.** Pro-life supporters pray in the Texas State Capitol July 1. The Lone Star State passed a law that prohibited abortion past 20 weeks in a woman's pregnancy. Erich Schlegel/Getty Images

**BOSTON STRONG.** Nurse practitioner Maureen Quaranto (r), who treated victims of the Boston Marathon bombings April 15, wears her Boston Marathon jacket while praying at Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross April 21. The Mass honored the victims of the bombings and subsequent manhunt, as well as first responders. Mario Tama/Getty Images



**CHANGE OF NAME AND FOCUS.** The Crystal Cathedral, an iconic mega church run by Protestant pastor Robert Schuller, was renamed Christ Cathedral in August and is in the process of being transformed into a center for Catholic liturgy, art and culture. Wikimedia Commons

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