

Family & ProLife News Briefs

August 2022

Helping Women and Children

Women Don't Need Abortion for Success

Attorneys for the Jackson abortion facility in the Dobbs case argued that women need abortion to succeed – in front of Justice Amy Coney Barrett, a mother with seven children herself, including two adopted children, and an obviously successful career.

Alison Centofante, mom to two toddlers and founder of Centofante Strategies, helps pro-life groups on projects. “It’s terrible to see the pro-abortion movement continue to lie to women,” she said. “Abortion kills an innocent child and leaves a woman with an irreversible decision.” Countless women have found themselves in unplanned pregnancies, chosen life, parented or created an adoption plan, added Centofante, “and thrived in all the ways they wanted to. The abortion industry makes their profit, commits an abortion, and leaves a woman alone. **The pro-life movement makes no money** from a mom in need, often raises money for her and stays with her as long-term support.”



Christa Brown also became a mom at a young age – learning she was pregnant with her first child at the end of her freshman year of college. A straight “A” student who knew exactly what she wanted, she struggled with deviating from her ambitious plans for the future. “It was certainly too early to become a mom,” she said. “The pregnancy was complicated from the beginning. How would I ever achieve my dreams?”

She quickly found her place as a mom and wife and these roles became her greatest joy. “I home schooled my children while managing three pregnancy help centers,” Brown said. “After having all five of my children, I returned to college and while working full time, I completed two nursing degrees. **Abortion was never needed to help me succeed,**” said Brown. “My children were an inspiration to me, not a hindrance. Abortion would have taken my greatest joy and a place in my heart that could not be replaced.”

The pro-life community is brimming with moms with accomplished lives. They are living proof that women are not held back by motherhood; that they do not need abortion, and in fact, choosing life makes for a full life. These women and more personify the reality that women are capable and strong, and they can get along just fine without abortion. [Lisa Bourne, Managing Editor of Pregnancy Help News, 7/17/22, [LifeNews.com](https://www.lifenews.com)]

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No End to the Falsehoods ... being generated by abortion proponents. Every one of these is FALSE:

- Women will be arrested and prosecuted for pursuing abortion
- Their data and privacy will be compromised by pregnancy help organizations
- Women will be denied care for ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage [For detailed information, connect to: <https://humanlifereview.com/misinformation-about-abortion-law-after-dobbs/>]
- Women will be kept from crossing state lines to procure abortion
- To succeed, women need the ability to destroy the life of their unborn children
- Without abortion they cannot fully pursue their goals and have fulfilling lives

Healing after Pregnancy Loss

Are you or someone you know struggling after a reproductive loss (**miscarriage, abortion, stillbirth, adoption**)? Healing after pregnancy loss permits men and women the opportunity to share their grief and loss with others who have experienced similar pain. People experience healing from sharing their stories with others who will not judge them. Theresa Burke writes in her book, *Forbidden Grief*, “It is only when we have the support of others who will not judge or condemn us that we feel safe from social rejection. This support makes it easier for us to confront and explore the deepest part of our souls.”

The team of Support After Abortion understands first-hand how to care for women and men impacted by pregnancy loss, to help and connect them to the healing they need. Support groups and courses are offered online and require the purchase of a related text book. Scholarships are available. [www.SupportAfterAbortion.com]

For Engaged Couples & Newly Married

Monica and Renzo Ortega say that the goal of their ministry is to offer guidance and support for young couples and families struggling to live out the faith. Five months ago, they created and released a **new podcast, Pre-Cana With the Pope**. Married nine years, the Ortegas are the parents of five children. “We were both very involved in our faith, in youth ministry and religious education,” Renzo said. “We knew our faith pretty well, but we were very challenged by the first five years of our marriage. We both came from families where marriages ended in divorce, so our mission statement going into marriage was ‘Don’t get divorced.’”

Renzo said: “Through St. John Paul II’s teachings and knowledge of St. Joseph, we were able to really bring down to earth a lot of teachings we knew but

[continued on p. 2]

For Engaged Couples [continued]

didn't know how to live out." For their ministry *Two Become Family*, they began blogging, writing and creating resources from what they had learned. "If you're engaged, dating, or whatever stage of life you're in, we wanted to be able to share our experiences."

For their podcast, they present a question each week and use St. John Paul II's writings to tackle hard topics relating to marriage and family life. Renzo said "It's a conversation about real things that are in marriage, and we feel like the Church still has a lot to say and a lot of good wisdom to give." Monica said: "We felt like it was really important to share **both the husband and wife perspective**. I do think that there's a lot of good resources for both individually, but then how do we wrestle through these circumstances together? It was really important that both of our voices were heard in all the things that we do."

"I would encourage any engaged couple to seek out a marriage prep that involves a mentorship couple," Monica said. "Be vulnerable enough to even ask for that if it's not offered. I would encourage married couples also to put themselves out there and invite people into their homes to see the realness of married life and parenthood."



One of the biggest blessings Monica and Renzo receive from their ministry is hearing that their podcast helps other couples have hard conversations. A close friend and listener, Emma St. Hilaire, has also learned to communicate well with her husband. She especially loved the podcast episode on natural family planning. St. Hilaire said "People don't understand that the Church gives NFP to us as a tool to use that can really **strengthen marriage** as well. It's not just about family planning, either. It's about your health as a woman. They encourage men & women to be advocates for their own health." [Hannah Cote, *Nat. Cath. Register*, 7/10/22]

Family Formation as Suicide Prevention

More than a century ago, French sociologist Emile Durkheim observed that **married people** had lower rates of suicide than unmarried, & that parents had lower rates than the childless. Contemporary research is confirming his findings. A Norwegian study found that suicide was significantly lower among middle-aged married men and women than among the unmarried. Similarly, a 2021 analysis of U.S. adults found that never-marrieds were 48% more likely to commit suicide than those who were married or living with a partner. In related findings, three Scandinavian studies together found that having one child resulted in a significant decline in suicide, while parents of two

children had a suicide risk 70% lower than their childless peers. With suicide mortality in the U.S. up nearly 35% since 1999, it seems a renewed focus on marriage and family as social goods would be in order. [*Salvo*, Summer 2022, citing: ifstudies.org/blog/family-as-suicide-prevention]

Old Common Sense Knowledge is "New" Finding:

A joint report (Rebalancing Children First) produced by the American Enterprise Institute and Brookings Institution noted: "A healthy relationship between a child's parents is critical to well-being. The most common route to healthy and stable relationships in the U.S. is through marriage. We support policies to strengthen and encourage marriage along with clear public messages about the importance of marriage."

Porn, Social Media Affect Teen Brains

As reported by Jim Schroeder in the *National Catholic Register* (7/31/22), the chief science officer of the American Psychological Assoc., Mitch Prinstein, says: "We have already seen how social media have created tremendous vulnerabilities to our way of life. It's scarier to consider how this may be changing brain development for an entire generation of youth. Our brains were not built for this kind of social interaction. And social media are hijacking the need for authentic social interaction."

It is well known that use of pornography can harm the development of healthy relationships and promotes **treating people as mere objects** for one's self-gratification. Also, research shows that younger people's brains are more wired for pleasure than adults. Young people are more vulnerable to compulsive porn use, which can lead to unrealistic views on sex. Device tools are available to block explicit images, filter content, and block websites. Detailed instructions are contained in Julie Jargon's piece in the *Wall St. Journal*, 7/5/22, and from providers such as Apple and Google.

But this shifts the continuing burden on parents, many of whom are not so savvy. Some parents don't provide a smartphone to their youngsters until they are age 13, but they face huge social pressures to relent. That's one reason why Christine Rosen (*Nat. Review*, 6/27/22) argues the case for legally banning kids from social media until at least age 16, as some European nations do. This wouldn't apply to legitimate use of the internet for school and for gaming, but to social media platforms such as Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram, Twitter and the like. As reported in the *Wall St. Jnl.* (7/6/22), TikTok faces several lawsuits following the deaths of girls under age 11 who attempted a challenge made available on the app that involves people choking themselves until they pass out. According to Rosen, "like an automobile, social media have both benefits and serious potential risks if used irresponsibly."

Many experts and lay people alike remain fearful and hesitant to express their objections to social media because most of us rely so much on tech today. But placing legal restrictions on youngster's use may be our only recourse.