

Family & ProLife News Briefs

January 2022

New Year, New Resolve on Behalf of Life

Accomplishments to Rejoice

- Over 100 pro-life state laws were passed in 2021
- 41 Sanctuary cities now outlaw abortion
- Scientific facts support pro-life
- 3D & 4D ultra-sounds support life
- Pro-lifers have more children than pro-aborts
- Most Millennials are pro-life
- In last 7 years, 550 abortion employees have quit
- Pregnancy Care sites outnumber abortion mills 7 to 1
- 36 abortion mills closed in 2019
- In 1991: 2,176 abortion mills. In 2020: 712
- Planned Parenthood lost 400,000 donors in 2019

[*Christian Action News*, Dec. 2021]

Abortion Not Good for Living Children

Perhaps Millennials are becoming pro-life because of what Peggy Noonan, a *Wall Street Journal* columnist said: “I believe we haven’t begun to appreciate the effect on our children & their developing understanding of life that they are told every day, on television and in magazines, in advertisements and news stories, that **we allow the killing of children**. It’s not good for them to be told over and over that they live in a place where life is not necessarily respected, and inconvenient life can be whisked away. Knowledge like that has a chilling effect on the soul.” [*WSJ*, 1/20/03]

Is Abortion Genocide?

The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform sponsors a Genocide Awareness Project on college campuses by displaying huge, graphic displays of aborted babies. They often encounter students who protest the displays, chanting slogans, but rarely provide useful information. “That is to be expected – how do you defend the violent killing of a preborn baby?”

One campus publication objected to a recent display on Murray State Univ, KY: “They quibbled with the definition of ‘genocide’ we use, which comes from UN General Assembly Resolution 96, adopted in 1946, and defines genocide as ‘a denial of the right of existence of entire human groups, as homicide is denial of the right to live of individual human beings....’ It also states that genocide is a crime ‘whether committed on religious, racial, political or any other grounds....’ The definition of genocide has broadened over time, and it most certainly applies to the **preborn who are targeted** for extermination, frequently paid for by the State.” [*CBR Communique*, Nov. 2021]

New Year’s Resolution Why not make a year-long resolution for life. One way is to join a group bus trip to the national March for Life, Jan. 21; another is to support a local pregnancy center; another is to participate in 40 Days For Life during Lent; another is ... well, that’s up to you to fulfill your New Year’s resolution to promote the dignity of human life.

Broadway’s Kristin Chenoweth on Love of Life

All of the work of actress and singer Kristin Chenoweth stopped when the pandemic hit. So during spring 2021, she recorded a Christmas album. In a recent “Christopher Closeup” TV show, she said: “what kept coming to me was light: light at the end of the tunnel, God’s light.” For the song ‘The Stories That You Told,’ she explained: “I’ve had lots of loss these past couple years. The song imagines someone that you’ve loved who’s passed on, and you and that person are laughing and talking about the memories that you’ve had and the stories that you’ve told each other. I believe in life hereafter, but the memories for us left behind on this



earth are what keep me going.” She relies on Psalm 46: “Be still, and know that I am God.” She said: “I get quiet so that I can listen and hear what is being said to me. I believe it’s God talking. Sometimes it’ll not be the answer I want or the feeling I want, but that what I do.” [Tony Rossi, *The Beacon*, Paterson Diocese, 12/9/21]

Science Proves That Human Life Begins at Fertilization

Fertilization occurs when a sperm and egg unite to form a zygote, or the earliest stage of a human embryo. Per the textbook *Essentials of Human Development: A Life-Span View*: “Fertilization begins the life of the zygote,” and “the zygote grows rapidly through cell division.” From a paper in the *Biochemical Journal*, “Sexual reproduction in mammals results in the formation of a zygote, a single cell which contains all the necessary information to produce an entire organism comprised of billions of cells grouped into multitudinous cell types.”

Van Nostrand’s Scientific Encyclopedia states: “The moment the sperm cell of the human male meets the female ovum, the union results in a fertilized ovum (zygote); a new life has begun.” The medical text *The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology* states that “fertilization” creates “a new combination of chromosomes that is different from that in the cells of either of the parents,” & this “is the beginning of a new human being.” [James Agresti, *justfactsdaily.com*, 12/2/21]

This free monthly newsletter is used by dozens of churches as a bulletin insert, and has had over 30,000 readers. To receive a copy in your inbox, email Frank Tinari, Ph.D. at tinarif@shu.edu

Dignity of Human Life

Children are gifts from God, made in his image, and all are worth celebrating. This is true for children who have been conceived intentionally as it is for those who have been conceived unintentionally. The God-given dignity of a child is not dependent on whether that child is wanted by his or her parents. We pray that the lives of the unborn are cherished and not simply seen through a political or ideological lens. We pray that God will open the hearts of those who support intentionally ending the life of a child to see the tragic reality of abortion.

“Let us allow the Child in the manger to challenge us,” Pope Francis said in his homily on Christmas Eve, 2016, “but let us also be challenged by all those children in today’s world who are lying not in a crib, caressed with affection from their mothers and fathers. Let us allow ourselves to be challenged by those children who are not allowed to be born.” [Editorial, *Our Sunday Visitor*, 12/19/21]

Guatemala Excluded Because It Is Pro-

Life Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei sent a strong message to the U.S. administration when he told other governments to stop pressuring pro-life countries to legalize the killing of unborn babies in abortions. Speaking at an event hosted by the Institute for Women’s Health, Giammattei emphasized his country’s commitment to protecting unborn babies’ right to life. “We seek to protect life and to prevent interference,” he said. “Life should be protected from conception.” The U.S. administration, United Nations and some European countries are putting pressure on Latin America to legalize abortion on demand. Most Central and South American countries protect unborn babies’ right to life and ban abortions. Pro-life leaders believe pro-life stance was a key reason why the **U.S. Administration did not invite him** to a recent international Democracy Summit.

Giammattei said Guatemala officially will be declared the pro-life capital of Latin America in 2022. “It is totally false that abortion is a human right. Any effort to try to impose abortion in a country is undue interference in its internal affairs.” Giammattei called attempts to portray abortion as a human right are absurd, saying it is nothing other than the denial of the true inherent rights of the person.

The Latin American country has remained steadfast in its commitment to protecting unborn babies from abortion. Among other things, its leaders joined more than 30 other countries in signing the historic Geneva Consensus, which declares that there is **no international right to abortion**. The United States also signed the document but the current administration removed the USA upon taking office. [M. Bilger, www.LifeNews.com, 12/16/21]

In College, Keep the Faith!

College is a two-to-four- year endeavor that shapes habits, builds friendships and forms the way that young adults see the world. Not all students lose their faith. Here’s why.

● **Connect to Campus Ministry** Students should locate the Catholic campus ministry or Newman Club. Chances are there will be retreats, free food not from the cafeteria, and Mass on Sunday night.

● **Be adventurous** Venture out for hiking, bowling, kayaking, camping, cooking or road trips. Invite friends to experience God’s outdoor beauty and how He speaks through nature, leisure activities, & authentic fellowship.

● **Put God into your schedule** Beyond Sunday Mass, students should ask themselves, “When will I pray?” “When will I do Bible study?” “Where am I going to pray?” Carve out some time for the Lord. He puts every challenge, sorrow, joy and frustration into context. Prayer doesn’t have to be alone. [Nicholas Crevas, Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), *The Monitor Magazine*, Trenton Diocese, Sept. 2021]

“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil:

God will not hold us guiltless.”

“Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”

Deitrich Bonhoeffer

Immoral Use of Embryonic Stem Cells for Curing Disease

A recent article in the *NY Times* chronicles the remarkable story of a **type 1 diabetic** who, after receiving a newly developed form of embryonic stem cell infusion, became able to live insulin-free. But receiving a diabetes treatment produced with embryonic stem cells signals a willingness on our part to tolerate the killing of young human beings in order to benefit others who are older.

It should go without saying that it is always wrong to take the life of one human being to harvest body parts, even to save the life of another human. Such medicine is fundamentally **exploitative and immoral**, and ought to be summarily rejected. Researchers become executioners who procure cells and tissues from individuals they have directly and purposefully killed. Such therapies cross a fundamental moral line.

But the fact that the question is being raised reminds us of the slippery ethical slope that arises whenever we try to use parts of human beings derived from abortions: legally permitting abortion only makes the confusion worse. We must encourage the use of **alternative, non-embryo-derived cell sources** by researchers, including cells derived from miscarriages, adult stem cells, or embryonic-type alternatives such as induced pluripotent stem cells, which can be obtained by genetically manipulating adult human skin cells. These approaches open a path forward in the direction for ethical research and medical therapies. [Fr. Tad Pacholczyk, National Catholic Bioethics Center, 12/9/21]