

# Family & ProLife News Briefs

June 2022

## Blockbuster Supreme Court Opinion Imminent

### If *Roe v. Wade* is Overturned...

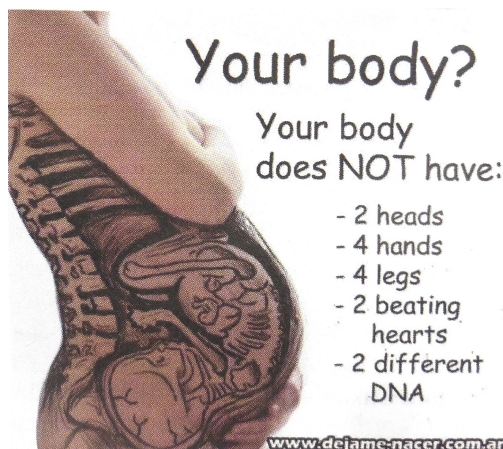
Any day now the Supreme Court will issue its final opinion in the *Dobbs* case. The leaked February version of the opinion reveals that *Roe v. Wade* likely will be overturned. This means that whether abortion is allowed or prohibited will be determined by each state, as it had been before that infamous decision nearly 50 years ago. Abortions will almost certainly continue, at least in certain states. A colored map published by the *National Catholic Register* (5/22/22) reveals that about 15 states have legislated legal abortion rights; 9 others have set various conditions in allowing abortions. The remaining 26 states have severe restrictions or outright bans on abortion, many of which will be triggered upon *Roe* being overturned.

The national map is reminiscent of the 1850s when Southern states protected slavery as an institution while many Northern states eliminated it. After the Civil War that was fought over states having the right to declare blacks non-persons, lawmakers and the states passed the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> amendments to the U.S. Constitution, effectively banning slavery and giving every citizen the right to vote. Could something similar happen with respect to abortion? Could hearts and minds be changed over time such that enough states would pass a constitutional amendment to prohibit aborting one's child? That, perhaps, might be viewed as a long-term strategy, but it is highly unlikely for the foreseeable future.

For now, pro-life work needs to **continue to help both moms and babies** in numerous ways, and in educating the public about the barbarity of aborting developing human beings. These intentions must be paramount in our prayers. [Frank D. Tinari, editor]

### Euphemisms to Deceive the Public

Abortion-on-demand is phrased as "reproductive health care" essential to "women's empowerment" even though the death of a developing human being is the goal of such "care." A pre-born baby, with its own brain, hands & feet, is called a part of a woman's body. A desire to eliminate the life of a developing baby in the womb is called a "right to choose."



### Going Forward, What Should be Done?

Pro-lifers should avoid imposing undue litmus tests on one another. What the pro-life movement prioritizes in New York will be different from what it attempts in South Dakota. Charity calls for allowing these efforts to flourish in their own space and at their own pace.

The movement will have to arm itself against coordinated intimidation campaigns from extremists in the abortion lobby, who have already begun vandalizing pregnancy-resource centers and threatening churchgoers and judges. Mail-order chemical abortions with no oversight are being promoted; many corporations, wanting full-time male and female workers, undermine pro-life laws.

Pro-lifers have built an extensive network of centers, offering women assistance in rejecting abortion. Today, these **pregnancy-resource centers outnumber abortion clinics three to one** nationwide, offering most of their services at no cost including pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, counseling, adoption counseling or assistance, housing, & material support via car seats, baby clothes, formula, and diapers. Such caring animates pro-lifers across the nation & that will be crucial in post-*Roe America*. [Alexandra DeSanctis, *National Review*, 5/30/22] "Yes, we want to prohibit abortion, but we want to do so as part of a program that puts women and women's interests at the center of our efforts. That the pro-life movement today is mostly led by women is an encouraging indicator that these women's interests and sensibilities will continue to inform the pro-life movement going forward."

[Kevin D. Williamson, *National Review*, 5/30/22]

### Logging on to Twitter

This past Lent, I refrained from logging on to Twitter, allowing myself to do so only on Sundays and only then for limited reasons. I plan to continue this in the future. For a long time, Twitter had become a favorite pastime of mine. Twitter is full of mental sewage, but I have also connected to like-minded people on that platform, and I generally find the kind of inane discourse that characterizes it entertaining. But it is very compulsive. The danger of Twitter and other forms of social media, it seems to me, is precisely that it can so **easily take one's thoughts away from God**.

The Church is rightly concerned about the social effects of social media such as **Tik Tok** and **Instagram**. But we should also recognize that social media can be a danger to us as individuals, and we should seek in the treasures of our Faith ways to combat its ill effects upon us. Given the magnitude of the challenges that such technologies present, we need all the help we can get. [See suggestions from the full article by Darrick Taylor, *crisismagazine.com*, 5/23/22]

## Abortion is the Real Assault on Women

84% of women who have had abortions felt they did not receive adequate counseling prior to the procedure; 64% felt pressured to have an abortion. When women do receive in-depth counseling about potential side effects and risks, only 33% choose abortion, as opposed to the 94% of Planned Parenthood's patients who choose the procedure.

Studies show a great deal of risk associated with abortion across the spectrum of women's health and fertility. One study revealed a 44% increase in risk for **breast cancer** after a single abortion, rising to 76-89% after multiple abortions. Complications from abortion can include scarring, Asherman's Syndrome, and incompetent cervix, which can result in difficulty carrying future pregnancies to term. Studies point to an increased chance of **pre-term birth** of 25-27% that rises to 51-62% after multiple abortions, with a 71% higher chance of a very early pre-term birth prior to 26 weeks. Abortion can carry serious psychological consequences for women. One study found an 81% incidence of **mental health** problems in women who had undergone abortion, 10% of which was directly attributable to abortion.

The suppression of information regarding abortion's risks in order to expand access to the procedure runs contrary to the ultimate good of women. This **information is vital to the women** who will potentially be harmed by abortion, as well as to those who genuinely seek women's advancement in good faith.

Instead of fighting for the freedom of women to be women—whose fertility and desire for motherhood are integral parts of their identity—abortion advocates insist that our liberty can only be found by muting our fertility and **forcing our healthy bodies to mimic those of men**. As Leah Jacobson writes, "Rather than elevating culture to appreciate and support women's bodies, we settled for a culture that says our bodies are for sexual pleasure only, making the right to alter, suppress, and destroy our fertile, life-giving female bodies the supreme 'women's right.'"

What we deeply hunger for is a recovery of the sense of the dignity of motherhood. Perhaps if we remember that joy and meaning are more often found in the giving of ourselves than in the piling up of accolades, then we will recover from impoverished notions of "equality" and "advancement" that define women's flourishing so narrowly in terms of career success. One thing is certain: focusing on abortion has not gotten—and will not get—us there. [Samantha Stephenson, [crisismagazine.com](http://crisismagazine.com), 5/19/22]

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## How to Kill Babies in Abortions

The World Health Organization (WHO) released new "guidelines" on "abortion care" that provide instructions on how to perform abortion. The document recommends a policy of "abortion on request." It **opposes waiting periods**, parental involvement laws, and limits on when during gestation abortion can take place. It also encourages **sending abortion drugs** to pregnant women without medical supervision, despite the risk to women's health, and claims that the importance of abortion trumps the conscience rights of health care workers.

"WHO's guidelines ignore the human rights of the most vulnerable, undermine the health of women, and seek to infringe on the conscience rights of many in the medical community," noted Executive Director Scott Fischbach of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life Global Outreach. "They call for abortion-on-demand throughout pregnancy, an extreme policy rejected by most of the world. WHO must stop pressuring nations into adopting its abortion agenda. Abortion is **an act of violence**, often involving dismemberment or poison. Women and children deserve better."

No right to abortion has ever been established in international law. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states, "Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law" (Article 6.1). The Convention on the Rights of the Child affirms that "the child ... needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth" (preamble).

[Bill Poehler, [LifeNews.com](http://LifeNews.com), 5/23/22]

Librarians: In case there are any lingering questions about where national library groups stand on **protecting young children** from graphic sexual materials and anti-American treatises, the American Library Association's pick for its 2023 president is a "Marxist lesbian" leader who subscribes to "queer consciousness" and communist ideologies, much to the delight of many of those in the national education establishment. The attacks on our children's innocence are not going away. [Pat Daugherty, [Eagle Forum](http://Eagle Forum), May 2022]

## Responsible Men

"Among the most serious crises facing human civilization is the **famine of fatherhood**. The human father has lost touch with his true identity, with his true mission and the person that God has created him to be. The human father knows little of himself because he knows God the Father so little. The human father's identity leads to his family's destiny." These words are from Fathers of St. Joseph that provides online help and resources to empower men to be true fathers to their families: "To learn how to encourage families in their pursuit of personal sanctity. To learn how to honor and cherish the **dignity of our wives** and all women by overcoming lust by means of receiving the redemptive power of Christ." Visit the organization at <https://fathersofstjoseph.org>.