

Family & ProLife News Briefs

February 2023

Changing Hearts, Minds and Lives

Issues We Face

Highlights from Fall 2022 issue of *Human Life Review* (www.humanlifereview.com):

■ Vicki Thorn was the founder of Project Rachel in 1984 in her Milwaukee archdiocese to console and heal women mourning their aborted children, a process that could take years for some. Today, **Project Rachel** is a nationwide ministry of the Catholic Church. Vicki, who died in 2022, is a hero to countless women (and men) who have repaired abortion-damaged lives.

■ Christopher Reeve (film's Superman) and Michael J. Fox both promoted embryonic stem cell research, which has had little to show for its promises. A Nobel Prize-winning discovery revealed that **adult stem cells** could be used in place of stem cells from human embryos that are killed. "Healing born bodies need not be done at the expense of unborn human lives."



■ Regarding **gender reassignment** surgery: "If our pet dog leaped from our second-story window under the delusion it was a bird, we would not benignly endorse its choice of identity ... Why don't we react to our fellow deluded humans with similar seriousness?"

■ Murchison, in "Farewell Roe," says: "We seem as a nation, as a people, to desire a little of this and a little of that: not wholesale permission to abort and not a wholesale prohibition either." States can now each make their own policies. "But in a moral debate, you need moral premises." A vote or referendum won't get the job done. "A multitude of women, over the past half-century, have grown accustomed, thank you, to the opportunities of deciding this or that" But at the same time, "moral codes binding on persons of both sexes have eroded." Hence, it is okay, even a "right," to abort a developing human being. "The pro-life cause in the 21st century consists in continuing, against hardship and rebuke to **proclaim the moral worthiness of life yet unborn**. We are not there, when it comes to **abortion, nor anyplace close**. Not yet."

That is what the pro-life movement is about. We are not simply anti-abortion as we are so often painted to be. We are pro-life, pro the mystery of life, pro the wonder of life, pro the joy of life. And we are impelled to share this message with everyone. We need to bring the Gospel of Life to the heart of every man and woman and to make it penetrate every part of society.

John Cardinal O'Connor (1920-2000)

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Caregiving is Pro-Life

The encyclical Gospel of Life recognizes the full range of threats against human life... war, poverty, life....

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me."

Matthew 25:34-36

How do you feed the hungry? You shop for your mother and stock her cupboard with nutritious food, take her out to lunch, or cook for her. You visit her in the nursing home, sit with her and her friends in the dining room, assisting those who need help by **cutting their meat** or spoon-feeding the weak.

How do you help the thirsty? You take your father out for a cup of coffee at his favorite coffee shop or split a beer with him while you watch Sunday football together. You give him ice chips to relieve the awful dryness, and **swab his mouth** when he cannot swallow.

You welcome a stranger by visiting with your beloved aunt who has forgotten who she is and who you are, reintroducing yourself every time. You clothe the naked when you **do your uncle's laundry**. You care for the sick every time you accompany your mom to visit the doctor, bathe her feverish head, hold her in your arms to comfort her, change her diaper, and in a hundred other gentle ways. You visit the imprisoned when he is a shut-in, unable to go where he wants to go. You **keep him company** and play Rummy or Checkers to pass the long hours.

You may not be able to add days to the life of a loved one, but you can add life to their days. [The Healthcare Advocacy and Leadership Organization (halovoice.org)]

Take a Pill, Kill a Baby

After consulting with a doctor who is not pro-life, a woman can be prescribed chemical abortion, that is, abortion by two pills, which now accounts for more than 50% of all abortions in the USA. New York is now an official "sanctuary state" for abortion, offering abortion pills free to anyone. New Jersey Governor Murphy is also pushing this, as are several other states. Walgreens, CVS & Rite Aide will provide them over the counter.

Such pills put a woman at serious risk as they force her body to go into labor and expel the baby. The abortion is done in her home, in her bathroom, and sadly she will witness all that happens there. These pills can only be taken within the first 10 weeks after conception but **no ultrasound is required** before they are given. Because women no longer have to take the first dose of the abortion pills in the presence of a physician, it is impossible to know no whether they actually take the

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Actor Who Plays Jesus in *The Chosen*

“Today, we are under an assault on our sense of virtue, enduring an affront to the innate holiness that we are all called to, an attack on the family structure, and the sacredness of the gift of life.

As followers of Jesus, we are charged to be the standard bearers who defend & preserve the dignity of every human, but especially the most vulnerable which begins with the initial stages of life, and continues

over life’s stages. You are here today for the noblest and worthiest of causes: to allow the unborn to enter into the world.” [March for Life 2023: speech of Jonathan Roumie, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYY2-wf-cl0I>]



Monetary Value of Marriage

Today, young Americans are delaying marriage while they wait for career success. Nearly 60% of them live together without the commitment of marriage. Yet cohabitating couples have only 25% of the net worth that married couples have in the same age group.

(Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, 2019, for the ages 25-34.) It seems that the emotional commitment in the marriage vow is a driver of success. Marriage actually means "for richer for richer"; it is the unmarried couples who get the "for poorer" part. Plus, many other riches, in addition to money, come with marriage.

Those in successful marriages know that their bond with another person is far more important than any career goal. All of society suffers from instability when marriage rates drop. Maybe the hard reality of cold cash can reverse this troubling culture that undervalues the beauty of marriage. [Anne Schlafly Cori, EagleForum.org, 11/13/22]

For High School Students

■ Students who will be entering their senior year of high school in the fall of 2023 are invited to apply for the 2023 summer program sessions. This will mark the 25th year of this wildly popular program, “The Best Week Ever,” which boasts close to 4,000 alumni since 1999. Each year, hundreds of high school students spend a **week on campus**, described as one of the best weeks of their lives, ranking it on average 4.8 out of 5. Applicants can choose any one of five weeks offered. This is the most popular, well-attended, highly-ranked pre-college **summer program** of its kind. Attendance is competitive, and with a waiting list each year, students should not delay applying at www.christendom.edu

■ Teens and college students displayed creative signs at January’s March for Life. “Human rights begin in the womb” was one; another quoted Dr. Seuss’s “Horton Hears a Who;” “Unborn Lives Matter” another. See all: <https://www.lifenews.com/2023/01/20/28-of-the-best-march-for-life-signs/>

Take a Pill (continued from page 1)

drugs or not – or whether abortions are forced on them without their consent.

Imagine the fallout for women as they deliver their dead baby alone without any follow up. What about women who are past the 10-week period? Who will be there if they see the remains and how will they process that? What if there are complications?

The Life Legal Defense Foundation is currently involved in two malpractice lawsuits involving young women who were **seriously injured** by abortion drugs. When taken in the second trimester, abortion pills can cause uterine rupture, excessive bleeding, and other life-threatening injuries.

Two studies have found that chemical abortions have **four times the complication rate** as surgical abortions. One study used comprehensive data from the California Medicaid program from 2009 to 2010. Another analyzed 42,000 Finnish women who obtained abortions between 2000 and 2006. Loosening the regulations on chemical abortions will only increase those risks. [Michael New, LifeNews.com, 1/13/23]

The 2023 label **removes the requirements** for pill dispensers to advise patients that, should they require emergency care after taking the drug, they ought to let the emergency department healthcare providers know that they are undergoing a medication abortion.

With the government’s elimination of common-sense restrictions on dispensing abortion drugs, data on abortion rates and complications are unreliable at best. According to the pro-abortion Alan Guttmacher Institute, only 28 states require **abortionists to report post-abortion complications**. This is exactly what Planned Parenthood and other abortionists want: zero factual reporting, zero accountability. It is clear what the federal administration leadership really wants. Thankfully, a lawsuit has been filed against the FDA. One of the plaintiffs is the American Assoc. of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Motherhood must be treated as a great end and a great task in itself. For with it is connected the mother's work in giving birth, in feeding, and in rearing. No one can take her place. Nothing can take the place of the heart of a mother always present. True respect for work brings with it a proper esteem for motherhood. It cannot be otherwise. The moral health of the whole of society depends on it.

Pope St. John Paul II

Pornography Addiction

Plenty of bad stuff comes from our computer, smart phone or tablet. Any addiction to gambling, videogames or porn drives our brains to **want more** and with more intensity, causing us to ignore more important aspects of our lives such as work, family, school. Parents of students should be alert and make use of programs such as Covenant Eyes (forwards screen shots to a designated accountability partner) or Accountable2You.