

Fighting for Life, Here and Abroad

U.S. Expands Pro-Life Mexico City Policy

The expansion announced by the administration last month means that more forms of foreign funding will be directed to organizations that **do not perform or support abortion overseas**.

Entitled "Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance," the plan bans funding for any program that promotes abortion including "international health programs, such as those for HIV/AIDS, maternal and child health, malaria, global health security, and family planning and reproductive health." The **overall amount of foreign aid would not be cut** under the policy, but would be redirected to groups who comply with the directive. The policy was originally dubbed the Mexico City policy for the city where President Ronald Reagan announced it in 1984.

"This humane policy seeks to respect and protect the precious lives of unborn girls and boys from the violence of abortion," said NJ Congressman Chris Smith. The policy change "simply ensures our hard-earned tax dollars are used by other health care entities that act consistently to save lives, rather than promoting and performing abortion," said Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Susan B. Anthony List. "Abortion is not health care." [*National Catholic Register*, 5/18/17]

Priests for Life has two goals: (1) to galvanize clergy to preach, teach, and mobilize their people more effectively in the effort to end abortion & euthanasia, and (2) to promote a family of ministries that reach and enrich every aspect of the pro-life movement in a wide variety of activities. These are called **Gospel of Life Ministries** to indicate that what unites them all is the Gospel of Life, the good news that life is victorious over death!

So, whatever your background, you're in the right spirit if you want to do something to restore protection to the most vulnerable members of the human family! For more information, please visit www.priestsforlife.org

"The Billboard People"

Since 1989, in order to change hearts and save babies' lives, the non-profit ProLife Across America has been broadcasting the truth about human life in the womb. Its billboards offer persuasive messages, offering information and alternatives – including adoption – and post-abortion assistance to those in need.

Director Mary Ann Kuharski says "we base our beliefs on biblical principles and Roman Catholic teaching." The billboards' 1-800 Hotline # may be the only visible sign of hope and help to those in need. For more info, visit www.prolifeacrossamerica.org

Promoting Life Almost Cost Him His Job

Prof. Stephane Mercier of the Catholic Univ. of Louvain (Belgium) testified to standing up for life at all costs, having come close to dismissal after calling abortion "murder" in one of his classes. He was speaking at **Italy's seventh annual March for Life** last month.

Gianna Jessen, a U.S. survivor of a failed abortion asked: "If abortion is merely about women's rights, then what were mine?" The crowd of thousands in Rome's Piazza Venezia applauded loudly. Jessen also urged young **women not to engage in premarital sex**, reminding them they are made to be loved and respected, and called on men to be "honorable and courageous."

A speaker named Roberto explained how, having been in a coma after an accident and given up for dead by doctors, he is now a staunch anti-euthanasia activist. A large banner held up by Italy's Catholic union of pharmacists read: **"Conscientious objection: Why I refuse to collaborate in killing."** Many marchers protested euthanasia since a bill is currently threatening to legalize the practice in Italy.

Virginia Coda Nunziante, the event's chief organizer, said "our governments, our societies are trampling on the law of nature, on the rights of God, the Creator of life. We must defend the weak against the culture of death: not only unborn children, but the elderly, the sick, the disabled, victims today of eugenics, of euthanasia—a crime that logically follows that of abortion, as a natural consequence of the denial of the fundamental right to life." [*National Catholic Register*, 6/11/17]

Europe Committing Demographic Suicide

Ten years ago, author George Weigel spoke to members of the European Parliament in Brussels, telling them:

■ **Europe is systematically depopulating itself** in what British historian Niall Ferguson has called "the greatest sustained reduction in European population since the Black Death in the 14th century."

■ This unwillingness to create the future in the most elemental sense, by creating new generations, is at the root of Europe's difficulties assimilating immigrants and its fiscal distress.

■ When an entire continent—healthier, wealthier and more secure than ever before—deliberately chooses sterility, the most basic cause for that must lie in the realm of the human spirit, in a certain souring about the very mystery of being.

Weigel writes that he learned after this month's French

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election that five of the six major European Union nations are now headed by leaders without children, a situation that would have been unimaginable to one of the founders of modern Europe, Konrad Adenauer, who was the father of eight.

“For a Catholic,” Weigel writes, “Europe’s demographic winter bespeaks, first and foremost, a colossal evangelical failure.” It is at least partially responsible, not only for **Europe’s self-chosen sterility**, but for Europe’s rapidly accelerating embrace of euthanasia. A sea-change in culture is needed to inspire Europe to reject demographic suicide and rediscover the joys of creating the future through having children. [George Weigel, *National Catholic Register*, 6/11/17.]

Ed.’s note: For dozens of years now, European nations have had **birth rates insufficient to replace their aging populations**. Weigel mentions euthanasia of the elderly, but a major culprit has been the expanded use of abortion.

Undercover Abortion Industry Videos

On May 30, March for Life President Jeanne Mancini discussed the latest undercover abortion industry videos from the Center for Medical Progress with EWTN News Nightly. (Readers can see her interview on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-7HfmSAhu8&feature>)

It has been nearly two years since the release of the first disturbing video from the Center for Medical Progress in July 2015. The previous Administration turned a blind eye to the wrongdoing revealed in the hours of footage of these videos. But the Congressional Select Investigative Panel made 15 criminal and regulatory referrals of tissue procurement, and the Senate Judiciary Committee made 7 criminal referrals to the Department of Justice (DOJ).

The Justice Department hasn’t yet indicated that they will take up this **critical investigation**. It’s time for the DOJ to continue the investigation begun by Congress. You can read the letter March for Life and pro-life allies sent to the DOJ and the FBI at <https://marchforlifeaction.org/>.

Everyone is urged to **contact the DOJ** to ask it to open an investigation into paid fetal tissue transfers involving Planned Parenthood. This can easily be done by visiting the website <https://marchforlifeaction.org/> and clicking on ‘Take Action’. There, you can send a message to Attorney General Jeff Sessions encouraging him to continue his pro-life support by investigating Planned Parenthood. [March for Life Education and Defense Fund, www.marchforlifeaction.org]



Men Who Have Lost Children to Abortion

With Father's Day approaching, it's good to be aware of the men who have lost children to abortion. Many men in our churches and communities are silently grieving their lost children or **struggling with their role in the abortion**, making Father's Day a painful holiday for many.

Research suggests that **most abortions are unwanted or coerced**. For example, a survey of women who had abortions, published in the *Medical Science Monitor*, found that 64 percent of American respondents reported feeling pressured to abort.

Sometimes, the source of pressure is the woman's male partner. But the results of an online survey, published in *The Journal of Pregnancy*, found that 47.8 percent of women who underwent later abortions and 30.5 percent of women who had earlier abortions said that they were **pressured by someone** other than their partner to abort.

An article from *LifeSiteNews* related the story of an immigrant couple from Honduras who were residing in Canada. The author wrote:

“The man’s girlfriend was pregnant and was living in a woman’s shelter. These places are often run by the hardest core of radical feminists, and they had arranged for her to have an abortion (immigrant/refugee women, many of whom don’t speak English, are often told by social workers that they will be deported if they have a child, that their child is ‘illegal.’)”

“This poor man, who was in Canada having fled Honduras during one of their political difficulties and who could not risk being sent back, asked me, begged me, to tell him what he could do to save his child’s life and get his girlfriend some other kind of help. I was forced to tell him that **in Canada, he had no legal rights whatever** and if he tried to intervene to save his child, he could be arrested and probably deported.”

This story shows that both parents can be victims of pressure, manipulation, deception and even threats by social workers, abortion clinic workers, employers, medical professionals, school counselors, authorities or others who believe that the couple should not be having a child.

The injustice of pressuring or coercing individuals or couples to abort often goes unacknowledged in the public debate over abortion. But it can happen to teens, women, men and families, and it must be recognized as a **human rights abuse** that jeopardizes the rights and lives of many. [*The Elliot Institute*, www.AfterAbortion.org]