

Family & ProLife News Briefs

February 2022

After January's Rallies, Marches & Prayer Vigils

January Reflections

The Rally & March for Life in Washington, DC, last month was attended by an estimated 100,000 people. Among the many speakers, Mary Kominsky of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign spoke about the child she aborted 50 years ago: "After an abortion, the body remembers, because the womb is the **heart of the woman**, a sacred place where any assault leaves lasting damage. I had to detach my mind, heart & emotions. After initial relief followed sadness. My heart hardened & turned cold, with anger, resentment & a deep shame and profound sense of loss." (Silent No More is a joint project of Priests for Life and Anglicans for Life.)

Large rallies, marches and prayer vigils for life were held from coast to coast. Also in January, Christians worked together with others against injustice in commemorating Martin Luther King Day & during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. "Both the civil rights movement & the pro-life movement are evidence of common engagement among Christians. Defending the equal dignity of every human being after birth strengthens our witness to the rights of those in danger before birth & vice versa." [Newsletter, *Priests for Life*, 1/2022.]

Again major media outlets ignored or downplayed the national March for Life. For example, even the relatively conservative *Wall Street Journal* printed a small report of about 100 words. Two days later, the same paper printed a long story with large photo of a Washington, DC, protest against government vaccine mandates. That crowd had, perhaps, less than 25% of the numbers at the March for Life. Despite these obstacles, we will continue to fight for the right to life of every human being from conception to natural death.

"Harry Potter" Author Being Faded Out?

Author JK Rowling is mysteriously absent from HBO Max's 20th anniversary reunion. The president of Quidditch U.K., devoted to a game that is inspired by Rowling's fiction & involves adults running around on broomsticks, explains: "We cannot continue to be associated with Rowling while she continues to make hateful comments against transgender athletes, staff & volunteers." But none of her comments have been hateful. Her real sin is to acknowledge that biological sex exists.

[*National Review*, 1/24/22]



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Prenatal Blood Tests Very Often Wrong

The New York Times reported that prenatal blood tests for genetic defects used in some cases to justify an abortion were **wrong** between **81 & 93 percent of the time**, though manufacturers claim near-perfect results. This means that the tests show the fetus has a mutation when it doesn't. But the pro-abortion advocates in the liberal broadcast networks (ABC, CBS, and NBC) didn't want their viewers to know that terrible statistic, so they completely ignored it.

"One [geneticist] described a case in which the follow-up testing revealed the fetus was healthy. But by the time the results came, the patient had already ended her pregnancy," the paper added. And in a heartbreaking passage, *The Times* noted interviewing "14 patients who got false positives [and] said the experience was agonizing. They recalled frantically researching conditions they'd never heard of, followed by sleepless nights and days hiding their bulging bellies from friends." [Nicholas Fondacaro, *www.LifeNews.com*, 1/4/22] When you try to decide which lives deserve to continue, you embrace a culture of death.

Abortion Pill Has High Risks

A new study published in December in *Health Services Research and Managerial Epidemiology*, found a "significant" gap in reports on abortion complications from the drug mifepristone. The findings call into question the administration's removal of safety regulations from the abortion drug. The FDA claimed that the drug is very low risk when it revoked a requirement that it be provided in person by a medical professional. Now, abortionists are selling the abortion drug online, often without seeing or even talking to the woman first. Archbishop William E. Lori, chair of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said: "Far from the accompaniment that women in crisis pregnancies deserve, this decision would leave women alone in the midst of trauma, often without any medical attention or follow-up care."

Some studies support the safety of medical abortion but exclude the most common adverse events: retained products of conception & hemorrhage not requiring transfusion. A 2021 study by the Charlotte Lozier Institute found that **abortion-related emergency room visits** by women taking the abortion drug increased more than 500% between 2002 & 2015. Researchers looking at Medicaid records found "423,000 confirmed induced abortions & 121,283 subsequent ER visits occurring within 30 days of the procedure." And over 60% of chemical abortion-related ER visits in 2015 were listed as miscarriage, masking the true impact of the abortion pill.

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Mifepristone is an abortion drug used to abort unborn babies up to about 10 weeks of pregnancy. It works by blocking the hormone progesterone, basically starving the unborn baby to death. Then women are prescribed a second drug, misoprostol, that induces labor and expels their aborted baby's body. Risks include excessive bleeding, severe abdominal pain, infection, hemorrhage and death. The drugs are especially dangerous for mothers with undetected ectopic pregnancies. [*Our Sunday Visitor*, 1/9/22; *LifeNews.com*, 1/18/22; Susan B. Anthony List, *Life Impact*, Winter 2022.]

The Abortion Pill Can Be Reversed!

Abortion pill reversal (APR) has been publicized in recent months by Catholic medical groups in response to the rising numbers of women using "chemical" abortions. MyCatholicDoctor Foundation launched an "immediate access system" to make doctors available for women who had second thoughts. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 42.6% of all abortions in 2019 were chemical ones, with 58.6% of them performed before six weeks' gestation.

During that 24- to 48-hour window between the two abortion pills, "reversal" often works. Doctors administer doses of **progesterone** to get the pregnancy back on track. Typically, women who are referred to the medical network are first given an ultrasound to determine how far along they are. The research of George Delgado, an Escondido, California, physician who pioneered APR in 2009, has shown a success rate of two out of three pregnancies. He said: "A small percentage of women change their mind, so it's important they know this option exists, that it is **safe and effective**." [Julia Duin, *Newsweek*, 1/21/22; www.AbortionPillReversal.com]

Abortion: A Positive Good?

Over the last two decades, abortion proponents have shifted from it being an "unfortunate" necessity to a positive good. Like senator John C. Calhoun who argued that white men cannot achieve their aspirations of refinement without a right to enslave black men, current pro-abortionists say abortion is necessary if women are to enjoy the full freedom to realize their goals & aspirations. Substitute 'women' for 'white men,' 'unborn children' for 'black men' and you have the same argument as slave owners. Calhoun said that without slaves, white men would be stuck with unwanted toil, & white women would have to change diapers, nurse children, cook meals and scrub floors.

Women are vulnerable to unwanted pregnancies, something that older social mores addressed by regulating sexual conduct & imposing strong expectations on men to marry the women they impregnate. Sadly, over the last 50 years that vulnerability has been stained with blood. At least Calhoun never said slaves had to be killed. [R.R. Reno, *First Things*, Feb. 2022]

Billie Eilish: Pornography "Is a Disgrace"

The 19-year-old pop singer told an interviewer that her exposure to porn at a young age had "destroyed" her brain, causing her nightmares and emotional harm. The Grammy Award winner also said that watching porn from age eleven **distorted her view of relationships**, encouraging her to make poor sexual choices. A 23-year-old woman interviewed by *BuzzFeed* said that "it feels like we were tricked into exploiting ourselves." Michelle Goldberg (*NY Times*) wrote: "Perhaps now that the old taboos have fallen, we need new ones." Could this be the dawn of a sexual counterrevolution? [National Review, 1/24/22]



In his 2020 book *The Freedom Fight*, sexual addiction counselor Ted Shimer reports on a 1980s study showing correlations between the amount of porn individuals viewed and their attitudes regarding the value of women. For more up-to-date research, he notes that the research professor could not find one man in his twenties who had **never looked at porn**. [*Salvo*, Winter 2021]

"Abortion is not health care unless one construes the precious life of an unborn child to be analogous to a tumor to be excised or a disease to be vanquished – **pregnancy is not a disease**. Taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize abortion nor should anyone or any entity be coerced against their conscience to perform or facilitate the killing of an unborn child." Rep. Chris Smith, co-chair, Congressional Pro-Life Caucus.

Limiting Your Kids' Screen Time

The bad effects of social media on children is well known. Here are suggestions to help control screen time.

- Involve kids in the decision. If, for example, the family agrees on no phones at the dinner table or in bedrooms after 10 pm, there's no arguing about it.
- Make **small changes**. For example, reduce tech use by two hours per day.
- Try a phone-free movie night. Experts strongly agree to keep devices in another room during movies. This echoes research that students whose phones are left outside the classroom perform better on exams than those who turned off their phones but kept them in their bag or clothing.
- Delay use. Don't begin your day by checking email, Twitter or Instagram. This helps develop more **self-control over social media use**.
- Socialize differently. Switch to alternative photo-sharing apps or smaller social networks. This frees you from political rants and drama found on bigger platforms. Try Substack instead of Facebook to share ideas with a much smaller group of people. [Julie Jargon, *WSJ*, 1/10/22]