

# Family & ProLife News Briefs

July 2024

## Fighting for the Value of Human Life

### Marriage Matters

Only 32% of young adults ages 18-40 think marriage is central to living a fulfilling life. While 88% of parents believe it's important for their kids to be financially independent and have careers they enjoy, only 20% believe it's important that they marry and have kids of their own. These are among the figures reported by Brad Wilcox in his new book, *Get Married: Why Americans Must Defy the Elites, Forge Strong Families, and Save Civilization*. The groups he found doing especially well, the “masters of marriage,” included those who put “we” before “me”, prioritized their children, maintained financial stability, and committed to keeping divorce off the table.

Wilcox deconstructs myths by pop culture, mainstream media and progressive elites that single living is more satisfying, that any sort of family structure is fine, that loving oneself first is foremost, and that kids make life miserable. He found huge hypocrisy among elites who propose these ideas but who live in traditional marriages themselves. [excerpt, *Salvo* #69, Summer 2024]

### Reacting to Harrison Butker's Speech

*A man can replace me at work, and many of them would do just as well as I would. But a man cannot replace the value I bring to my family. A man cannot replace my role as a wife, as a woman who carried and bore children, who felt their first movements stirring inside me, who fed them from my own body after birth. A woman who doesn't bear children or become a wife has no less value than one who does. But more than 75% of women do marry by the time they're 40, and more than 85% do have children. My career is an important part of my life, but it does not define me. My vocation is that of wife & mother, & I am endlessly proud of that.* [Liz Morris, letter to ed. excerpt, *Nat. Catholic Register*, 6/16/24.]

### Lying Promoted for Abortion Pills

Numerous websites now allow anyone to order abortion pills for shipment with no prescription, no medical consultation, no age verification, and disregard for state abortion laws. The sites typically instruct purchasers to use discreet payment methods, preferring cryptocurrency. The sites also typically state that sellers do not accept liability for complications or “inconvenience.” One site says: “If you go to a hospital or other healthcare facility, do not tell anyone that you took the pills. There is no way for anyone to know you took the pills. Say you're having a miscarriage.” According to an online directory Plan C: “We transform access to abortion by normalizing the self-directed option of abortion pills by mail. There is no way for a medical provider to know you took the pills. The bleeding looks the same as a miscarriage.” Such is the degenerate state of “reproductive health” to which abortion activists now subject women and teen girls. [excerpt, *Salvo* #69, Summer 2024]

### Fighting Child Abuse and Exploitation

The National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) believes that “every human being deserves the opportunity to live life to its fullest potential. We mobilize legal, corporate, & legislative action to build a world free from sexual abuse and exploitation. By exposing the connections, we strike deep at the roots of the systems which support and sustain sexual abuse and exploitation.”

Because forms of sexual harms overlap, reinforce, and fuel one another, the group combats sexual abuse and exploitation with a multi-faceted and interdisciplinary approach. One method is its annual **Dirty Dozen List**. After **Snapchat** was put on the 2023 list, it improved detection & removal of sexually explicit/exploitive content, protecting the 90% of young people in 20+ countries that use this app! Snapchat publicly stated: “Several of our new product safeguards were informed by feedback from the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE).” Check out the 2024 List and get more info at <https://endsexualexploitation.org/>

### Life Devalued in New Jersey

The state may be worse than New York & California in promoting and supporting **abortion through all nine months of pregnancy**. Activists are now advocating using taxpayer dollars to make abortions free. Sadly, other states support unlimited access to abortion. Yet, many states have made abortion illegal with exceptions in those rare cases when the mother's life may be at risk.

To advocate for the dignity and value of life from the moment of conception in no way is “anti-woman” or “anti-choice.” The free services offered by more than **2,700 pregnancy help centers** nearly always include helping moms get back on their feet with housing, schooling, and more. Jesus says we will be judged by what we do or fail to do for the least of our sisters and brothers, the hungry, the homeless, the sick, and the most vulnerable among us, developing babies in the womb. To help change minds and hearts, in cooperation with National Right to Life, New Jersey is planning to have its first Mass, Rally and **March for Life (Sept. 26, 2024)** in Trenton, the state's capital. The Mass will be celebrated by Cardinal Tobin, with Bishop O'Connell as homilist. Thousands are planning to attend in prayer and activism. For more information, visit <https://insidethewalls.org/njmarchforlife> [excerpt, Bishop Sweeney, Paterson Diocese, *The Beacon*, 6/20/24]

The **NJ Parental Rights Coalition** opposes NJ bills:

- Sen. Bill 2421 deletes obscenity laws that protect kids.
- Sen. Bill 1188 prevents parents knowing their child's mental health starting at 14 years old.
- Senate Bill 3156 allows schools to have so-called “health centers” and lowers the age of consent to 14.

## Since In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Creates Lives, How Could Anyone Think It's Wrong?

Many assume that children from IVF validates the method that brought them into existence. But children who came into existence through adultery, fornication, rape, prostitution, or via surrogacy are just as intrinsically good, but that doesn't mean that the way that they came into the world is good or should be defended. Children have a right to **come into existence in their mother's body** and be protected from coming into existence in a laboratory, where they might be shipped off to their mother's womb, or a stranger's womb, or to cold storage indefinitely. The Catechism says, children have "the right 'to be the fruit of the specific act of the conjugal love of his parents.' and 'the right to be respected as a person from the moment of conception.'" (2378)

Arguments against IVF include that **human embryos are often purposefully destroyed** in this process when they are not implanted, which is the direct killing of innocent human beings. *Eggsploitation*, a documentary, exposes how college-aged women are coerced by offers of tens of thousands of dollars to donate their eggs, even at great risk to themselves. IVF also frequently relies on women acting as surrogate wombs to birth these embryos. Another practical argument against IVF is that there is no objective way to stop its use at just infertile married compiles. There's nothing to keep an unmarried man from contracting for a sperm donor and an egg donor, have embryos created from in IVF, use a surrogate womb to gestate the child, and have the child delivered to the consumer. [Catholic Answers, June 2024]

## New York the Abortion Capital

The worst offending abortion counties in America are Kings County (Brooklyn), where for every 100 black babies born nearly 100 are aborted; and The Bronx where for every 100 black babies born 72 are aborted. In Manhattan, for every 100 black babies born, 116 are aborted!

One organization fighting this trend is **CompassCare**, the only pro-life medical pregnancy center in Brooklyn and The Bronx. In May, CompassCare launched a **mobile medical unit** in The Bronx, serving women right where they are. The local police precinct provided a special permit to park outside of a large abortion clinic, enabling the nurses to literally snatch life from the jaws of death. In addition, many women are hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the mobile unit, with nearly 80% of them submitting to Jesus as their Savior! [for more information, email [mission.updates@compasscare.info](mailto:mission.updates@compasscare.info)]



## Oppose the Rescheduling of Marijuana

The Drug Enforcement Administration released a proposed regulation to move marijuana from a Schedule I drug to a Schedule III drug. Schedule I drugs are defined as having "potentially severe psychological or physical dependence" and include heroin and ecstasy. Schedule III drugs are those that have a low risk of dependence such as steroids or Tylenol with codeine. **Teen marijuana use** is at an all-time high with 30% of high school seniors having used cannabis. A large majority of the **psychiatric events** that result in emergency room visits are due to marijuana use, and these numbers are rising as well.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic, and the WHO have all acknowledged that marijuana is much more potent than ever before. In the 1970s, the THC level in marijuana products was only 2% but today the level is up to 18%-35% THC. Items such as gummies, drinks, and candies containing cannabis make this vice more appealing & easier to consume. The increased THC amounts plus the ease of consuming it has led to an uptick in cannabis use **disorders, schizophrenia,** and cannabis hyperemesis syndrome. Science shows that marijuana is indeed addictive and therefore it should not be reclassified by the DEA. To oppose the DEA rule, **submit a public comment** before July 22nd to let them know that you oppose this regulation by visiting <https://eagleforum.org/publications/alerts.html>

## Loathsome Expansion of Euthanasia

Euthanasia (physician-assisted suicide) was legalized in Canada in 2016 with the passing of Bill C-14. When the law was first passed, it required the person seeking euthanasia to have a fatal or terminal condition. Today, that no longer holds. Safeguards have eroded. In 2017, 1,018 Canadians ended their lives; in 2022, that number increased to 13,241. Experts anticipate that in 2024 another **18,000 Canadians** will die through the program. Advocates now want to include provision for mentally ill persons to be included in the program. Similar expansion is coming to the United States.

So what are we to do? First, the language: understated and indirect language hides what's really at stake, which is voluntary medicalized killing. The recent Catholic declaration *Dignitas Infinita* ("Infinite Dignity") warns that **"death with dignity" is false**: "suffering does not cause the sick to lose their dignity, which is intrinsically and inalienably their own." Convincing those nearest us that their lives are meaningful, and that they are loved, is the front line of this battle against euthanasia. Never suggest to anyone that they'd be better off dead. Only opposing physician-assisted suicide in the clearest and most unambiguous terms will sufficiently aid the least **among us.** [excerpt, editorial, *Our Sunday Visitor*, 6/25/24]

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