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Insure That Essure is Taken Off the Market

FDA approves a boxed warning for Essure but many women continue to be harmed by the sterilization device

By Jonathan Abbamonte

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has announced that it has approved a boxed warning for Bayer's controversial Essure sterilization device. A boxed warning is the strongest warning the FDA can require for drugs and devices and is intended to alert the user to potentially serious, even deadly, side effects that can result from using them.

The Essure boxed warning will alert patients and health professionals to adverse events associated with the device including the possibility for uterine perforation, chronic pain, serious allergic reactions, device migration into the abdominal or pelvic cavity, and the need for the



Photo Credit: Getty Images

device to be removed surgically if symptoms become unbearable.

More than 10,000 women who have suffered adverse medical events associated with Essure have already filed complaints with the FDA, and the number continues to rise daily. Nearly 5,000 women filed complaints with the FDA in 2016 alone. Bayer itself has received close to 30,000 additional complaints from users of its device.

The combination of the public outcry and the unusually high number of complaints led the FDA to conduct a hearing on safety issues surrounding the device last September.

In February of last year, the FDA

announced that it had ordered Bayer to add a boxed warning to the Essure product label to better inform women of the risks involved with using the device. In order to better assess the device's safety, the FDA also mandated Bayer to conduct a post-marketing study, an observational-based study that drug companies are sometimes required to conduct after the device has been released to the public. Bayer is being given seven years to complete the study, the results of which are not expected to be available until at least 2023. In the meantime, Bayer will still be able to continue selling its Essure system in the U.S.

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Steven W. Mosher

In 1958 the Cold War held the world in its icy grip. The two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, were contesting for global influence, and it seemed that the U.S. was losing. Communist movements were growing in strength, especially in Southeast Asia. President Eisenhower warned the American people that if Vietnam were to fall, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand would follow “like dominoes.”

As Americans pondered their foreign policy failures, two former Naval officers dropped a bombshell. Their book was called *The Ugly American*, and it described how arrogant U.S. diplomats refused to learn the local language, ignored the local culture and customs, and engaged in rude and obnoxious behavior that had alienated the local population.

The Ugly American

The Soviet Ambassador, on the other hand, was a paragon of enculturation. He spoke the local language, understood the local culture, and was secretly fomenting a guerrilla movement that would one day take over the country.

The Ugly American was the blockbuster political novel of the 1950s, and has had a lasting impact on our thinking, similar to *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and *The Jungle*. It led to the establishment of the Peace Corps, and to greater efforts to understand the cultures that we were trying to help modernize and industrialize.

Somewhere along the way, however, our foreign aid programs have lost their way. We have stopped, for the most part, trying to build roads and bridges, power stations and power grids. Instead of trying to improve the living standards of the poor, we now try to change the way they think about things like Life, Sex, and Marriage.

We promote radical sex education programs that deliberately try to break down cultural prohibitions on premarital sex. We lobby for the legalization of abortion among peoples who view babies as a blessing. We tell them that their traditional view of marriage as a sacred and exclusive bond between a man and a woman is intolerant, even discriminatory.

It should be obvious that this kind of heavy-handed cultural imperialism

is hardly the way to win the hearts and minds of indigenous peoples around the world. Pornographic sex education programs do nothing to jump-start economic development, or to improve living standards. Denigrating the traditional view of marriage does not enhance social stability or promote democracy.

The Ugly American, in other words, is back to his old tricks.

To be sure, we understand local cultures and traditions far better than we did fifty years ago. But we do not study them in order to respect them, but rather in order that we can more effectively deconstruct them and rebuild them in the image of Manhattan and Hollywood. Why else would the Clinton State Department illegally spend tens of millions to win passage of a new Kenyan constitution that effectively legalized abortion, except to impose secular America’s abortion views on a country that was, and is, overwhelmingly pro-life?

This is a textbook case of cultural imperialism, and it could be replicated in country after country. Countries that only a generation ago threw off their colonial masters now find these same characters coming back as “development experts,” “gender specialists,” and “population planners.” They have new titles, but are just as dictatorial as their predecessors.

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Carlos Polo, PRI’s Latin American Director, Receives the “Humanity 2016 Award”

By PRI Staff

At this year’s 7th Pro-Life International Congress, the pro-life efforts of our own Carlos Polo were publicly recognized. Before an audience of more than a thousand young Guatemalans, as well as participants from 25 countries, Carlos was awarded the prestigious “Humanity 2016 Award.” The prize is awarded every three years to a person or an institution recognized worldwide for defending human life and the family.

The 7th Pro-Life International Congress took place in Guatemala and was opened by the country’s President, Jimmy Morales. In attendance were numerous civil and ecclesiastical leaders. The Congress’ organizing committee chose Carlos not only for his 30-plus years on the front lines for Life, but also for the assistance that he and the PRI Latin American staff

have given to dozens of pro-life, pro-family organizations throughout all of Latin America over the years.

When a Latin American country faces a challenge from the international abortion movement, the first thing that pro-life leaders do is call Carlos Polo. This last year alone, Carlos’ office in Lima tackled more than two hundred (200!) different crises in different countries where the pro-choice movement was attempting to push pro-abortion legislation. In every instance, Carlos and his team were able to stop these pro-choice initiatives.

Over the years, Carlos Polo has worked in several of the world’s most effective institutions for promoting life and family. His resume includes Human Life International, ALAFA, Dan Zeidler (himself an institution) and, of course, the Population Research Institute for the past twenty years.

Together with Dr. Carlos Beltramo, director of the Population Research Institutes’ European Office and a close personal friend, he has written the book *Scenario Analysis*. This book



teaches pro-life activists strategies with which to win political battles. Carlos Polo has used the methods outlined in the book to personally train more than 1500 pro-life leaders across Latin America and Spain.

It was fitting that the award was presented to Carlos Polo by his close friend, Carlos Beltramo. In a short but emotional speech, Beltramo began by saying “This award is long overdue. Carlos has already dedicated his life to this cause.” Beltramo went on to speak about Santiago Polo, born to Maria Elisa and Carlos. Born with Edwards’ syndrome, Santiago lived only 19 days.

“Carlos and Maria Elisa have given us a beautiful example of unconditional love,” Dr. Beltramo recalled. “This award goes to Carlos because of everything he has done throughout his career, but more than anything, he has earned this award for the intense love he showed his son in the brief period that Santiago was alive. This makes us realize that the most important things in life are often the smallest. Thousands of babies in Heaven will welcome you,

Carlos, when you go to meet them. But especially little Santiago, your beloved son, to whom you demonstrated that “pro-life” is not just an ideological or political slogan, but a way of life.

The award itself is a work of art. It is a unique statue of Mary, who is depicted with a transparent window into her womb through which one can see the small, unborn baby Jesus.

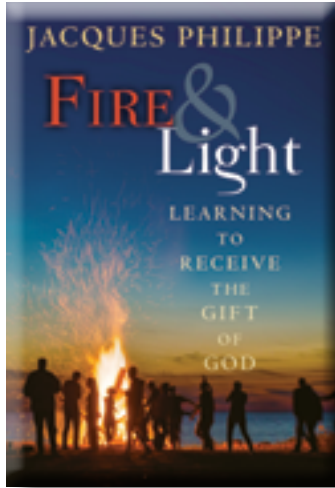
“Carlos Polo is a pro-life hero,” says PRI President Steven Mosher, “He can be credited with protecting the unborn from repeated efforts to legalize abortion in country after country. The award is richly deserved and could not be more appropriate. The humanity of every unborn child who ever lived was underlined by Jesus Christ himself, who chose to come into the world as a tiny infant inside His mother’s womb, as the statue so beautifully depicts.”



May I Send You These Gifts?

A Gift That's Certain to Aid Your Spiritual Journey . . .

The first gift you can choose is *Fire & Light—Learning to Receive the Gift of God* by Fr. Jacques Philippe whose books on prayer, interior freedom, and peace of heart have sold over one million copies in 24 languages. With Fr. Philippe as your guide, here's just some of what you'll learn in *Fire & Light* . . .



- How the Eucharist is an education for us in faith, hope, and love
- The four ways of understanding freedom in our culture, including 11 examples of situations that can cause lack of freedom
- The paradox of “strength in weakness”
- The 8 most important characteristics to keeping yourself open to the grace of the Holy Spirit
- The deepest and most fruitful type of prayer
- The only situation in which we can have good discernment
- What to do when a problem robs you of peace
- The four domains in which lack of peace manifests itself
- Knowing God more fully through Mary
- The fundamental act of the spiritual life
- The “divine glance,” as practiced by St. Thérèse of Lisieux
- Spiritual insights of St. Teresa of Avila, and so much more!

With thanks for your much-needed gift of \$40 or more, may I send you a copy of Jacques Philippe's *Fire & Light—Learning to Receive the Gift of God*?

“That's what I should have said!”

Have you ever been at a loss for words when someone says something that's so far off base on moral issues that it seems to defy response—something like, “**Personally I'm opposed to abortion but . . .**”? Now—with this gift from PRI—you can respond in devastating fashion when you encounter someone who's tone deaf on moral issues.

It's *Non-Negotiable: Essential Principles of a Just Society and Humane Culture*. Published by Ignatius Press, this book is by Emmy Award-winning print and broadcast journalist Sheila Liaugminas. She has been published in *National Catholic Register*, *Crisis*, and *National Review Online*. She also has her own radio show—A Closer Look—on Relevant Radio, the Catholic radio network.

Here is a sample of what you can expect in *Non-Negotiable* . . .

- Why the “I'm personally opposed to abortion but . . .” argument is intellectually dishonest
- The most devastating defeat ever handed to pro-abortionists since Roe v. Wade (one that cuts the “moral” argument for abortion off at the knees)
- Persuasive, powerful arguments from St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict, Pope John XXIII and Pope Paul VI
- How the media distorted and controlled “debate” on Terri Schiavo's murder and more!

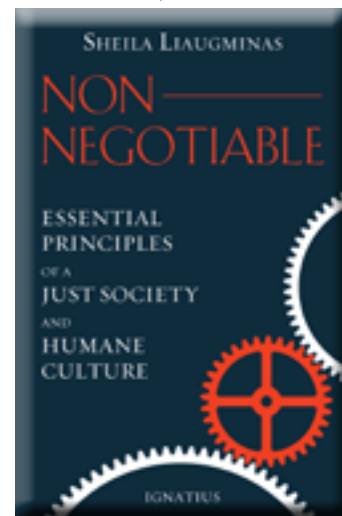
Columnist and best-selling author George Weigel hails Sheila Liaugminas as “an articulate voice of the New Evangelization and as she demonstrates in this powerful book, being seriously Catholic today means being part of a culture—reforming counterculture.”

Dr. Alveda King, Director of African-American Outreach at Priests for Life, tells us that “This book is a must-read for every person of faith who understands that action is needed—now—if we ever hope to build a free, just, and humane society.”

To thank you for your generosity of \$60 or more, I hope you'll let me send you a copy of *Non-Negotiable: Essential Principles of a Just Society and Humane Culture*.

Undecided on your gift selection? Let us send you **BOTH** *Fire & Light—Learning to Receive the Gift of God* AND *Non-Negotiable: Essential Principles of a Just Society and Humane Culture* with sincere thanks for your support of \$75 or more.

Please use the enclosed Gift Reply or our secure donation portal link:
<https://pop.org/donate/prir> to quickly receive your choice of gift, or BOTH!



“INSURE THAT ESSURE” CONTINUED

Last autumn, the FDA updated the Essure warning label. Additionally, a patient checklist was added to assure that doctors adequately communicate to potential users the possible risks of using Essure. Each of the possible risks are shown on the checklist with spaces for patients and their doctor to initial after each. Physicians are not required by the FDA to use the checklist, however, and it is unclear how many physicians will provide the checklist to their patients. According to the *New York Times*, Planned Parenthood has already indicated that it does not plan to have their patients sign-off on the checklist before having the irreversible sterilization procedure.

While a number of changes have been made to the Essure product label, the revisions have come about a little too late. Tens of thousands of women have already been harmed by the device in the 14 years that Essure has been on the U.S. market.

Essure is a sterilization device inserted into the fallopian tubes without surgery. The device consists of stainless steel rods coated in plastic and encased within a nickel-titanium alloy coil. The plastic fibers, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), cause the surrounding tissue to become inflamed and grow into the coil after about 3 months. The metal coils remain in the fallopian tubes for life unless surgically removed. The plastic material in the Essure device is the same material used to manufacture disposable water bottles and automobile tire yarns.

During clinical trials, the device had been associated with a number of adverse side effects including back pain (9% of women in the trial), severe menstrual cramps or severe abdominal pain (2.9% and 2.5%), severe abnormal bleeding

(1.9%), painful intercourse (3.6%), and infection (1.5%).

For many women, Essure has been a cause for physical pain ranging anywhere from mild discomfort to unbearable chronic pain. One recently submitted, unverified adverse event report illustrates the sort of day-to-day discomfort that many women have said that Essure has caused them:

“[I] had sharp stabbing pains when bending to pick something up, when bending to shave my legs, when sitting Indian style, when lifting my leg to get in my truck and sometimes when lying in bed.”

For some women, the metal coils have migrated or perforated the fallopian tubes, intestines, or other organs.

A recent study published in the *British Medical Journal* looked through data of over 8,000 women receiving hysteroscopic sterilization like Essure and over 44,000 women receiving laparoscopic sterilization (traditional surgical sterilization) in New York state. The study found that women using hysteroscopic sterilization methods like Essure were more than ten times more likely than women who had been surgically sterilized to have required a reoperation procedure on the fallopian tubes within the first year.

Although Essure is supposed to make women using the device sterile, pregnancy is still possible, especially before the end of the first three months when the device causes complete tubal occlusion. This fact was made obvious when Essure's celebrity spokeswoman, Olympic skier and gold medalist Picabo Street, became pregnant while using Essure. Bayer was forced to remove all references to Street from their promotional materials.

When pregnancies do occur with Essure, they are more likely to

be ectopic. Pregnancy loss due to ruptured membranes, possibly as a result of puncturing from the Essure coil, has also been reported, according to Bayer. As of February of last year, almost half of all pregnancies with Essure (294 out of 631) resulted in pregnancy loss.

While the FDA's belated move is a step in the right direction, many want to see the device banned from the U.S. market altogether.

“The latest recommendations from the FDA do not go far enough,” Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick (PA-8) said in a released statement concerning the FDA's approval of a new boxed warning for Essure, “a boxed warning and patient checklist highlight the severe risks of Essure—but they're not legally enforceable requirements.”

Last year, Rep. Fitzpatrick introduced a bipartisan bill in Congress called the E-Free Act which would circumvent the FDA and ban the Essure device outright.

“Tens of thousands of women have been harmed by this unsafe medical device, including hundreds of fetal deaths,” Rep. Fitzpatrick said in his released statement.

A number of lawsuits have also been filed against Bayer in the United States and Canada.

“The FDA seems to go out of its way to protect dangerous contraceptive drugs and devices,” says PRI President Steven Mosher, “Essure is the worst example of the lot. Norplant was taken off the market after the FDA had received only 6,000 complaints. Essure has received over 10,000 complaints already. It is time for the FDA to act to protect women from this dangerous device.”

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CRS Stored and Distributed Contraceptives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

This is the second part in a two-part series, the first half of which was published in the November–December issue of the PRI Review. This is an abridged version of the full report written by Michael Hichborn and originally published by the Lepanto Institute.

In 2015, the Lepanto Institute and Population Research Institute published the results of a joint investigation showing that CRS was the lead organization for a PEPFAR-funded project that contained two contraception-promoting programs. While CRS categorically denied the charges, documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) prove that CRS itself reported implementing the programs. CRS again denied the charges in self-contradictory statements that to this day have not been corrected or even addressed. Yet CRS has directly participated in programs that are not only harmful to those who are supposed to be “helped,” but involve the promotion of gravely immoral activities per the social and moral doctrine of the Catholic Church.

Sadly, some very good bishops, misled by CRS, have also publicly attacked organizations that have investigated CRS. It is our sincere hope that this report provides ample evidence to the US Conference of Catholic Bishops to illustrate the following. Firstly, CRS has a well-established pattern of not only “working with groups who don’t uphold Catholic moral teaching,” as it often claims in its defense, but also directly participated in programs that promote contraception. Secondly, CRS has repeatedly misrepresented

the nature of this participation to the US bishops and to CRS’ supporters. Thirdly, CRS’ dissembling on previous reports and misleading of bishops has led to a lack of action in addressing these concerns, which has pushed this issue into the public, creating great scandal and leading to unjust attacks on those who raised concerns. Fourthly, the need to bring CRS in line with Catholic social and moral doctrine is urgent, and given their systematic and repeated dishonesty, direct intervention from the bishops is necessary.

The evidence very clearly speaks for itself. Inventory reports submitted

“ CRS’s participation in the distribution of artificial contraception is not an isolated incident, but one incident in a pattern of corruption. ”

to the US government show that CRS received 2.25 million units of abortifacient contraception and condoms. These same inventory reports show that these contraceptives were dispensed from CRS’s warehouse and distributed throughout the health zones for which CRS was responsible. The narrative for the quarterly and annual reports for Project AXxes show that family planning was integrated into multiple aspects of the project, and that CRS was not only involved in that integration, but was a part of the planning for this integration as well. These quarterly and annual reports also show that the reason that family

planning was integrated throughout multiple portions of the project was to reduce the fertility rates of the Congolese people by increasing the Couple Years of Protection (CYP). CRS was well adept at increasing the CYP in its health zones.

Catholic Relief Services has consistently denied having had any part in the promotion or distribution of contraception, even though strong evidence over the past 9 years have indicated otherwise.

CRS has not been truthful with the bishops and it has not been truthful with the Faithful. These inventory reports do not lie. And given the pattern of corrupt activities indicated in the executive summary, this report shows that CRS’s participation in the distribution of artificial contraception is not an isolated incident, but one incident in a pattern of corruption.

As shocking and upsetting as the facts in this report are, this discovery was only a matter of time. Catholic and pro-life organizations have been sounding the alarm for several years about CRS’ reception of government funds, which come with family planning stipulations. Since 2011, these same Catholic and pro-life organizations have been asking publicly why CRS has been facilitating tens of millions of dollars to organizations that are themselves dispensing contraception, performing sterilizations, and committing abortions. The answer is that it all has to do with the reception of government money. If CRS is to obtain government grants, it has to partner with organizations that

promote grave moral evils. In order for CRS to obtain federal funds, it cannot exclusively hire Catholics. And in many cases, as was the case with Project AXxes, in order for CRS to be included in government-funded projects, it has to be willing to store and dispense contraceptives.

Perhaps this is why, shortly before resigning, Pope Benedict XVI issued a *motu proprio* “On the Service of Charity.” In the Dispositive Part of the *motu proprio*, Pope Benedict decreed in Article 10 § 3: “In particular, the diocesan Bishop is to ensure that charitable agencies dependent upon him do not receive financial support from groups or institutions that pursue ends contrary to the Church’s teaching.”

Such funding would include U.S. government agencies USAID and

PEPFAR, and foundations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Open Society, and the Bill and Hillary Clinton Foundation. Given what we have just illustrated in this report, we can see why Pope Benedict would issue such a decree. As the saying goes, “if you take the king’s shilling, you’ll do the king’s willing.”

It is our sincere hope that this report provides ample evidence to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to illustrate the gravity of the situation and the urgent need to bring CRS in conformity with Pope Benedict XVI’s decree, forbidding CRS to receive funding from agencies such as those already mentioned.

The full report by Michael Hichborn published by the Lepanto Institute can be viewed here: <http://www.lepantoinstitute.org/uncategorized/catholic-relief-services-stored-dispensed-abortifacient-contraceptives-millions/>

In light of the allegations surrounding CRS’s activity in the D.R. of the Congo, LifeSite News has launched a petition asking His Excellency Archbishop Coakley—chairman of the board for CRS—to forbid CRS from partnering with organizations that promote abortion or contraception.

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“THE UGLY AMERICAN” CONTINUED

In some ways, the modern-day neocolonialists are even more destructive. They don’t just cut down trees and dig mines, they attempt to clear-cut the indigenous culture. They root out traditional notions of what constitutes a marriage and a family. They redefine when and under what circumstances sexual relations should take place.

It used to be that American anthropologists would study primitive societies to find out how men and women behaved in their “natural state.” American anthropologist Margaret Mead, for instance, returned from the South Pacific to claim that the Samoans she had lived among had sex as early, as often, and with as many partners as they wanted. Declaring that this was baseline human behavior, she doubled back and attacked American Puritanism as unnatural.

The Samoans cried foul, and Mead was roundly criticized for projecting

her own sexually liberated views onto a people who, in real life, limited sexual activity to married couples.

Now the American development expert, brandishing wads of cash and with all the prestige of America behind him, takes exactly the opposite tack. He tells his audience of Africans, Asians, and Latin Americans that Westerners in general, and Americans in particular, are so advanced that they have discovered new “rights.”

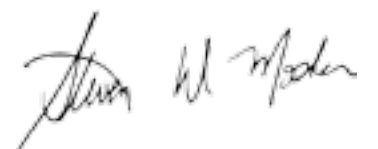
These new “rights” include the right to abort your children, to marry anyone of either sex, and even to change your very gender. Do not think, he tells them, that just because you have male genitalia, that you are a man, or that, just because you have female genitalia, you are a woman. That is mere superstition.

You have an absolute right to choose your own gender, he goes on. Moreover, you have the right to change your gender whenever you want to, to whatever you want. You

even have the right to come up with your own unique gender out of an infinite range of possibilities, and to insist that others affirm your choice. Those who would deny your right to choose your own gender, he tells them, are backward and benighted. And, by the way, he concludes, any such bigoted and intolerant people will definitely not be receiving any U.S. development assistance.

Is it any wonder that they think we have gone mad?

Ultimately, the only way that poor peoples can escape poverty is to produce more goods and services themselves. Infrastructure projects such as roads and power grids help them to do just that. Social engineering projects that attempt to redefine life, marriage, and family in non-traditional ways do not.





Prayerful Persistence Will Pay Off

Dr. Christopher Manion

In 1979, Paul Weyrich and I were both convinced that Ronald Reagan would win the 1980 presidential election. At the time, Paul was the most influential leader in the conservative movement. As a Catholic, he had created the largest Evangelical coalition in modern history. He formed the Moral Majority to give it a voice and chose Rev. Jerry Falwell to lead it.

In those days I was brimming with optimism. But Paul was a realist. While I was driving him to O'Hare Airport one October day, Paul, in the no-nonsense manner he was famous for, made a sober observation: while we should do everything possible to help Ronald Reagan win the White House, he said, we should recognize that he would disappoint us—often. Opportunists abound, he explained, and Ronald Reagan was “the horse they're gonna ride.”

Sure enough, the disappointments came quickly. For instance, instead of reforming the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Reagan named as its director a skilled conniver who was, in today's terminology, a gay activist. And AID's policies continued to reflect that agenda.

In my travels in Latin America

as the Senate's staff director for the region during the Reagan years, Catholic bishops often complained to me that USAID's policies in their countries hadn't changed. In fact, USAID insisted that “Family Planning” programs were mandatory. Turn them down and countries would receive no support for clean water, agricultural development, legitimate health programs—or anything else.

Our secular State Department “experts” ignored the Catholic Church, but I spoke with every priest and bishop I could throughout the hemisphere. They told me they'd pleaded with their brother bishops in the U.S. for some support, to no avail. So intense was their concern that, after one trip, I called the office of the Papal Nuncio in Washington, hopeful (young as I was) that he would respond to their concerns and convey them directly to Rome.

I was only an unworthy functionary, so the Nuncio's American secretary was designated as my contact. He listened quietly as I enumerated the particulars of the anti-family population control programs funded by legislation that American bishops actually supported because it “helped the poor in the Third World.”

Time passed and nothing happened. One Latin American Cardinal actually said, “I guess they [U.S. bishops] aren't reading their mail.”

But wait—hadn't I explained the situation to the Nunciatura directly? Why had they done nothing?

Only years later did I discover a salient detail which, in retrospect, goes a long way to answer that question.

The priest I spoke with, the Nuncio's secretary at the time, was

Father Blaise Cupich., now Cardinal Archbishop of Chicago.

Disappointing? Profoundly so. But disappointments are a fact of political life. And Donald Trump will disappoint us too. To say the least, he's no Ronald Reagan. But—like Reagan—he claims now to be a convert to the pro-life cause. And the focal point of that cause is the courts, where Trump's list of prospective nominees is far better than Reagan Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Anthony Kennedy turned out to be.

To consider how important that is, consider the alternative: a generation of Supreme Court radicals free to eviscerate the Constitution at whim.

Beyond the courts, we have the Congress, where many members who vote pro-life are afraid to lead. They need our constant encouragement.

And then comes the permanent bureaucracy. USAID is still infested with some of the most adamant abortion—as-population-control advocates in the country. And yet, Catholic Relief Services, which quietly receives two-thirds of its entire budget in its role as USAID sub-contractor, must continue to please its USAID benefactors or risk losing that funding.

The congressional majority will now pass legislation to defund Planned Parenthood, but it will not be smooth sailing. The bipartisan establishment that was defeated in the election will not go away. In fact, it will fight every good initiative every way it can.

Prayerfully and persistently, we must do the same.



FROM THE COUNTRIES

China—China's two-child policy has done nothing to stop forced abortions, according to an anonymous source in China, who went into hiding following the birth of his third child. “The local government carries out pregnancy examinations every three months. If we weren't in hiding, they would have forced us to have an abortion,” he said during a phone call with BBC reporter John Sudworth.

Sudworth sought to investigate the claim. Visiting a family planning center in Eastern China, Sudworth asked the family planning officials whether or not forced abortions ever took place in the operating rooms, the official replied, “very few” but that it had been some “ten years” since any had taken place. Yet, the one-child policy prevented over 400 million births from 1979 to 2015.

Sudworth then had a female colleague call Chinese family planning centers pretending to inquire about her fate were she to turn herself in for the hypothetical crime of being pregnant with her third child. One official responded, “We'll definitely find you and persuade you to do an abortion.” Another guaranteed that she would also face a heavy fine for having the baby (up to ten times the family's annual income). When she asked a different family planning official whether or not she could simply have the baby and pay the fine his response was, “No. You just can't.”

After the investigation, John Sudworth explained that “what we have discovered suggests that the brutal machinery of enforcement is

still in place along with the Chinese state's insistence on the right of control over women's wombs.”

Russia—The Russian “For Life!” movement has launched a petition to ban abortion, as well as the morning after pill, in Russia. The petition includes a ban on the morning after pill because the movement considers the pill “legal infanticide.” The petition has received over 300,000 signatures, and has been backed by the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as the Supreme Mufti of Russia Talgat Tadjuddin, and Russia's Chief Rabbi, Berl Lazar. The effects of abortions in Russia are listed on the petition and include “demographic damage to the nation, damage to women's health and psyche, as well as ‘the loss of divine blessing’ by the people as a whole which, in turn, could lead to the loss of sovereignty, political and military defeats, and social disasters.” The petition also states that the current laws regarding healthcare in Russia, which includes coverage for abortion, “violates the rights of pro-life citizens who have to pay taxes from which healthcare is funded.” Russia's deputy Prime Minister for social affairs, Olga Golodets, said that “currently for every 1.9 million newborn babies, Russia has 700,000 abortions” while addressing the Upper House of Parliament on the issue of abortion last autumn. He also stated that the final decision on abortion must be handled so as not to “cause any serious consequences.”

Canada—262 euthanasia deaths were reported for the first seven months that Quebec's euthanasia law was in effect. Before the law was passed in December 2015, Quebec's Health Minister had predicted that there would be an estimated 100 deaths in the first year and was reportedly shocked that there were 262 in just the first seven months. Of the 262 deaths, 21 cases failed to comply with the medical assistance in dying regulations. The regulations require that anyone requesting assisted suicide be given permission to do so by the patient's primary doctor as well as a second physician. This second physician regulation was put in place to ensure objectivity in the final decision.

18 of those 21 cases failed because they did not receive a second, independent opinion. Two of the 21 failed cases failed because the patients were euthanized without proof that they were at the end of life. One failed because it was never proven that the patient was facing a serious and incurable disease. In light of these noncompliance cases, the Health Minister of Quebec is hoping to make “adjustments to simplify the paperwork and ease the obligation of seeking a second opinion from an objective and independent doctor.”



Canada—<http://www.mercatornet.com/careful/view/the-first-statistics-for-quebecs-euthanasia-are-available-and-scary/18946>

China—<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-37788712>

Russia—<https://www.rt.com/politics/360927-pro-life-activists-launch-new/>

What Does Trump's Victory Mean for Latin America?

Pro-life Latin Americans were thrilled when Donald Trump emerged victorious from the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election. Latin Americans knew all too well that Hillary Clinton would have continued the work of the Obama Administration in financing pro-abortion and LGBT movements through the region. Thank God the possibility of a democrat in the White House was only a nightmare. We wake up now to a new dawn for the pro-life movement. This is our time to end the scourge of abortion in the U.S. and to end the financial privileges that Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) enjoys at the expense of the American taxpayer.

After the release of the videos showing PPFA trafficking in aborted fetal organs, a Congressional Commission investigated PPFA, especially its funding of pro-abortion NGO's worldwide. The commission report revealed that, from 2010 to 2015, PPFA sent 32.1 million USD abroad without being held accountable by U.S. authorities. Of this amount, about 30% (\$9,523,878) went to Latin America in 2013

alone, as illustrated in Table One.

PPFA is spending taxpayer money abroad, without being held accountable by the U.S. Government. Where does this money go? It is one thing to assume that the funds go to pro-abortion organizations in poor countries to promote legal abortion and expand the industry of death, which they do. It is another thing entirely to see the documents themselves, realizing that the funds are being disguised as aid for the poor, when in reality the funds are being used to kill the poor.

Take for example the case of PROMSEX, which brands itself as a "center for the promotion and defense of sexual and reproductive rights" (Centro de Promocion y Defensa de los Derechos Secuales y Reproductivos). PROMSEX is based in Peru and is a partner of PPFA. Just take a look what the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation has published on its website. There you will find a list of projects financed by PPFA, the amounts granted to those projects, and the objectives of each project. PROMSEX has received

from PPFA more than one million dollars between the years of 2006 and 2014. The projects that PPFA supports abroad revolve around the promotion of abortion in every way that abortion can be promoted: logistically, through speeches, through counseling, and above all, through propaganda campaigns in the media, and through lobbying members of congress.

As illustrated in Table Two, from the year 2006 to 2014, PROMSEX received financing of \$1,034,734.37 from the PPFA. It has also received an additional \$571,110.15 from the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

The majority of the funds from PPFA were received and used by PROMSEX between 2012 and 2014. It was precisely during this period that the "Déjala Decidir Campaign," the "Let It Decide" Campaign was initiated, which proposed a Bill aimed at decriminalizing abortion in cases of rape, to be paid for by the State. This means that PPFA funded PROMSEX, and PROMSEX used that money to lobby members of congress and launch propaganda campaigns aimed at passing pro-choice legislation in Peru.

Can one imagine the asymmetry of a struggle between local pro-life organizations and a pro-abortion non-governmental organization like PROMSEX backed by the U.S. government and with thousands of dollars to spend on travel and events for politicians and journalists? These last 40 years have been David's fight against Goliath. Yet the pro-lifers of Latin America have not been beaten by the mass of American-backed mercenary forces.

Table One

U.S. Dollars used to fund PPFA abroad in 2013	Total in USD
Central America and the Caribbean South America Sub-Saharan Africa Other Parts in North America	\$9,523,878
Other	\$22,576,122
Total in USD	\$32,100,000

Data taken from Planned Parenthood Chairman Memo (2015).

"WHAT DOES TRUMP'S VICTORY" CONTINUED

Planned Parenthood Federation of America works hand-in-glove with PROMSEX to promote abortion. Cecile Richards, current President of PPFA, attended the 3rd Latin American Juridical Congress on Reproductive Rights held in 2014 in the city of Cuernavaca, Mexico. Richards encouraged all efforts to decriminalize and promote abortion services in the region. In her speech she was sure to give PROMSEX executives (Susana Chávez, Rossina Guerrero and George Liendo) a special mention. She referred to them as her "partners." Verónica Mendoza was the key-note speaker at the event. She is also a big-time promoter of abortion in the case of rape legislation, as well as a congresswoman and a then-presidential candidate for Peru.

When the Population Research Institute for Latin America publicly denounced this Juridical Congress on Reproductive Rights, as well as PPFA funding for pro-abortion NGOs, PROMSEX used all its resources to silence PRI. The Catholic News Agency (ACIPRENSA) and Carlos Polo were sued by PROMSEX through one of the most expensive

law firms in Peru. Carlos Polo and ACIPRENSA were sued on the grounds that their denunciation of PPFA funding PROMSEX for the purposes of influencing members of congress violated their "right to honor" as well as and their "good name." We at the Latin American office of PRI have taken this as a sign that we are on the right track.

If Trump follows-through on his promise to defund Planned Parenthood Federation of America of its taxpayers dollars, then mercenary NGOs like PROMSEX will no longer have those funds to promote abortion legislation within the governing bodies of Latin America.

2017 holds much hope for the future of the unborn both at home and abroad. Now is the time for Congress—together with President Trump—to defund Planned Parenthood once and for all.

Read the Congressional Hearing on the Pricing of Fetal Tissue here: <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/IF/IF04/20160420/104822/HHRG-114-IF04-20160420-SD003.pdf>

Table Two

Cooperating Organization	Total in USD
Planned Parenthood Federation of America	\$1,034,734.37
International Planned Parenthood Federation	\$571,110.15
IPPE, PPFA, and GYNUITY*	\$42,250.00
Total	\$1,648,094.52

Data taken from Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation.
*Gynuity is an NGO dedicated exclusively to promoting chemical abortion throughout the world.

GLOBAL MONITOR

Paul Theroux's 2012 novel, *The Lower River* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 323 pages, \$15) describes the disaster that population control programs have visited upon Africa. The premise: Hock, a 62-year-old man, returns to Malawi, where he spent four happy years in the Peace Corps in the 1960's. His trip turns into "an unsentimental and frightening nightmare vision of modern-day Africa."

A "rare ally" warns him that the local chieftain and his people plan to "eat your money [...] When your money is gone they will eat you" (figuratively). Sick with malaria, Hock tries to escape down the river and is "trapped in a makeshift camp of starving AIDS orphans, all wearing T-shirts promoting American pop culture [...] The overseers of this misery are the kindly devils who run international aid organizations, controlling the flow of food and medicine in a way that [...] turns] Africans into dependent beggars and contemptuous tricksters."

This description vividly corroborates many of the arguments in Steven Mosher's book, *Population Control: Real Costs, Imaginary Benefits* and does so in a way that resonates with a large audience. For many Americans, something is not real until an artist describes it or a movie camera sees it.

Buy the book here: <http://www.hmhc.com/shop/books/The-Lower-River/9780544002258>



A Joyous and Hope Filled Year!

Are you as grateful as we here at PRI are for the promise that 2017 holds? We're looking forward to many successes so I know that you'll want to stick with us.

As you resolve to take a more active role in creating a Culture of Life, we're glad to help.

Sign our petition to end all taxpayer funding for abortion at
<https://www.pop.org/campaign/land/2688>

After that, if you are seeking to make an even greater contribution, **become a PRI Sustainer!** Automating your monthly donation helps you keep your resolution, and helps PRI. When we know how much money we will have each month, we can better plan our research investigations, and how many educational materials we can produce in the coming year—so we keep our commitment to promote and support the cause of life.

The PRI Sustainers program is an easy way to give! Here are some of the advantages to becoming a PRI Sustainer:

- **You don't have to remember to write a check during the month.** You've already taken care of it when you check the Make this a monthly gift box on the reply sheet or, here! ✓
- **You will use fewer stamps. Save money for yourself.** ✓
- **You will receive an Annual Giving Statement in time for tax preparation, each year.** ✓
- **You give extra support to PRI's programs by lowering the processing costs of mailed checks.** ✓ This means big savings for PRI, which can be used for our life-saving projects!
- And, if your automatic monthly gift replaces our monthly appeal mailings, **you reduce PRI's postage, paper, and other mailing costs.** Saving this paper is a great way to give more to both PRI and the people we serve, and the environment!

You'll also continue to receive the *PRI Review*, six times a year, to keep you up-to-date on what your support means to people around the world: in the US, China, India, Peru, Nigeria...worldwide!

A resolution that's easy to keep, all year!

PRI IN THE NEWS

Legatus Magazine—Most Italians have one child, if any, and according to Steven Mosher—a demographic anthropologist and a member of Legatus' Northern New Jersey Chapter—"this is the fast road to population suicide [...] Antonio Golini of the University of Rome said that in 100 years, the great cathedrals in Italy will exist only as museums and the ticket sellers will be Albanian Muslims."

Mosher believes that a decrease in religiosity is the main cause for decreasing birthrates in Italy. "If you believe that children are a blessing

and put your trust in God with big life decisions, it has an effect. What Europe needs is a recovery of the Catholic faith [...] That is my hope and prayer—that they will recover an openness to life" he said.

Epoch Times—Penalties continue for Chinese women who have exceeded their "birth quota." According to Jonathan Abbamonte, research analyst for the Population Research Institute, women who conceive a third child still face heavy monetary fines, forced abortions, and unemployment. "In seven provinces

[...] it still remains a matter of public policy that employers can fire their employees for being over their birth quota." But for *unmarried* women and women below the age of 23, "it is still illegal [...] to give birth," said Abbamonte. "For unmarried women who find themselves pregnant, the two-child policy is effectively a zero-child policy." Chinese regime leader Xi Jinping has no plan to lift the two-child policy. Vice Minister of the National Health and Family Planning Commission Wang Pei'an would like to continue regulating births for the next 20 or 30 years.

Legatus Magazine—<http://legatus.org/population-suicide/>

Epoch Times—<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/2192043-women-continue-to-face-coercion-crippling-fines-under-two-child-policy/>