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A review and analysis of worldwide population control activity

Despite Two-Child Policy, Forced Abortions in China Continue *PRI Investigation Reveals Intensifying Coercion from Corrupt Officials*

By Steven W. Mosher

Many Westerners cheered when the Chinese Communist Party announced it was going to allow all Chinese couples a second child. They quite naturally assumed that this meant an across-the-board relaxation of a policy that had caused tremendous suffering among the Chinese people.

I was not convinced. There is often a striking distance between Beijing's policy pronouncements and the harsh reality on the ground.

In fact, not long ago I testified before Congress that "Despite the new two-child policy, the Chinese Communist Party remains as firmly in control of fertility as ever... [T]he Chinese state, rather than the Chinese people, decide how many children are to be born in China each year."¹



Photo from a previous PRI investigation of a propaganda poster over a street in China which reads, "If you are supposed to wear an IUD but don't, or are supposed to have your tubes tied but don't, you will be arrested on sight!" (Photo: PRI).

Now, based on the initial results of our investigation, my concerns were not misplaced. Not only do forced abortions in China continue, but also the levels of coercion are actually higher today than in the recent past. How can this be?

First of all, the Party has ordered its millions of population control police to "resolutely carry out the basic policy of Planned Births [and] thoroughly implement the policy of each couple birthing two children."

If this doesn't sound much like encouragement to "be fruitful and multiply," it's because it isn't. While every couple in China is now allowed a second child four years after the

birth of their first, other restrictions have not been relaxed. Among other things, the Planned Birth policy forbids out-of-wedlock births and childbearing without permission—even if it is a couple's first child. So women who violate these rules are still being hunted down and, when found, aborted and sterilized.

In fact, they are being hunted down *even more vigorously* than before. In part this is because there are more population control police chasing down fewer illegally pregnant women. In part this is because there are fewer "illegal birth" fines for these same corrupt police to divide up and pocket.

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Why the Chinese Communist Party Murdered Liu Xiaobo



Steven W. Mosher

Liu Xiaobo, China's most famous dissident, died on July 13 at the age of 61 after languishing in a Manchurian prison since June 23, 2009.

Liu spent decades calling for respect for human rights and far-reaching political reform, efforts that in 2010 won him the Nobel Peace Prize. In awarding him the prize, the Nobel Committee noted "his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China."¹

Liu, of course, committed the ultimate "counter-revolutionary" act, courageously calling for an end to the one-party dictatorship that rules

China. But it was not solely for these crimes that he was charged with "inciting subversion of state power" and sentenced to a prison term of eleven years.² Liu's problems with Chinese political culture—and the Party-State's problems with him—go much deeper.

Professor Liu was a polymath—he was a literary critic, prolific writer, poet, and human rights activist all rolled into one—but he was also the most incisive social critic that China has produced since Lu Xun. And he was roundly hated by the regime not only for questioning its authority but also for criticizing its increasingly frantic efforts to legitimize its rule in the eyes of the Chinese people through hyper-nationalistic appeals.

Liu was only the third person in history to receive the Nobel Peace Prize while in jail, and only the second to be denied the right to have a representative accept the Prize on his behalf. The first, it is worth recalling, was Carl von Ossietzky, a German pacifist jailed by Hitler in 1933 for repeatedly warning of the dangers of militarism and Nazism.

Liu was jailed, for the fourth time, for similar offenses: In his essays, collected by Perry Link in *No Enemies*,

No Hatred, he questioned the "bellicose nationalism" of the Chinese Party-State—and the underlying national narcissism of the Chinese mind that it played upon.

To be sure, Liu tirelessly promoted constitutional government, respect for human rights, and other democratic reforms for decades, but his critique goes much deeper than this. In an essay entitled, "Bellicose and Thuggish: The Roots of Chinese 'Patriotism' at the Dawn of the Twenty-First Century," he argued that the Chinese Party-State has consciously (and self-servingly) channeled the collective narcissism of the Chinese people into a kind of hyper-nationalist insanity.

It is not surprising that, for pulling back the curtain and exposing its machinations, the Chinese Party-State imprisoned him. Later, by denying him medical care when he became ill, that same regime effectively sentenced him to death.³ This practice is known in China as "murder without spilling blood."⁴ And it is a murder that Beijing has now, to the horror of the world, carried out.

May he rest in peace.

¹ https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2010/announcement.html

² <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/blogs/countdown-china/liu-xiaobo-formally-arrested-inciting-subversion-state-power>





³ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/chinese-nobel-peace-laureate-liu-xiaobo-released-from-prison-on-medical-grounds/2017/06/26/7a68f098-5a46-11e7-a9f6-7c3296387341_story.html?utm_term=.ce70cb8c20ac

⁴ <https://qz.com/1024599/murder-without-spilling-blood-the-chinese-communist-partys-history-of-denying-medical-treatment-to-its-enemies/>

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FROM THE COUNTRIES

Moscow

The pro-life movement of Russia has gathered 1 million signatures on a petition to support a legal ban on all abortion, reported the news outlet TASS. To symbolize the achievement, which began four years ago, a group climbed 18,510 feet to the peak of Mount Elbrus, the highest mountain in Russia and all of Europe.

“Climbing Mount Elbrus is very much like implementing our project, so we had decided that the one-millionth signature should be submitted there,” Sergei Chesnokov, president of the

pro-life group “For Life” told TASS in August. “Protecting a child’s life before the child is actually born is a moral altitude that our society still needs to climb.”

Since November 2013, more than 5,000 volunteers have taken part in collecting signatures throughout the country, the pro-life group reported. During the first six months, 100,000 signatures were gathered, and in August 2015 the group set the goal of 1 million.

In September 2016, the leader of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch

of Moscow and all-Russia Kirill, added his signature to the pro-life declaration.

The organizers’ plan had been to submit the petition to both the State Duma and the Federation Council, the upper and lower houses of the Russian Assembly. Next steps were to be discussed in Moscow at the Eighth International “For Life” festival of social technologies in defense of family values, bringing together 500 leaders from Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia, Serbia, Lithuania, Italy and Spain.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

¹ Moscow: <http://tass.com/society/960238>

Requiesce in pace, Galina Maslennikova

By Ewa Kowalewska

Galina Maslennikova, longtime collaborator of PRI, passed into eternal life on August 7 at the age of 68. A family therapist and the first instructor of natural family planning in Russia, she led the Family Center at the Catholic Cathedral in Moscow, founded and directed the Independent Institute of Family and Demography, and represented Human Life International in Russia for more than 20 years.

Raised under aggressive state-enforced atheism of the Soviet Union, Galina first questioned its claims after her home, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, was struck by a massive earthquake in 1966. What she was

hearing about the “glorious Soviet rescue of the people of Tashkent” was contradicted by what she saw: thousands who perished and hundreds of thousands left homeless.

After her parents’ death, Galina was sent to university to study cybernetics and then ordered to work in Lviv, Ukraine. One day, walking by the Catholic cathedral, Galina felt a sense of peace and rest. She did not dare to go in, but only stood near the entrance. She said: “For me there was cosmos, a free space and a fresh breeze.”

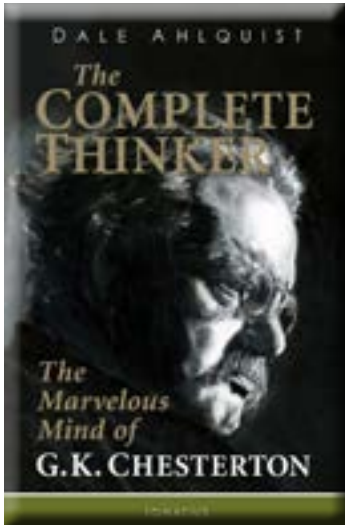
Later, Galina converted to Christianity after reading a New Testament smuggled in from Australia. She was secretly baptized with her daughters into the Catholic Church, and from there

her work as a teacher, traveler and tireless pro-life leader began.

Under the Soviet Union, abortion was the most popular method of family planning in Russia, and the average woman had seven abortions in her life. Today, thanks to heroes like Galina and the advocacy of the Church, many Russians now recognize abortion as a great evil.

Upon her passing, Father Maksym Obukhov, head of the national Orthodox center for the defense of life, wrote: “Some friends are like food that you have to eat from time to time to live. Other friends are like air. You cannot see them, but they are constantly present and essential to life. Galina was such a friend.”

“I’d love to learn more about G.K. Chesterton’s amazing insights, BUT...”



That’s what many Catholics say (including me!) . . .

. . . We’d love to benefit more from the wisdom of G. K. Chesterton but don’t have time to even scratch the surface of his brilliant writings. Adding to that, it’s difficult to know where to even start among Chesterton’s many dozens of books, hundreds of stories and thousands of essays.

But help in benefiting from Chesterton’s wisdom is at hand!

It’s from Dale Ahlquist, President of the American Chesterton Society in his book, *The Complete Thinker: The Marvelous Mind of G. K. Chesterton*. I know you’ll benefit greatly from it (as I did) and I’d like to send you a copy.

The Complete Thinker is not simply a collection of Chesterton quotes, although it contains many. Instead, it’s your *guide* to Chesterton’s wisdom. You’ll come away with a *very* solid understanding of G. K. Chesterton’s thought and you’ll know *exactly* which of his books and other works to read if you want to pursue your study of this complete thinker.

Published by Ignatius Press, *The Complete Thinker: The Marvelous Mind of G. K. Chesterton* will serve as your guide to Chesterton’s most important insights on . . .

- Politics . . . economics . . . evil . . . the seven deadly sins . . . life and death . . . culture and education . . . use of language . . . the nature of truth . . .
- How the attack on free will and personal responsibility is an attack on our ability to think for ourselves . . . the three maxims that guide clear thinking . . . the *only* justification for war . . . health care and insurance (yes, Chesterton wrote about that too!) . . .
- Plus, you’ll learn Chesterton’s insightful opinions on abortion—all written well *before* abortion became legal.

May I send you a copy of this book? It’s *certain* to help you learn more about the incredible insights of G. K. Chesterton.

With my sincere thanks for your much-needed gift of \$50 or more, *The Complete Thinker: The Marvelous Mind of G. K. Chesterton* will be in your mailbox in just days. Shall I send it?

Yours truly,
Steven W. Mosher, President
Population Research Institute

**Please use the enclosed Gift Reply to request your copy of
The Complete Thinker: The Marvelous Mind of G. K. Chesterton . . .**

Americans need to understand that, over the past four decades, China's population control police have lived large off the suffering of the people. The huge fines they have collected from couples that had illegal children—fines averaging three to five times the family's annual income—have funded a lifestyle for these corrupt officials far beyond what they could have afforded on their small state salaries.

In fact, population control fines have been an important source of income for all county and town government officials. Corruption is rampant in China, where virtually all officials are on the take.

With the new, blanket two-child policy, part of their income has dried up. So they are beating down the doors of couples that they suspect of violating the new policy in an increasingly desperate effort to bolster their shrinking salaries.

PRI interviewed one woman who, when she discovered she was pregnant with a second child, had gone underground. Her first child was only two years old, far too young for her to qualify for a second, even under the two-child policy. She was determined not to have an abortion, so she stayed off the streets and out of sight until she was able to travel

to a secret location where she would be safe.

If she was discovered to be pregnant and refused the government's order to have an abortion, she knew what would follow: as the parents of an "illegal" child, she and her husband would both lose their secure government jobs and their government subsidized housing. They would have no income and no way to take care of their children and her husband's elderly parents. The huge fine that the population control police would gleefully levy upon them would wipe out their savings and leave them destitute.

We asked her if things weren't better under the two-child policy. "No," she said emphatically. "They are much worse. So very much worse."

"It isn't as simple as everyone gets two children," she went on. "Each local authority makes up their own rules. They are all trying to make up for their lost income. They charge for the permits that must be obtained for the second child. They impose other restrictions, like how many years apart the children must be, and so on. Each of these restrictions becomes another way for the population control police to charge money and make more money. And if they catch you pregnant with an illegal child, they take everything you have."¹

Before the new national two-child policy, she explained, each town and county had more authority and a lot more leeway. A person's *guanxi*—the relationships you have with people in power—counted for

“ Among other things, the Planned Birth policy forbids out-of-wedlock births and childbearing without permission—even if it is a couple's first child. So women who violate these rules are still being hunted down and, when found, aborted and sterilized. ”

a lot. You could bribe local officials with "gifts" in return for them turning a blind eye to an "illegal" second or third child. The local authorities could make more lenient decisions for individuals based on these *guanxi* relationships, and paying off the local officials in "gifts" to have a second or third child was often much cheaper than paying the official fine. But now that everyone is allowed a second child, the authorities are more determined than ever to track down women pregnant with illegal children. It's all about the money, she concluded.

PRI is continuing its on-the-ground investigation, but it is safe to say that the two-child policy definitely does not mean a new dawn of reproductive freedom for Chinese couples. The state still controls reproduction under a state plan, and the officials charged with enforcing it are even more coercive and corrupt than ever.

“ We asked her if things weren't better under the two-child policy. “No,” she said emphatically. “They are much worse. So very much worse.” ”

¹ <http://www.cecc.gov/events/hearings/china's-new-two-child-policy-the-continuation-of-massive-crimes-against-women-and>

The Pill and the Ponzi Scheme: The Demographic Implosion of Social Security

By W. Patrick Cunningham

There's bad news and worse news about the financial state of the Social Security system.

There is no hiding the facts, which are outlined in the 2016 trustees report from June 2016.¹ The facts won't change in the 2017 report, either. Payments to Social Security and Medicare beneficiaries consume 41 percent of the federal budget.

Forty-one percent.

The financial solvency of these systems has been troubling for several decades, and without fancy accounting tricks, the system would be insolvent already. In fact, if any commercial firm had a retirement and health care plan like this in place, the relevant government agency would make it declare bankruptcy and send the directors to prison.

Medicare and Social Security (OASDI) are funded in similar ways. Both have the attributes of "Ponzi financing." This means that beneficiaries are paid almost directly from revenues taken from workers' paychecks, the "FICA" deduction that nearly every worker and company pays.

The ability of the government to make direct deposits to the bank accounts of Social Security beneficiaries depends on the size of the payrolls being taxed. In the 1930s, when the system first came into existence, there were a lot more workers paying in than beneficiaries taking out of the Social Security "lockbox." As those workers retired, it became important to bring more

active workers into the workforce, and to increase the FICA tax rate, so that payments could continue to be made.

During the 1970s, the arrival of the "Boomer" generation in the U.S. workforce made it possible to increase payments from the system. But it also presaged a time when the huge demographic balloons of Boomers, themselves retiring after the year 2010, would drain the system of cash.

"Fixing the System"

In order to try to handle future shortfalls, Congress "fixed" the system by (1) increasing the FICA tax and (2) delaying the normal retirement date of Boomer workers.² As an example, I was born in 1947. My normal retirement date under the original age-65 retirement date would have been 2012. Instead, I became eligible for

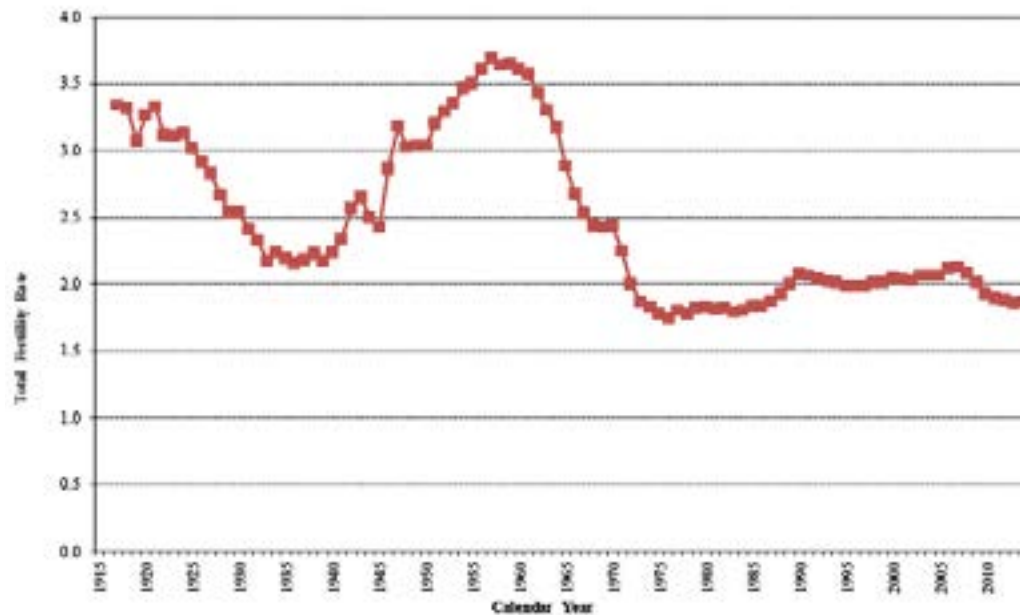
Social Security without deduction (I continued to teach) only in 2013.

Between 1980 and 2011, many billions of excess dollars were invested into the "Social Security Trust Fund," in which money accumulated at interest. Except for one thing: the only instrument the trust fund could invest in were special U.S. government bonds. That meant that each year the Social Security trustees were owning more and more of the federal debt.

When it came time to cash in those securities, the trustees were actually presenting them to a member of their own board, the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, for payment from the government's general fund.

A friend of mine explained it in rather stark language during the original congressional debate in the 1980s: It's like deducting \$2,000 each year for

Chart 1.1: Historical Total Fertility Rates for the United States



Social Security Administration
Office of the Chief Actuary
June 22, 2016

IRA payments from your taxes, and then retiring to find in the lock box only IOUs you've written to yourself for the principal and interest.

The system would have worked indefinitely if the U.S. fertility rate had held up at the 1965 peak of 2.9 children per woman, as I explained in the July/August 1995 issue of *Culture Wars*.³ But the medically dangerous birth control pill took hold of the imagination and reproductive systems of Catholics and others in the 1970s, and by 1975 the fertility rate had crashed to less than 1.8 children per woman.

In other words, the Boomer generation came into existence because of the vigorous fertility of Catholics between 1945 and 1966, but that generation's own fertility was eviscerated by hormonal contraceptives and abortion. By the first decade of the new millennium, it became clear that there would be no recovery of fertility, and the Ponzi financing of Social Security and Medicare doomed it to insolvency.

From 2000 to 2010 fertility peaked at 2.12, still below the solvency level. Gravely injured by the recession that began in 2008, fertility then sank to 1.89 in 2011. That's not even demographic replacement rate.⁴

The trustees state that the system is solvent. But that's an accounting trick. The special government bonds held in the "trust fund" earn interest from the federal government. Taxes collected from FICA are not enough to pay the beneficiaries, so general revenue is tapped for the interest due.

What happens after 2019

Costs have been greater than taxes collected since 2010. As the trustees admit in their report, between the

present day and 2019 the deficiency in Social Security taxes will average \$69 billion. After that, the trustees admit that this deficiency "will rise steeply."

So, in the trustees' words, what are the "many policy options that would reduce or eliminate the long-term financing shortfalls in Social Security and Medicare"? The problem is too much money coming out and too little going in. The problem is that the Ponzi financing has unarguably been transformed into a Ponzi scheme, a Madoff-style fraud.

Seventeen years ago, Steven W. Mosher and I appeared on Capitol Hill to propose that since low-fertility Americans were causing the problem, the financing and payout of the system should be changed. Either high-fertility parents should be taxed at a lower rate (all the way down to 0 percent), or low-fertility retirees should see payments reduced (for couples with no children, no payments above the minimum). Those suggestions still have validity.

But it may be that the best solution to this financing catastrophe should come in the context of a total overhaul of the tax system. Let's finally admit that the system is insolvent and shut the FICA tax down. It's the most regressive tax we are burdened with, anyway. Perhaps we could call OAS payments what they really are, "Elder Welfare."

We might stop the pretense that there is a "Social Security Trust Fund" and default on the bonds. High-fertility households would see a steep increase in the income tax value of their children. Low-fertility retirees would see a reduction in their checks.

It's only fair. Citizens of the United States have been lied to about Social Security for eight decades; it's time to bring the system under the glaring light of truth.

W. Patrick Cunningham is a deacon at St. Pius X Catholic Church in San Antonio, Texas, and a frequent contributor to Catholic publications.

Because of you, our loyal friend

We will never be able to thank you enough for being a loyal friend of Population Research Institute...

...But here's our try!

It's because of you that women in China can safely have their "illegal" babies, and women in India can hope to receive real health care—not forced birth control or sterilization—and that women in the Caribbean have a place they can turn to for real pregnancy support. It's because of you that millions of U.S. dollars no longer pay for abortions in foreign countries! Please remember that we all thank God, every day for you and for all of these important ways you help!

Thank you for your loyal support.

¹ <https://www.ssa.gov/oact/tr/2016/tr2016.pdf>

² <https://www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/background.html>

³ <https://www.ewtn.com/library/ISSUES/CONTRASS.TXT>

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/03/health/united-states-fertility-rate.html?mcubz=3>

Social Justice Begins in The Womb



Dr. Christopher Manion

These days Catholics hear a lot about “Social Justice” – an agenda that’s long on politics and support for the welfare-state, but short on the tough truths of the Gospel. When it comes to marriage, family and *Humanae Vitae*, we hear only silence from “Social Justice Warriors” (SJWs)—sometimes even when they’re bishops.

Consider: Since January the U.S. Catholic bishops’ conference (USCCB) has criticized President Trump’s positions on more than a dozen political issues, including health care, the travel ban, refugee policy, Cuba policy, the Paris agreement, the death penalty, global warming, the environment, immigration, foreign aid, sanctuary cities, deportations and border security.

All these statements address issues on which good Catholics can disagree—but our bishops consistently fail to mention that.

And what about the president’s pro-life record—superb judicial appointments, expanding the Mexico City policy, opposing Planned Parenthood and UNFPA funding and demanding the repeal of Obamacare? These policies earn scant attention from the bishops, even though they all affirm

objective truths which Catholics are bound to embrace as a matter of faith and morals—no exceptions.

This confusion makes things especially tough for our kids in college. Pro-life students encounter opposition everywhere, of course. The politically correct “snowflakes” rule on virtually every campus in the country.

But pro-lifers find it especially tough at most Catholic (in name) colleges. There, liberal professors and student SJWs can claim the bishops’ imprimatur when they demand that students support their left-wing agenda—“otherwise you aren’t really Catholic.” And because their political agenda is more popular than the defense of the unborn, the SJWs keep the pro-lifers on the sidelines whenever possible. They’re an embarrassment.

All this is nothing new, because “Social Justice” is just a domestic version of Liberation Theology. That’s the heresy that has driven tens of millions of Latin American Catholics out of the pews and into the arms of Protestant sects that broadcast one simple message: “We preach the Bible; Catholics preach politics.” Alas, that’s the same error that runs rampant on our own Catholic campuses, where *Humanae Vitae* is an orphan while politics thrives.

Frankly, we can’t blame the kids for being confused – Catholic bishops are too. In July, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, USCCB President, told an interviewer that “the pro-life [people] and the social justice people” were just expressing two different “points of view that really should be complementary.”¹

Savor that. For America’s leading Catholic prelate, “social justice” and the sanctity of life are just two

“points of view.” Pro-lifers apparently just haven’t yet gotten the bishops’ message, after all these years, that the welfare-state agenda “really ought to be complementary” with their defense of life—and just as mandatory.

Since Cardinal James Gibbons founded the conference a hundred years ago, our bishops have consistently supported the agenda of the Democratic Party (except for abortion). That position is certainly permitted by Catholic social teaching, but so are a wide variety of other approaches. Moreover, *Lumen Gentium*, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church proclaimed at Vatican II, places practical politics firmly in the hands of the laity, not the clergy. The clergy is ordained to teach the objective truths that the faithful “must believe with divine and Catholic faith.” (Code of Canon Law, No. 750) The laity, by contrast, deal with the many prudential particulars of social life and law on which they can, and usually do, honestly and faithfully disagree. (*Lumen Gentium*, No. 37).

Cardinal Robert Sarah recently warned: “If the Church, with the obsession she has today with the values of justice, social rights and the struggle against poverty, ends up as a result by forgetting her contemplative soul, she will fail in her mission and she will be abandoned by a great many of her faithful.”²

Right now, “Social Justice Warriors” by the millions are abandoning the unborn. Students for Life has the answer: “Social justice begins in the womb.”³ And that’s a good place to start.

¹ <https://cruxnow.com/interviews/2017/07/03/dinardo-popes-joy-gospel-key-american-catholic-future/>

² <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/card-sarah-a-decentralized-church-would-face-confusion-then-dispersion-the>

³ <http://studentsforlife.org/prolifefacts/abortion-and-social-justice/>

GLOBAL MONITOR

Catholic News Agency - At this year's Napa Institute Conference, an annual gathering in California to equip Catholic leaders to defend and advance the faith, Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia had this to say:

"When young people ask me how to change the world, I tell them to love each other, get married, stay faithful to one another, have lots of children, and raise those children to be men and women of Christian character. Faith is a seed. It doesn't flower overnight. It takes time and love and effort. Money is important, but it's never the most important thing.

"The future belongs to people with children, not with things. Things rust and break. But every child is a universe of possibility that reaches into eternity, connecting our memories and our hopes in a sign of God's love across the generations. That's what matters. The soul of a child is forever."

We couldn't have put it better ourselves.

CBS News -Downs syndrome has all but vanished in Iceland, but not because of a genetic cure. Instead, the law requires prenatal screenings to be offered to all pregnant women, and nearly 100 percent of Iceland mothers who receive a positive result for Downs choose to abort the child, according to a CBS News "On Assignment" report.

Some 6,000 Downs syndrome babies are born each year in the United States, where an estimated 67 percent of mothers who receive a prenatal diagnosis choose abortion; in Iceland, with a population 1 percent the size of the U.S., one might expect 60 each year. However, most years there are only two.

The report by CBS News correspondent Elaine Quijano was notable for its melancholy music, the reporter's furrowed brow and sorrowful tone, and the headline: "'What kind of society do you want to live in?': Inside the country where Down syndrome is disappearing." The theme was not one of victory, but grim warning.

Quijano quoted a prenatal counselor who admits that while she tries to give neutral counseling, some believe that just offering the screening points women in "a certain direction." She added: "I think there's some truth in that (belief)."

The story also featured pregnant women who are among the 15 percent who refuse the testing "because it wouldn't make a difference"; Quijano also featured families with children who are living - and living well - with Down Syndrome.

Icelandic geneticist Kari Stefansson said the high abortion rate for Downs "reflects a relatively heavy-handed genetic counseling, and I don't think

that ...is desirable. ... You're having impact on decisions that are not medical."

BBC - Obianuju Ekeocha, a Nigerian-born biomedical scientist and the founder of U.K.-based Culture of Life Africa, objected to the Gates Foundation's plan to fund \$375 million in family planning programs in Africa.

Speaking on a panel on BBC's *Sunday Morning Live* she called the Gates' plan "an insidious way of moving the agenda of population control" and added that in fact, in African countries, the "desired number of children is actually quite high."

"I'm sure Melinda Gates means well," Ekeocha said, "but you see the problem is there is an arrogance and questions not being asked in all the talk about contraception and helping women space their children. What exactly - speaking of Africa, for example - what exactly do women want?"

"Research continues to show that in a lot of the countries (the) desired number of children is actually quite high in cultures where people value children or value big families. What are you saying to the women if you continue to push their governments towards the so-called family planning projects?"

Catholic News Agency: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/want-to-change-the-world-it-starts-with-joy-archbishop-chaput-says-13858/>

CBS News: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/down-syndrome-iceland/>

BBC Sunday Morning Live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwTujeO9eB4>

PRI IN THE NEWS

Church Militant -- With a viewership of over 5 million and counting, PRI's "Pop101" series was recently featured in the Church Militant's popular show, "The Download." The videos featured included "Overpopulation: Making of a Myth" and "Poverty: Where it All Started."

The show brought up the recently concluded, pro-abortion "World Population Summit," held on July 11 in London. The summit was held in commemoration of the annual "World Population Day," established by the UN in 1989. This year's theme was, "Family Planning: Empowering People, Developing Nations."

Among those present at the summit were the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Canada's foreign minister, who called abortion a "tool to end poverty." All told, donors at the summit pledged \$2.5 billion toward "family planning" programs in the developing world, which the Church Militant episode correctly identified as a "shadow term for contraception."

LifeSite News - A controversial study published in *Environmental Research Letters*, featured widely and favorably in the mainstream media, has proposed that the most effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is for families to have one fewer child.

This suggestion is "ridiculous" and "dangerous," said PRI President Steven Mosher in an article in *LifeSite News*,

and the study is nothing more than "climate extremism masquerading as science."

The study "is not science but rank speculation, and should emphatically not be used as the basis for government policy," Mosher told *LifeSiteNews* in an email.

The study looks at the effect of individual actions on cutting carbon emissions, which the authors contend were needed for the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. The authors

“
The small amount of global warming projected over the next century is, on balance, going to be good for humanity. Who wants another Ice Age?
”

simply took numbers from a model on carbon footprints developed at Oregon State University nine years ago, according to Mosher.

All the authors did was "add the ridiculous suggestion that schoolchildren ought to be discouraged from having children of their own, or at least as many children as they would like," said Mosher. "This is a dangerous suggestion, as we can see from the experience of China."

In addition, Mosher added that it is not clear our carbon footprint even matters.

"I don't think it does, since carbon dioxide levels have been far higher in the earth's past than they are likely to become as a result of human activity," he said. "Also, the small amount of global warming projected over the next century is, on balance, going to be good for humanity. Who wants another Ice Age?"

Mosher's critique was quoted again in *LifeSite News* in a three-part series by columnist Steve Jalsevac on how President Donald Trump did the world a huge favor by withdrawing from the Paris Climate Agreement.

According to the series, several reports have come forward confirming that most recent global warming data was fabricated by climate scientists to make it look more frightening. The latest peer-reviewed study making that claim was produced by two scientists and a veteran statistician and has been formerly endorsed by six other prominent scientists and a senior economist

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FROM THE COUNTRIES

Iran

Yet another country is discovering that efforts to curb births are risking their future and need to be reversed. This time it's Iran, according to a column in *The Iranian* online magazine.

The article reports that the mullahs are now using public venues and occasions, especially the mosques and the Friday prayers, to encourage larger families as a Shiite religious duty. Efforts are made to create a culture of “more kids are better,” and family planning programs are portrayed as Western-oriented strategies not befitting Muslim societies.

Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, has said: “The birth rate must not be allowed to fall below a critical level, and we must not allow a reduction in the number of infants and children.

“One of our mistakes was limiting the generation and this should have been stopped.”²

Kenya

The Clinton State Department illegally spent over \$20 million pushing through a new constitution in Kenya that legalized abortion. Of course, the Kenyan people were told that this would not mean abortion on demand, but that abortion would only be permitted when necessary to preserve the life of the mother.

Now we have the abortion-promoting group, Ipas, rolling out an abortion-referral smartphone app in the African country. Ipas boasts on its website that they are working with local health officials in Busia County to replace paper logbooks and referrals with a mobile phone referral system, complete with apps and text messages.

Out of 4,457 mobile referrals to clients during the six-month trial, 75 percent were for reproductive health services, including abortion. No physician examination, to determine risk to the mother, is necessary.

The Kenyan government should take note, and shut this service down.

² **Iran:** <https://iranian.com/2017/07/17/iran-failing-population-growth-strategies/>

³ **Kenya:** http://spotlight.ipas.org/linking-women-to-care?utm_source=SAMe&utm_medium=email&utm_content=read&utm_campaign=mHealth

PRI's Msgr. Michel Schooyans: Priest, Professor, Defender of Life



Msgr. Michel Schooyans
Credit: Pontifical Academy of
Social Sciences

Editor's note: PRI has a number of corresponding members from around the world. Here we introduce Father Michel Schooyans.

Michel Schooyans (born on 6 July 1930 in Belgium), was ordained as a priest in 1955. Father Schooyans completed a Ph.D. in Philosophy in 1958 and was sent to Brazil the same year by the COPAL, the Collège pour l'Amérique latine de Louvain, a Belgian institution created at the instigation of the

Holy See to train Belgian missionary priests who would be sent to Latin America to counter Marxist and Protestant influences there.¹

He taught theology and political philosophy in Catholic universities in Brazil (Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo) from 1959 to 1969 and Belgium (Université Catholique de Louvain) from 1965 to 1995.

In a 1998 text marking and commenting on the 50th anniversary of the United Nations' *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, he wrote that “every time that, in the name of this new conception of human rights, “new individual rights”—right to homosexuality, to abortion, to euthanasia, etc.—are suggested, there is a step forward towards the civilian sacralisation of violence”²

During the 2010 controversy over the excommunication of doctors who had performed an abortion on a Brazilian girl, Msgr. Schooyans was one of those who asked for Bishop Fisichella's resignation from the presidency of the Pontifical Academy for Life, saying that he had fallen into the trap of “bogus compassion,” in criticizing the action of the Brazilian bishops.

He is a former member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences of the Vatican, and a current member of the Institute for Demographic Policy in Paris, and, of course, of our own Population Research Institute.

¹ *Mission et engagement politique après 1945: Afrique, Amérique latine, Europe*, Karthala Editions, 2010, pp. 53, 58

² *Droits de l'homme et démocratie: A propos du cinquantenaire de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme*

PRI Trains Pro-Life, Pro-Family Leaders at International CitizenGo Summer School



By Carlos Polo

The CitizenGO Summer School is perhaps the most important training conference of the year for pro-life and pro-family activists, and the Population Research Institute (PRI) once again had a prominent presence in 2017. Carlos Polo, Director of the PRI Latin American Office, gave the opening address for the conference.

Running from July 17 to 21 in Madrid, the CitizenGO Summer School brought together more than 100 representatives from diverse pro-life organizations across five continents. As at the first conference, held in Málaga, Spain, in July of last year, the Population Research Institute was a central participant. This year's conference featured 20 speakers from the United States, Europe, and Latin America who shared their experiences and successes in pro-life activism and fundraising.

Polo presented in the first part of the training, which focused on "How to effectively win our battles." He was joined by Ignacio Arsuaga, President of HazteOír; Jack Valero, co-founder of Catholic Voices; and Ursula Murúa,

Director of Digital Strategy and Social Media at El Grupo ACI, the world's largest provider of Catholic online news in the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking world.

The second part of the training, "How to raise funds," is a well-renowned course offered by Leadership Institute President Morton Blackwell and a select group of fundraising experts.

Polo's presentation highlighted the importance of developing and utilizing professional skills and tools in service of defending pro-life and pro-family values. The presentation provided an overarching vision for the framework of the rest of the conference.

"If there is a key way to make a difference in the future of the international pro-life movement, it is this: to invest in development and training of individuals in the 'tools of participation,' including how to use political, strategic, marketing, social media and fundraising tools," Polo emphasized.

Polo presented the 12 "tools of civic participation in politics" developed by the Population Research Institute. Among them, he emphasized the method of "analysis of political scenarios," which he has offered in more than 60 courses in 18 countries throughout the Americas and Europe, providing training to more than 1,700 members from more than 100 pro-life and pro-family organizations over the past 10 years.

He also described the powerful new tools of "Agenda Setting and Agenda Building," one of the most recent contributions of PRI to the international pro-life movement.

A first course in this new method was introduced in 2016 by Carlos Beltramo, Director of the PRI European Office, to the directors of pro-life organizations in Europe.

Polo's presentation included a short clip from the movie "Moneyball," based on a true story of a man who revolutionized major league baseball in the United States through the creation of a statistical tool for acquiring new players and building winning teams. Brad Pitt portrays Billy Beane, former General Manager of the Oakland Athletics, a low-budget team that had just lost its best players to richer teams.

Beane, with the help of a young economist, Peter Brand (played by Jonah Hill), used a completely new and innovative tool to build a competitive team with an austere budget. The team went on to break the record for the most consecutive wins in the history of major league baseball. After the Oakland A's set the record of 20 consecutive wins, no other team was able to do without the system Beane created without running the risk of becoming obsolete themselves.

The story resonated with the audience at the 2017 CitizenGO Summer School, who as pro-life and pro-family organizations continually find themselves fighting against enemies with great economic and political power throughout the world.

"If one man was able to overcome great odds with creativity, innovation, and dedication in professional baseball, why is it not possible to do the same in service of more important and transcendent values?" Polo concluded.