



Hormonal Contraceptives Increase Breast Cancer Risk, Major Study Finds

Today's pills just as risky as early versions

BY JONATHAN ABBAMONTE

A study published in December in *The New England Journal of Medicine* found that hormonal contraceptives, including oral contraceptive pills and hormone-releasing IUDs, significantly increase women's risk for breast cancer.

The study found that women who used hormonal contraception had a 20 percent elevated risk¹ for breast cancer compared to women who had never used a hormonal method.

The risk was also found to be time-dependent, increasing the longer the hormonal drugs were used. Women who used hormonal contraception longer than 10 years saw their risk for breast cancer increase by almost 40 percent.²

While the study showed that the breast cancer risk decreased after



stopping hormonal contraception, for women who used a hormonal method for five years or more, the effects of the drug lingered. Women who used hormonal contraception longer than five years saw a significant elevated risk for breast cancer even five years or more after discontinuation.

The results were adjusted for age, education, parity, medical histo-

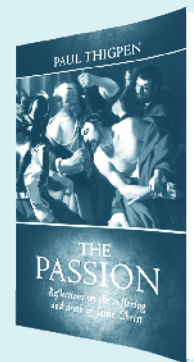
ry, and family history of breast and ovarian cancer.

The results of the study are similar to the findings from the landmark 1996 *Lancet* study from the Collaborative Group on Hormonal Factors in Breast Cancer. *The Lancet* study similarly found that combined oral contraceptives (COC) increase women's risk for breast cancer by 24

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The Passion

This gift will help you have the holiest and most sacred Lenten season ever

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North Korea's Tragic Export To One-Child China: Women

by Steven W. Mosher



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Why are an estimated 85 percent of the North Koreans who manage to make their way to freedom in South Korea women?

And why do nearly all come by way of China, rather than across the heavily guarded DMZ, and have sad stories of sexual abuse to tell?

The backward North Korean economy produces very little that the world wants. Big Brother China, however, is hungry for the two things Pyongyang does have in relative abundance: coal and women. The coal keeps the fires burning in energy-poor China. The women help to meet the shortage of brides in China's male-dominated society.

China's one-child policy has devastated the female population. Over the past three-and-a-half decades that the policy has been in place, tens of millions of girls have disappeared from the population. They were killed in utero by sex-selection abortions, at birth by female infanticide, or after birth by simple neglect.

Sex-selection abortion is the biggest offender. Almost ten million such abortions were carried out between the years 2000 and 2014. That works out to 1800 unborn girls eliminated every day, 640,000 eliminated each year, and six and half million each decade.

This targeting of unborn baby girls has so skewed the sex ratio at birth that there are now at least 115 boys born for every 100 girls.

The result is that women of marriageable age are in short supply. There are now an estimated 33 million men in China who

cannot find brides—at least inside of China. And so they look abroad.

The State Department's 2013 "Trafficking in Persons Report" acknowledged the connection, stating that "the Chinese government's birth control policy and a cultural preference for sons, created a skewed sex-ratio of 118 boys to 100 girls in China, which served as a key source of demand for the trafficking of foreign women as brides for Chinese men and for forced prostitution."

One place that Chinese men look for brides is the other side of the Yalu River, for in North Korea there are lots of young women longing for a better life. The population of Kim Jong Un's socialist paradise subsists in near famine conditions, with two in five North Koreans undernourished and more than two-thirds on food aid.

The latest United Nations report, published in March 2017, paints a grim picture: Out of a population of 24 million, "an estimated 18 million people are dependent on government food rations while 10.5 million people are believed to be undernourished. A lack of access to basic services including water and sanitation, as well as a weak health infrastructure further threaten the well-being of the population, particularly young children and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Even members of Kim's highly touted "one-million-man army" are starving; witness the sick and malnourished defector who recently crawled across the DMZ to freedom.

As a result of this widespread and continuing food shortage, starving North

Fr. Paul Marx, OSB, PhD
(1920-2010)

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Letters

Korea peasants are often happy to sell a teenaged daughter—whom they would have trouble feeding in any event—to agents who claim that they are recruiting workers for Chinese companies. “Your daughter will be given a job in a factory or restaurant,” they promise the parents. “She will finally have enough to eat.”

Older women are also lured across the border on the same promise.

But these “hiring agents” are actually sex traffickers, and what awaits the North Korean girls and women in China is not a real job but either forced marriage or out-and-out sexual slavery. Young girls, especially if they are virgins, are sold to the highest bidder as brides. Older women are generally sold to brothels where they are kept under lock and key and forced to work as prostitutes.

It is no wonder that many of them take flight at the first opportunity, paying “snakeheads”—illegal guides—to lead them safely across China’s southern border to Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand. From there they can easily travel to South Korea and freedom.

“Historically, the largest influence in female migration from North Korea to China has been sex trafficking and marriages,” said Sokeel Park, the Seoul-based director of research and strategy for Liberty in North Korea, an organization that helps rescue North Korean refugees hiding in China.

Having found their way to freedom, few of these women will go on record saying that they were forced into prostitution or sold as wives in China. But nearly all, as vulnerable women in a country with a superabundance of often predatory males, were sexually abused in some way.

This article was originally published by Fox News: <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2017/12/12/north-korea-exports-women-to-china.html>.

Larger families mean happier society

DECEMBER 4, 2017

Hi Steve,
I just perused your site and saw the article in regards to consumersim. (“The Earth Is Not Sick and Mankind Is Thriving as Never Before” July 9, 2015, www.pop.org) It’s funny you know, I have 6 kids—you have 9—yet I’m sure like me you have heard comments in regards to the cost we pose to the taxpayer and how we are a burden and are the cause of excessive consumption in society.

The thing is because we have larger families than most we actually consume less per person. We are more efficient with our consumption because we cannot afford to “give everything” to all our children. Our kids learn to share, to go without, to sacrifice, and most importantly learn to think about others, and why? Because they have to survive.

Yet today’s folk want the best for their kids and in the end actually give them the worst. Because they become accustomed to “getting it all” they lose the opportunity for special moments and continue to yearn for more complex gratification as the simple things just don’t cut it. Whilst I don’t wish for poverty I believe that people who live in poverty are often happier than those not in poverty.

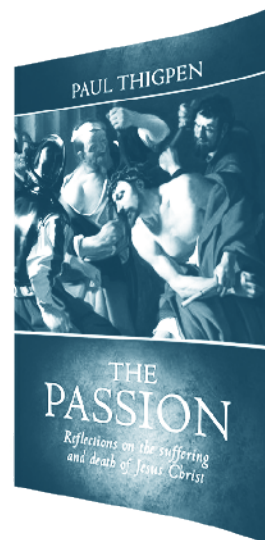
Whilst I could go on and on about this, the fact is the smaller and wealthier the families in society become the less happy they truly are. They consume more per person, and are more discontent as they continually need to aim for something more. Emotionally they become weaker as they never experience thankful achievements as their goals are self-gratifying. This is in stark contrast to selfless actions that help others. It’s quite sad that the more we have, the less we give, the sadder we become. Yet those with little will give the most, will sacrifice and are the happiest.

Thank you, Steve, for all your work. I hope and pray that yours is a mission that many will discover and can open within them a realization of what is right and true.

God Bless,
Daniel Rossetto
Australia

Steve’s reply: Absolutely, Daniel. The “economies of scale” we achieve in large families make it, to use the title of the classic movie by the same name, “cheaper by the dozen.” Not to mention that the dynamics of large families are wonderful; love doesn’t divide, it multiplies.

This Gift Will Help You Have the Holiest and Most Sacred Lenten Season Ever



This is a gift you're sure to use and cherish during the upcoming Lenten season and many more to come: It's *The Passion: Reflections on the Suffering and Death of Jesus Christ*.

It's also unlike any other book of Lenten reflections and I'll explain why in just a minute.

The author of *The Passion: Reflections on the Suffering and Death of Jesus Christ* is Paul Thigpen, editor of TAN Books, one of America's leading Catholic publishers. He is also the author or compiler of over 40 books, including the best-selling *The Rapture Trap: A Catholic Response to End Times Fever*.

The Passion: Reflections on the Suffering and Death of Jesus Christ gives you . . .

- * 40 daily reflections on the suffering and death of Christ—His prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane, His trial, the suffering He endured during his climb to Calvary, His hours of anguish on the Cross, plus more that will vividly remind you of all that Christ endured for us
- * An appropriate Scriptural passage to accompany each of the 40 reflections
- * A prayer for each day of Lent

Plus there's this . . .

Unlike any other book of Lenten reflections, *The Passion* includes visions of Christ's suffering as told by two revered Catholic mystics. Let me tell you about them . . .

The first of the two celebrated Catholic mystics quoted extensively in *The Passion* is the Augustinian nun, Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich (1774–1824). **Her story is fascinating:** Blessed Anne Catherine bore

the stigmata, including the marks of the thorns. (The stigmata were declared genuine by a panel of physicians selected by her bishop.)

With no medical training, Blessed Anne Catherine could nonetheless correctly diagnose illnesses of those who visited her and prescribe successful remedies. Reports of distant events were often not news to her as she could clearly see and hear them as they occurred. She could also accurately predict numerous significant happenings.

Mystical visions were a common occurrence for Blessed Anne Catherine, and you'll find a good number of them excerpted in *The Passion: Reflections on the Suffering and Death of Jesus Christ*.

And the second renowned Catholic mystic whose words are found throughout *The Passion* is Venerable Maria de Agreda (1602-1665). As a teenager she entered a convent in Spain. Known for her great holiness, she was made abbess at the young age of 25. Maria is best known for her book, *The Mystical City of God: A Divine History of the Virgin Mother of God*, in which she presents messages from God received in contemplation. Her visions are also well represented in this gift.

Sending you *The Passion: Reflections on the Suffering and Death of Jesus Christ* is PRI's way of wishing you a holy and sacred Lent while also thanking you for your much-needed support of \$40 or more. May I send your copy today?

Please use the enclosed Gift Reply to request your copy of
The Passion—Reflections on the Suffering and Death of Jesus Christ . . .

Hormonal Contraceptives, *continued*

percent among current users and by 16 percent among women who have stopped using COCs within a year.³

The new study, led by Lina Mørch from the Department of Gynecology at the University of Copenhagen, followed the medical history of over 1.8 million women. Mørch used data from the Danish Sex Hormone Register Study, a large epidemiological study that has maintained health records on all women 15-49 years of age in Denmark since 1995.

The Mørch study is the largest and most comprehensive study ever carried out assessing the link between breast cancer and hormonal contraception.

“This is an important study because we had no idea how the modern-day pills compared to the old-fashioned pills in terms of breast cancer risk, and we didn’t know anything about I.U.D.’s,” Dr. Marisa Weiss, founder of *breastcancer.org* told *The New York Times*.

Earlier formulations of oral contraceptives used in the 1970s and 80s used higher doses of synthetic estrogens than today’s contraceptives. When studies came out decades ago linking synthetic estrogens with breast cancer, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration began pulling

high-dose estrogen oral contraceptives off the market in the early 1990s.

It was hoped that the formulations for combined oral contraceptives on the market today—which use smaller doses of synthetic estrogens like ethinyl estradiol and estradiol valerate—would be safer to use. However, Mørch’s study now makes it clear that today’s oral contraceptives carry the same level of risk for breast cancer that the old pills did.

It now appears that estrogens are not the only culprit. The Mørch study found that progestins—synthetic hormones that mimic certain properties of progesterone and are used in contraceptive drugs on their own or combined with estrogens—also may increase breast cancer risk.

Mørch and colleagues found the breast cancer risk remained statistically significant across hormonal methods regardless of which progestin was used.

Even progestin-only contraceptives, which do not contain any synthetic estrogens, demonstrated a higher risk. Women using oral contraceptives alone containing the progestin levonorgestrel were almost



The Mørch study is the largest and most comprehensive study ever carried out assessing the link between breast cancer and hormonal contraception.

twice as likely to develop breast cancer.⁴ Levonorgestrel is often touted as the safest progestin for posing a lower risk for heart attack and stroke than other progestins.^{5,6}

In response to the study’s findings, researchers and the media have been quick to reassure the public that even with the elevated risks associated with hormonal contraceptives, the overall risk remains small.

Mørch and colleagues found that hormonal methods increase the risk of breast cancer for women under 35 by roughly 25 percent.

“Young women who are put on hormonal birth control are often not told anything about the harmful side effects they may experience,” says PRI President Steven Mosher, “The cancers and strokes they may suffer as a result are regarded by Planned Parenthood and others as acceptable collateral damage of the war on fertility that they are carrying out.”

¹ (RR: 1.20; 95% CI, 1.14–1.26), cited from: Mørch LS, Skovlund CW, Hannaford PC, Iversen L, Fielding S, Lidegaard Ø. Contemporary hormonal contraception and the risk of breast cancer. *The New England Journal of Medicine* 2017; 377:2228-39. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1700732.

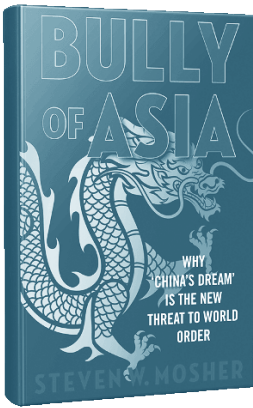
^{2,4} (RR: 1.38; 95% CI, 1.26–1.51), cited from Mørch (2017).

³ Breast cancer and hormonal contraceptives: collaborative reanalysis of individual data on 53 297 women with breast cancer and 100 239 women without breast cancer from 54 epidemiological studies. *The Lancet* 1996 Jun 22;347(9017):1713-27.

⁵ Roach RE, Helmerhorst FM, Lijfering WM, Stijnen T, Algra A, Dekkers OM. Combined oral contraceptives: the risk of myocardial infarction and ischemic stroke. *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2014;(8):CD011054. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD011054.pub2.

⁶ van Hylckama Vlieg A, Helmerhorst FM, Rosendaal FR. The risk of deep venous thrombosis associated with injectable depot–medroxyprogesterone acetate contraceptives or a levonorgestrel intrauterine device. *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology* 2010 Nov 1;30(11):2297-300.

Mosher's Groundbreaking *Bully of Asia* Released to Five-Star Reviews



China's status and influence is rising rapidly on the international stage. An increasingly assertive China is gradually challenging the current world order and the international norms and democratic principles that undergird it.

In his latest book, *Bully of Asia*, critically acclaimed author and internationally recognized authority on China, **Steven W. Mosher**, provides an insightful and timely commentary on the economic and geopolitical rise of the People's Republic of China.

Below are some excerpts of initial reviews of this important new book.

From Breitbart.com

China's History Feeds Quest for Domination

In his new book, *Bully of Asia*, author (and Breitbart contributor) Steven W. Mosher makes the compelling argument that trying to understand Xi Jinping's rise to power is impossible if the West insists on studying Chinese history from the era of Mao Zedong. Instead, he contends, one must look to the history that informed and inspired the modern tyrants of China, and in particular the success of Qin Shihuang, China's first emperor, in ending the existence of China's nation-states.

As fun as the book is to read for its narrative qualities, however, it also imparts an important warning about China: it has had millennia to perfect totalitarianism, and its leaders do not want to stop now. The legalists of China's last millennium B.C. established government systems that forced spouses to report each other for "crimes," commanded the burning of inconvenient books, and rewrote the teachings of Confucius to their benefit.

Mosher clearly concludes that a clash of civilizations between America and China is inevitable. "There is no room in either country's conception of the future global order for the other," he writes.

Yet as dire as this seems, time and again **Mosher offers hope** by highlighting the Chinese people's own resistance to authoritarianism. The Chinese—like everyone else—reject being stripped of their humanity. They ultimately felled the Qin dynasty, established the Republic of China in rejection of communism, have embraced Christianity by the tens of millions, and continue to struggle against the regime through human rights lawsuits and global advocacy. Even in the implicit dire warning Mosher offers that Chinese authoritarianism is almost as old as humanity itself, the resilience of opposition to that authoritarianism is a beacon of hope.

—FRANCES MARTEL

From Amazon.com

With mounting admiration I have read *Bully of Asia*. Mosher's new

book is the most sophisticated, up to date, richly based argument in existence for dangers in the Rise of China—dangers to the giant's neighbors and to America. The author has long experience of China, writes beautifully, knows ancient history, and cares about the values of the democratic West and its friends. *Bully of Asia* burst's the bubble of Beltway liberals' trembling over risks in "upsetting China." Beijing is realistic; Mosher, digging beneath the surface of current issues, urges the U.S. to be realistic too.

—DR. ROSS TERRILL
Fairbank Center, Harvard University

China's people are not citizens, they are property

Wow! Steve Mosher demonstrates his total command of China, its history, culture, politics, and, most importantly, present intentions. Mosher shows beyond any doubt, in my opinion, that whatever the public face of China happens to be behind it lays a deeply-rooted imperial self-identity. China not only wants to take control of as much territory as possible but also has no compunc-

tion about any loss of life in carrying out its destiny.

What Mosher has done is to provide the long historical background that explains why such massacres remain part of China's history and why any attempt to recognize them and protest the loss of human rights is quickly snuffed out. Steve Mosher's message is clear: Don't let the bomb-waving of North Korea distract you from the real and present danger of China's will-to-empire (my phrase).

—DEAL HUDSON
President, Morley Institute for Church and Culture

The Unique Power of China

Bully of Asia, Steven Mosher's latest study of China, focuses on its dynamic rise as a superpower and its threat to our national security. What enticed me in particular was the chapter on "Great Han Chauvinism." Mosher paints a terrifying picture of Chinese nationalism's artful blending of the Social Darwinism of Communist ideology with distorted elements of traditional Chinese exceptionalism.

The result is a virulently hateful ideology, one that demands submission to it. Whatever elements of capitalism and study abroad the People's Republic of China adopts, its Great Han Chauvinism transforms them as means of imposing its will on other nations.

Once again Steven Mosher offers us fair warning of what to expect.

—By KEN MASUGI
Senior Fellow, Claremont Institute

A vital overview of China's intentions towards Asia

The Bully of Asia by China expert Steven W. Mosher serves as a vital overview of China's intentions towards Asia.



Mosher's *Bully of Asia* clearly explains why China's rise is a threat, not only to the sovereign independence of its neighbors in Asia, but also to America and its democratic allies.

Throughout its history, China has exerted powerful control over its neighbors—to the extent of its capabilities. This control was justified by a culture that viewed other peoples as inferior, and thus, naturally taking on the status of vassals rather than equals.

In the West's recent memory, however, China was wracked with turmoil and dominated by the main Western powers and Japan...As such, China isn't viewed with the same keen sense of historical alarm as are Germany and Japan.

China's economy eclipsed Germany's years ago and then Japan's and, as measured by purchasing power parity, is now even larger than America's economy. Inevitably, China's military power has followed closely behind.

Mosher's *Bully of Asia* clearly explains why China's rise is a threat, not only to the sovereign independence of its neighbors in Asia, but also to America and its democratic allies.

—BY CHUCK DEVORE
Vice President, Texas Public Policy Foundation and co-author of China Attacks

From American Greatness

Standing Up to the Bully in Asia

Throughout Mosher's brilliant work is a common and vital theme: *culture matters*. Mosher uses the recently

deceased Chinese political dissident (and prisoner), Liu Xiaobo's criticism of the Chinese Communist Party's "bellicose nationalism" as an example of how China's culture is being warped to favor an aggressive and competitive relationship with the rest of the world. Mosher believes "[a] Great Wall against truth has been erected in the minds of the Chinese" which results in most of China's population "uncritically accepting [the] Party's propaganda." This has happened to such a degree that, "[the Chinese people] mistook the illusions spun by a dictatorial regime intent upon its own aggrandizement for actual reality."

Mosher...argues that the American foreign policy community's China watchers need to open their ranks and allow for other viewpoints on China's rise to be taken seriously. Unfortunately, as *American Greatness* has reported, the establishment will actively resist having their sacred cows in policy slaughtered by outsiders like President Trump and Steven W. Mosher. It remains to be seen if the Mosher worldview can break through the toxic miasma of the Swamp.

Whether this view penetrates or not, it is the correct one. It's time to stand up to the bully in Asia. You can start by buying Mosher's book.

—By BRANDON J. WEICHERT



HUMANAE VITAE COALITION

New Website for *HV's* 50th Anniversary

by Dr. Christopher Manion

This year, PRI will celebrate the 50th anniversary of *Humanae Vitae* by giving its supporters worldwide an invaluable resource for its defense.

Dr. Gonzalo Herranz, a revered senior professor at the University of Navarre in Pamplona Spain, has just finished one of the most important studies of the history of the pro-contraception movement since its earliest origins. Dr. Herranz painstakingly documents both the history of contraception in theory and in practice, carefully analyzing the arguments conjured up by its advocates in the early 20th century and following their development as contraception was practiced more widely and as new techniques became available.

PRI will roll out a website featuring summaries of each chapter of this magisterial work, providing translations in Italian, Portuguese, French, and English, as well as the original Spanish. Hundreds of millions of people throughout the world will have access to the most accurate, thorough, and faithful study of the subject available in any language today.

This landmark study arose out of Dr. Herranz's realization that critical elements in the history of contraception have been either ignored or concealed. The work concentrates on developments in the United States because it was there that the language developed to advocate contraception

and where the major campaigns to legitimize it were founded.

Dr. Herranz and his team of professional colleagues in medicine, theology and history have made sure that this study would provide an unassailable and rigorous foundation for those desiring to deepen their understanding and work more effectively to defend and to advocate *Humanae Vitae* throughout the world.

Herranz's work begins with a discussion of the origin of the terms "contraception" and "birth control," reminding us that the latter term was actually created by Margaret Sanger, the notorious founder of Planned Parenthood and the advocate of eugenics and the elimination of the "unfit."

Early advocates strove to distinguish between abortion and "birth control," a devious enterprise, since many methods were already known to destroy the unborn child. This deception did not escape the attention of the medical profession, and Herranz carefully recounts the history of the discussion carried on in professional circles through the years, as they first rejected, and then accepted contraception as an ethical medical practice.

Through the years, Catholic doctors persisted in their criticism of and opposition to contraception, on both medical and moral grounds. Hence, Margaret Sanger welcomed the 1937 decision of the American Medical

Association to approve "birth control" as an integral part of medical practice and education. Thereafter, the doctors who cared for women in the United States during and after World War II, and up to the present day, have been taught that contraception is part of the package of services they should professionally offer their patients.

Of course, the Episcopal church in the United States had already declared the morality of birth control at the Lambeth conference in 1930, but there was still widespread opposition to the practice, to which advocates responded by changing the language. Suddenly, "control of fertility" was introduced to soften the impact and blur the daunting image of stopping a baby from being born.

Dr. Herranz's treatment of the Papal Commission For The Study Of The Problems Of The Family, Population, and Birth Rate includes a thorough study of all the documentation leading to Blessed Paul VI's promulgation of *Humanae Vitae* On July 25, 1968. He ends with a consideration of several "protagonists in the shadows," a group of "experts" who quietly approved of contraceptives and abortifacients by introducing a constantly changing vocabulary and "scientific" approaches.

Please spread the word and help PRI energize and educate pro-lifers throughout the world in their efforts to save the unborn.

Bishops Narrowly Elect Naumann Over Cupich for Pro-Life Office

In a reassuring vote by the U.S. bishops, Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, Kan., was named the head of the U.S. bishops' pro-life efforts last November, defeating left-wing Cardinal Blase Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago.

At their fall meeting the bishops elected Naumann chairman of U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities by a vote of 54 percent, representing 96 bishops, according to *LifeSite News*.¹ Cupich won 46 percent of the vote with 82 bishops supporting him. More than 30 bishops abstained from the vote.

The *Wall Street Journal* had cast the contest between Cupich and Naumann as a "barometer of support for Pope Francis among the American hierarchy," and stated that the two "have articulated different visions of what being pro-life should mean."²

Indeed, Archbishop Naumann has shown particular boldness on pro-life, including recently severing ties between the Archdiocese and the Girl Scouts of America due to its promotion of abortion and transgenderism. According to the *Kansas City Star*, he said the 115-year-old organization is "no longer a compatible partner in helping us form young women with the virtues and values of the Gospel."³

Naumann said Girl Scouts contributes more than a million dollars each year to the World Association

of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, which he called "an organization tied to International Planned Parenthood and its advocacy for legislation that includes both contraception and abortion as preventive health care for women," the *Star* reported.

He has encouraged parishes to start troops of American Heritage Girls.

In contrast, Cupich has asked priests and seminarians not to pray outside abortion centers. He also blurred lines between intentional murder of innocents by abortion and other human ills.

Writing in the *Chicago Tribune*, after the release of the videotapes exposing Planned Parenthood's selling of baby body parts, Cupich wrote: "This newest evidence about the disregard for the value of human life also offers the opportunity to reaffirm our commitment as a nation to a consistent ethic of life. While commerce in the remains of defenseless children is particularly repulsive, we should be no less appalled by the indifference toward the thousands of people who die daily for lack of decent medical care; who are denied rights by a broken immigration system and by racism; who suffer in hunger, joblessness and want; who pay the price of violence in gun-saturated neighborhoods; or who are executed by the state in the name of justice."⁴

How to Be Pro-Life in the Year 2018!

Isn't this time of year exciting? It's so full of promise...And so full of work to do!

With plans for important investigations, reports, videos, an international conference, and family care centers, we need you now more than ever before.

As you resolve to be more active in creating a Culture of Life in 2018, please become a **PRI Sustainer!**

The **PRI Sustainers** program is an easy way to give!

- You don't have to remember to write a check during the month.
- You will use fewer stamps. Save money for yourself.
- You receive an Annual Giving Statement in time for tax preparation, each year.
- If you prefer not to use your credit card, we can use your bank debit card.
- If your automatic monthly gift replaces our monthly appeal mailings, you reduce PRI's mailing costs.

You'll 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.

Already are a sustainer? Do you think you can increase your monthly amount? **Just even 5 or 10 percent more would make a tremendous difference.** Please consider it.

It's an easy way to keep your pro-life promise all year!

¹ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/breaking-cupich-naumann-pro-life-vote>

² <https://www.wsj.com/articles/pro-life-vote-viewed-as-gauge-of-u-s-bishops-support-for-pope-1510408801>



■ GOP misses chance to stem 'baby bust'

Population Research Institute research analyst Jonathan Abbamonte offered a warning about declining U.S. fertility in an article about a proposal to enlarge the child tax credit.

By rejecting an amendment proposed by Republican Sens. Marco Rubio of Florida and Mike Lee of Utah that would have raised the corporate tax rate from 20 percent to 22 percent, the Senate missed an opportunity to stem the “baby bust,” which has dropped the U.S. birthrate to its lowest point in decades, the *Washington Times* reported.

Abbamonte was quoted to say the Rubio-Lee Amendment “would have helped reduce the financial burdens for child rearing on working families.” He added, however, “Rubio’s proposed increase to the nonrefundable tax credit per child that was included in the Senate version of the bill is better than nothing and appears likely to cause a smaller, but nonetheless important, boost to the fertility rate.”

The National Center for Health Statistics released an analysis this year showing the U.S. fertility rate fell to a record low of 62.0 births per 1,000 women of reproductive age in 2016, down from 62.5 in 2015, according to the *Times*. In 2008 there were 68.7 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44.

In the article, Abbamonte said several cultural and economic factors have contributed to the nation’s falling fertility rate. Easy access to long-acting contraception, such as IUDs, and abortion have had obvious effects on the birthrate. Birthrates also tend to

decline in times of perceived or actual economic hardship, and the Great Recession was no exception.

“The Great Recession has fallen particularly hard on young adults who have historically contributed significantly to the overall fertility rate,” Abbamonte said. “Following the Great Recession, many young adults struggled to accumulate prerequisites for family formation such as employment, housing and wealth. Increasing student debt has not helped the situation either.”

If the fertility rate continues to decline, Abbamonte said, the population will age, leading to a proportionally smaller cohort of working-age adults and a proportionally larger share of retired adults, which would place “great stress on social support systems like Social Security and Medicare.”

—*The Washington Times*¹

■ Gender Ideology Defeated in Peru!

Sergio Burga, a researcher with the Population Research Institute’s Latin American office, was one of many family leaders celebrating a recent victory in Peru over gender ideology, according to a report released by the Catholic News Agency.

The Peruvian government announced it will withdraw a national school curriculum widely criticized for its “gender ideology.” Instead, Peru’s Department of Education will reimplement a 2009 version of the National Curriculum, which does not include the gender ideology concepts of the newer version.

In the article, Burga described the measure taken by the Department of Education as “a great victory for the thousands of parents represented by #ConMisHijosNoTeMetas. (“Don’t you mess with my children”).

In March, the #ConMisHijosNoTeMetas group organized marches in Peru, drawing more than 1.5 million people to demonstrate against a progressive gender ideology, the report stated.

Burga said that by removing the controversial curriculum from schools, “pernicious expressions have been eliminated, such as ‘construct your identity,’ ‘gender identity’ and even ‘what is masculine or feminine is constructed day-by-day.’”

However, even though the 2009 curriculum was less offensive to parents’ groups, some concerns have been raised and will now be reviewed by advocates and parents.

For Burga, the article stated, “the fight” in the defense of the family “goes on.”

—*Catholic News Agency*²

■ ‘Ethicist’ says a large family is like ‘Releasing murderers from prison’

PRI President Steve Mosher chastised a bioethicist who claimed in an NBC article that having many children is “morally suspect,” in an article about the impact of family size on the environment.

More people means more carbon emissions, Dr. Travis Rieder of the Berman Institute of Bioethics wrote, and parents are responsible for the “carbon footprints” of their children.

“If I release a murderer from prison, knowing full well that he intends to kill innocent people, then I bear some responsibility for those deaths—even though the killer is also fully responsible,” wrote Rieder. “Something similar is true, I think, when it comes to having children: Once my daughter is an autonomous agent, she will be responsible for her emissions. But that doesn’t negate my responsibility,” he suggested.

“Here, once again, we see self-loathing Leftists trashing their fellow human beings, and dressing up their own selfish sexual behavior—which generally involves avoiding forming families and bearing children—as somehow virtuous,” Mosher told LifeSiteNews.

“Once again, we see ‘science’ abused to justify the most radical kind of social changes,” said Mosher. There’s no scientific evidence that kids are bad for the earth, and it hasn’t even been proved that there is such a thing as ‘global warming,’” he said.

“This article isn’t ‘science,’ it’s pure propaganda,” said Mosher. “Shame on NBC for publishing such nonsense.”

—LifeSite News³

■ Mosher joins group warning Holy See to reform academies

PRI President Steven Mosher was named by LifeSiteNews as one of a group of prominent scientists and lay Catholic leaders calling on the Holy See to reform its administration of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences

“The Church cannot accept, especially implicitly, that humanity can contracept and abort its way to a healthy environment, economy, or society.”

(PAS) and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences (PASS) to resist the influence of population control advocates.

In a 12-page statement issued last fall, signers detail how many prominent organizers and speakers at Academy conferences have a consistent record of advocating for methods of population control, including abortion, contraception and sterilization, in direct contravention of clear Catholic moral teaching, the article stated.

“At the very heart of the matter is that the academies are being misused by major proponents of population control seeking to gain the Church’s moral authority for their programs,” said Michael Hichborn, president of the Lepanto Institute, one of the statement’s authors. “Our hope in publishing this statement is to seek meaningful reforms so the academies can fulfill their original mandates without the danger of being manipulated for political purposes.”

Other signers of the letter, in addition to Mosher, include: ecologist Dr. Glenn Juday; Jay H. Lehr, PhD, senior scientist at AR Environmental Services Inc. and Science Director at The Heartland Institute; William M. Briggs, PhD, Professor at the Cornell Medical School and Meteorologist

with the National Weather Service; Harold H. Doiron, PhD, Retired NASA Scientist; John-Henry Westen, editor-in-chief and co-founder, LifeSiteNews.com; Judie Brown, President of American Life League.

“The Pontifical Academies, in their focus on issues of global environmental challenges and human development, have been importing secularist values, perspectives, and philosophies into their documents and statements,” the statement says, “making it appear as if the Church was morally uncertain and is holding open different views on core teachings at the heart of Gospel teaching on matters of grave importance.

“The Church cannot accept, especially implicitly, that humanity can contracept and abort its way to a healthy environment, economy, or society.”

Allowing the Academies to continue as is would be “disastrous,” they argue. “Because of the gravely serious nature of the problems identified herein, the reality is that leaving these issues unaddressed could be disastrous; human lives, and more importantly, immortal souls, are at great risk.”

—LifeSite News⁴

¹ <https://m.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/dec/7/marco-rubio-mike-lee-proposal-seen-baby-bust-solut/>

² <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/peru-to-withdraw-its-gender-ideology-school-curriculum>

³ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/nbc-article-having-lots-of-kids-is-immoral-like-releasing-murderers-from-pr>

⁴ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/catholic-leaders-and-scientists-urge-reform-after-vatican-hosts-population>

From the Countries



SPAIN PRI-Europe helps win victory over IPPF

The Spanish arm of the world-wide abortion giant, International Planned Parenthood, lost its status as a “public utility” in Spain¹ thanks to work by the Spanish Association of Christian Lawyers and a behind-the-scenes role of Population Research Institute’s European Union Correspondent Carlos Beltramo.¹

Last year the lawyers’ association found evidence of illegal funding by the Spanish Federation of Family Planning (FPFE) that contradicted their standing as a public interest organization with associated tax benefits. According to Beltramo, the group was not reporting income from advertising of prescription medicines in a popular magazine, which is required by law.

The lawyers’ association filed a lawsuit against FPFE and won. FPFE appealed, and in what became a very political case, Beltramo was called in to advise “the only pro-life deputy in the Congress.” The ruling against FPFE prevailed in Spain’s top court.



ROME Pope: Population control ‘false solution’

Pope Francis urged world governments to commit to end rising world hunger by resolving the conflicts and

climate change-related disasters that force people to leave their homes in search of their daily bread, according to a report from the Associated Press.²

Francis drew a standing ovation at the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, where he marked the U.N.’s World Food Day by calling for governments to work together to tackle the interconnected problems of hunger, global warming and migration.

Francis said the answer wasn’t to reduce the world’s population but rather to better manage the planet’s abundant resources and prevent waste. Francis called the population control argument—which the Catholic Church has long opposed—a “false solution.”

Rather, he called for a new model of international cooperation that incorporates love, fraternity and solidarity into responding to the needs of the poorest.

Love, he said, “inspires justice and is essential to bring about a just social order.”



ARMENIA Armenia’s missing girls having profound effect

The Financial Times has recently reported on an alarming new trend in gender imbalance. No longer just

in China, India and South Korea, demographers are finding a similarly skewed male-preference pattern in the Caucasus and the Balkans.³

Usually between 103 and 106 boys are born for every 100 girls worldwide. Yet in China, where sons are preferred, the figure reached 116 boys for every 100 girls. Azerbaijan and Armenia follow closely behind.

Armenia once had one of the highest fertility rates in the Soviet Union, with an average of more than four children per mother in the 1960s, the report said.

However, it all changed after a devastating earthquake in 1988 that coincided with the start of Armenia’s land conflict with Azerbaijan and an economic crisis as the Soviet Union collapsed.

The fertility rate fell from 2.6 children per mother in 1990 to 1.2 in 2002. The availability of ultrasound equipment meant that the sex of an unborn baby could be detected and legal abortion offered as “a quick remedy” if the baby was a girl, the article reported.

Along with increased abortion, a skewed sex ratio leads to a rise in violence, bride kidnapping, sex slavery and increased social tension as an excess of young men struggle to find wives. In addition, a deficit of 35,000 so-called “missing mothers” since 1990 means the birth rate will continue to fall.

¹ <https://www.bhmdioocese.org/one-voice/news/spanish-planned-parenthood-subsidiary-stripped-of-government-benefits>

² <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/10/17/population-control-is-a-false-solution-to-world-hunger-pope-tells-un/>

³ <https://www.ft.com/content/a4ecb4a2-713f-11e7-93ff-99f383b09ff9>