



Study Shows Many American Women Felt Pressure to Have Their Abortions

BY JONATHAN ABBAMONTE

Many American women who have had an abortion have felt subtle, or even substantial, unwanted pressure to abort, a recent study¹ has found.

The study, published recently in the *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons*, found that nearly three-quarters (73.8 percent) of women with a history of abortion surveyed admitted that they experienced at least subtle forms of pressure to terminate their pregnancies.

More than half of the women reported that the perceived pressure was great enough to significantly influence their decision to abort. Of the 987 women surveyed, more than half (58.3 percent) indicated that they decided to abort in order to make others happy. Nearly 30 percent of survey respondents admitted that they were afraid that they would lose their partner if they failed to terminate their pregnancy.



Further underlining the fact that choosing abortion is contrary to women's natural instincts, the study also found that two-thirds of the women knew in their hearts that abortion was wrong. Two-thirds also said that the decision to terminate their pregnancies was one of the hardest decisions of their lives.

"These findings are alarming," says Population Research Institute President Steven Mosher. "They

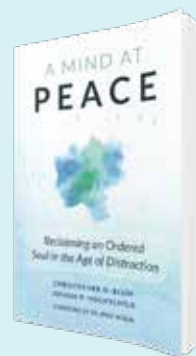
suggest that a substantial number of women in America today who supposedly 'choose' abortion are actually being pressured into it by their husbands, boyfriends, or family members."

"If a man tells a woman in so many words that he will leave her if she does not get an abortion, that woman is being denied the right to freely choose her—and her unborn child's

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A Mind at Peace

This gift can help you make life-altering decisions that will bring you closer to interior peace.

See page 4



Latest Anti-Child Propaganda: The World Is Getting Too Hot

by Steven W. Mosher

The *New York Times*, that purveyor of “fake news,” has come up with yet another reason that everyone should stop having children: global warming.

In a February 5th article entitled “No Children Because of Climate Change?” *Times* writer Maggie Astor interviews a dozen women who have decided not to bring children into a world they believe is on the verge of environmental collapse.

Women like Allison Guy, who explained, “I don’t want to give birth to a kid wondering if it’s going to live in some kind of ‘Mad Max’ dystopia.”

“Mad Max”, of course is the classic Mel Gibson movie about a world teetering on the brink of societal anarchy.

It was Guy’s angst over global warming that drove her to use birth control in the first place. “If it weren’t for climate change,” the *Times* explains, “she would go off birth control tomorrow. But scientists’ projections, if rapid action isn’t taken, are not ‘congruent with a stable society,’ said Ms. Guy, 32, who works at a marine conservation nonprofit in Washington.”

Now, I can list a number of countries where rational women might want to delay having children:

- Those who live in socialist “paradises” like Venezuela and Zimbabwe, for example, where people are starving to death because of government mismanagement of the economy;
- Muslim countries like Afghanistan or Syria, which are in the grip of brutal, sectarian civil wars;
- Or China, where, because of the lack of environmental controls by corrupt officials, the air in major cities is often barely breathable.

(The *Times* article recounts how another woman, Cate Mumford, was so horrified by the pollution in China that it soured her on having children of her own. “I’m so glad I’m not going to bring a brand-new baby into this world to suffer like these kids suffer,” she told the *Times*. Of course, unless for some strange reason she suddenly decides to emigrate to China, she won’t have to watch her children choke on smog.)

But for young American women like Misses Guy and Mumford, who are living in the most stable, prosperous and environmentally conscious democracy the world has ever seen, to decide that “global warming” means going barren is bizarre.

Yet such is the corrosive effect of climate change propaganda on the minds of otherwise sensible people.

So we find college freshman Elizabeth Bogard telling the *Times* that, while she would like to be a parent, “it’s hard for me to justify my wants over what matters and what’s important for everyone.”

She reminds me of the Mills University valedictorian of 1969, who declared, “Our days as a race on this planet are numbered . . . I am terribly saddened by the fact that the most humane thing for me to do is to have no children at all.”

This young woman, who was heavily influenced by Paul Ehrlich’s *The Population Bomb*, entitled her address, “The Future is a Cruel Hoax.”

But the only hoax in question was Ehrlich’s myth of overpopulation, itself the precursor of the current myth of man-made global warming.

It is a safe bet that the disappointed Miss Bogard above has spent a lot of time in school agonizing over pictures of cuddly polar bear cubs facing extinction, deserts on



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the march in North Africa, and beautiful atolls being submerged by rising ocean waters.

None of which is actually happening. In the real world—unlike the imaginary world of environmental apocalypse—polar bear populations are robust, any warming that occurs will bring more rain to the Sahel, and low lying island chains, like the Maldives, are doing just fine, thank you.

Fears about a future apocalypse are not confined to American progressives, of course. The *Times* article also quotes a woman living in Cairo to the effect that she will probably decide to never have any children.

“I know that humans are hard-wired to procreate,” Maram Kaff says, speaking as if her own species was some kind of alien invasion, “but my instinct now is to shield my children from the horrors of the future by not bringing them to the world.”

Read that sentence again: This woman proposes to protect “her children” from “the horrors of the future” by preventing them from being born. How, one asks? By aborting them? By contracepting them out of existence altogether?

She might as well have said that she would strangle them in their cradles.

Such is the kind of anti-people, anti-baby madness that is being produced by the climate change alarmism.

Environmental radicals in the U.S., Europe, and at the U.N. have even been known to refer to babies as “carbon emitters.” This is surely one of the least charming ways to refer to newborns ever invented.

It is deeply dehumanizing.

And that which the radical, abortion-minded environmental movement wants to destroy, it first dehumanizes.



Reviews and interviews on Mosher's new book *Bully of Asia*

World magazine's June Cheng recommended Steve Mosher's new book *Bully of Asia* as one of three recent books on China “to add to your reading list”¹:

“In *Bully of Asia*, author Steven Mosher looks at present-day China in the context of the nation's history, examining how China has long viewed itself and the rest of the world. President Xi Jinping's mindset falls in line with the historic Chinese philosophy of legalism, the belief that a country's stability is achieved by ‘exalting the ruler and maximizing his power.’ The obedient are promoted, the disobedient eliminated.

“While the international community hopes China will work with others and respect international rules, China aims instead to regain its title of unrivaled hegemon, a status it enjoyed before the ‘national humili-

ation’ of the 1800s, when foreigners defeated and carved up portions of a weakened China.”

In a video interview on “The Global Lane” on recent talks between North Korea and South Korea, Mosher discussed his new book²:

“If we look back in history, China was the dominant power in East Asia for over 2,000 years. In fact, until 1820 China had the largest economy, the largest population, the largest military in the world.

“It wants to recover its lost place at the center of things. That's what the name of the country means, as a lot of people know, it means ‘middle kingdom,’ the kingdom at the center of the earth...

“Now if China were a free market democracy, if the Chinese people were free to worship God in the way they chose, they had freedom

of conscience, freedom of assembly, regular elections and so forth—as the Chinese do on Taiwan, by the way—this wouldn't be a problem. We would collaborate together, we would cooperate, we would have a peaceful democratic world order.

“Unfortunately, China is moving in the other direction.”

A book review in *The Christian Review*³ describes *Bully of Asia* as a wake-up call and concludes with Mosher's recommendations to the United States, including recognizing Beijing's persecution of its own citizens, calling out China as the primary ally behind North Korea's rogue acts, and upgrading its alliance with Taiwan.

“America has roughly a decade to respond to the ‘Bully of Asia,’ (Mosher) concludes. After that, it will be too late.”

¹ https://world.wng.org/2018/01/middle_kingdom_reading

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMN0a2AETmk&feature=youtu.be>

³ <http://www.thechristianreview.com/review-of-steve-mosher-bully-of-asia-the-danger-of-chinas-dream/>

Take this quick quiz and see if you'll benefit from this important spiritual gift

1. If you were unable check your email—even for just a day - would that make you uneasy?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure
2. Would you say that you're generally more ill at ease than in recent years?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure
3. Are you uncomfortable being alone, anxious to find relief from solitude?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure
4. Does your mind wander instead of focusing on a task at hand?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure
5. Do you find less joy than you used to in conversation, reading and especially prayer?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

If you answered many of those **questions with "Yes" or "Unsure,"** then this gift from PRI is definitely one you'll want to accept...

...It's *A Mind at Peace: Reclaiming an Ordered Soul in the Age of Distraction* by Christopher Blum. He is a Professor of History and Philosophy at the Augustine Institute in Colorado and former professor at Christendom College in Virginia and the Thomas More College of Liberal Arts in New Hampshire.

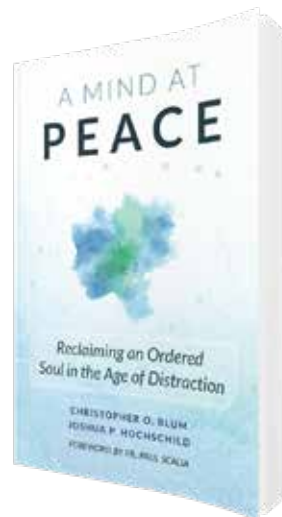
Published by Sophia Press, *A Mind at Peace: Reclaiming an Ordered Soul in the Age of Distraction* will help you find peace in a world dominated by smart phones, computers, the internet, television and social media. Here's how...

- *A Mind at Peace* explains the power that is key to achieving peace (it's a power that all humans have)

...the steps that must be taken to achieve peace...what we must first admit before we can find peace.... practical advice on breaking free from over-dependence on technology...

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Sending you *A Mind at Peace: Reclaiming an Ordered Soul in the Age of Distraction* is PRI's way of thanking you for your much-needed support of \$40 or more. May I send your copy today?



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Abortion Pressure, *continued*

—fate. The threat of abandonment is a very strong inducement to the woman not to carry her child to term.”

The study, led by Priscilla K. Coleman, Professor of Human Development and Family Studies at Bowling Green State University, Ohio, included anonymous surveys from 987 women seeking post-abortion counseling services at crisis pregnancy centers nationwide. While the findings are not representative of all women in the U.S. who have had an abortion, they nevertheless reveal a significant real and widespread problem among many post-abortive women in America.

“Over the years, many women have come to me with stories of how they were—blatantly or subtly—coerced into abortion they did not want and will always regret,” says PRI President Steven Mosher. “Kudos to Professor Coleman for her brilliant study, which suggests that the magnitude of the problem is far greater than any of us suspected. We must all do more to help young women in crisis pregnancies.”

Coleman’s study used both quantitative and qualitative analysis to investigate how women perceive their past abortion(s), providing a profound insight into the persistent difficulties that women have in coping with a past abortion. Survey respondents were asked open-ended questions about what they perceived to be the biggest positives and negatives of their abortion decision.

Most women could not note anything positive about their past abortions. More than half of the

respondents (53.6 percent) indicated no positive response or simply left the question blank. Most of the remaining women in the survey noted that their abortion experience eventually helped them to grow stronger spiritually, providing the impetus for their conversion to the Christian faith or to a deeper faith life. Others noted that it had motivated them to engage in pro-life or crisis pregnancy work.

As far as the negative consequences of their abortion experiences were concerned, many women cited serious symptoms, including symptoms often associated with poor psychological health. Women reported symptoms of depression (14.4 percent), guilt (14 percent), shame, regret, self-hatred, feelings of worthlessness, feelings of being unworthy of love, drug or alcohol addiction (9 percent), low self-esteem, anxiety, and thoughts or attempts of suicide (6.2 percent).

These findings are even more striking given that the vast majority of women included in the study were believed to have been psychologically healthy prior to their first abortion. Only 6.6 percent of women surveyed self-reported having used prescription medication for mental health reasons prior to their first abortion. Following their first abortion, however, over half of the women (51 percent) reported using such medication.

“Rather than feeling ‘empowered’ by their decision to have an abortion, (the women) were in fact pressured into a decision that was not in line with their values and wants.

Pro-abortion activists have long claimed that abortion empowers women to make decisions about their fertility. But the findings of Professor Coleman’s study indicate that rather than feeling “empowered” by their decision to have an abortion, they were in fact pressured into a decision that was not in line with their values and wants. Worse still, the consequences of their abortions have been detrimental to their psychological and emotional health and well-being.

Pro-abortion activists often frame abortion as a women’s rights issue, claiming that abortion access is necessary for women to have control over their fertility. This, they claim, empowers women to prioritize career, education, or lifestyle goals, evidently over the life of their unborn child. Despite claiming to be pro-woman, however, pro-abortion advocates rarely, if ever, mention the importance that remaining abstinent has in freeing women to pursue their life goals without the negative emotional and psychological drawbacks associated with abortion.

¹ <http://www.jpands.org/vol22no4/coleman.pdf>.



Does the Church Need to “Reconsider” *Humanae Vitae*? Or to Practice It?

EDITOR’S NOTE: At a time when a Commission has been set up in the Vatican to do a historical-critical analysis of the most controversial encyclical of our time, many in the Church would like to see it weakened, or even abandoned altogether. PRI’s Spiritual Director, Father Linus Clovis, reminds us that *Humanae Vitae* is an inspired document which, if fully practiced, would solve a multitude of sins.

BY FATHER LINUS CLOVIS

Fifty years ago this July, Pope Paul VI issued an encyclical *Humanae Vitae* which “prophesied” that, should the use of contraception become widespread, women, marriages as well as society at large would suffer. Although it clearly elucidates the Church’s teaching about contraception, *Humanae Vitae* has been largely ignored. Statistics show that few Catholics, at least in industrialized countries, live by its teachings.

Christians understand marriage as a lifelong partnership, whereby God enlists spouses in the all-important enterprise of bringing forth new human life. The Church teaches that “each and every marital act must of necessity retain its intrinsic relationship to the procreation of human life.”

Contraception, on the other hand, is an implicit rejection of God and his life-giving blessings. Any “act of mu-

tual love which impairs the capacity to transmit life which God the Creator, through specific laws, has built into it, frustrates His design which constitutes the norm of marriage, and contradicts the will of the Author of life.”

Four Prophecies

With great prophetic insight, Pope Paul VI indicated four negative consequences¹ that would ensue if the Church’s teaching on contraception were ignored.

Infidelity, moral decline

Widespread use of contraception, the Pope warned, would “lead to conjugal infidelity and the general lowering of morality.”

That there has been a widespread decline in morality, especially in sexual morality, over the last half century, is very difficult to deny. Abortion would never have been legalized in the U.S.

and other countries if not for contraception. Although the number of abortions, at least in the U.S., is now declining, some 60 million unborn children have died at the hands of abortionists since *Roe v. Wade* became law.

Society has also seen huge increases in the number of divorces, out-of-wedlock and teenage pregnancies, rape, child abuse and sexually transmitted diseases, not to mention HIV/AIDS. Taken together with the widespread pornography and sexual deviancy and addictions, these signs of the time should convince even the most hardened skeptic of the complete and utter degeneracy of our age.

There is no question that contraception is the root of this decadence. With the fear of pregnancy greatly reduced, sexual activity has become sterile, recreational and supposedly consequence-free. Because contracepted sex is sterile sex, it is perhaps not surpris-

ing that its logical consequence and apotheosis is to be found in the growth and promotion of homosexual activity, now culminating in the hysterical demand for same sex “marriage.”

Disrespect for women

The second consequence of contraception, argued Paul VI, is that “the man” will lose respect for “the woman” and “no longer (caring) for her physical and psychological equilibrium” will come to “the point of considering her as a mere instrument of selfish enjoyment and no longer as his respected and beloved companion.”

The Church’s teaching on contraception protects both women and the good of conjugal love which is based upon respect for the dignity of the human person. The probability of pregnancy generally places a powerful restraint on the man’s sexual urges, thereby providing and ensuring a power balance between the sexes. Contraception, however, by removing fertility’s natural end —children— gives more power to the man who now sees the woman as permanently sexually available, with only her consent as an obstacle.

Abuse of power

The Pope’s third warning was that the widespread acceptance of contraception would place a “dangerous weapon... in the hands of those public

authorities who take no heed of moral exigencies.”

The history of the family planning programs and the effects of contraceptive imperialism in the developing world are a sobering testimony to this reality. In Haiti, for instance, while antibiotics or antimalarial medications necessary to save life are hard to find, millions of dollars’ worth of contraceptives are freely available.

In many developing countries, not only are women sterilized or fitted with IUDs without their knowledge or consent but, governments in those countries are frequently compelled to accept family planning programs as a condition for receiving foreign aid. China’s one-child, now two-child, policy and forced abortion practices show the stark extremes toward which governments will take population control programs.

Unlimited dominion

Pope Paul’s final warning was that contraception would lead man to think that he had “unlimited dominion over his own body” has been fully realized in surgical and chemical procedures ranging from sterilization to transgenderism.

The desire for unlimited dominion over one’s own body extends far beyond contraception to embrace the production of “test-tube and designer babies,” to surrogacy and cloning, to

abortion and, even more grotesquely, to IPPF’s selling of aborted baby organs and parts. The surgical interventions from sterilization through to gender reassignment that the advances of science and technology have made possible have more than fulfilled Pope Paul’s final warning.

The Solution

Humanae Vitae has stood the test of time. Its warnings have proven prophetic. Those Catholics who have followed it have no sterilizations, no abortions, no STDs, happy marriages in which divorce is unknown. *Humanae Vitae* is the silver bullet that will end the specter of sexual degradation so characteristic of our age. But how can this happen?

It will begin to happen when those couples who have practiced *Humanae Vitae*, and can speak about it with the authority of long knowledge and practice, begin to speak out loudly and clearly on the way that their marriages have been blessed by it.

It will begin to happen when those possessing a genuine zeal for the salvation of souls, speak out and teach the catholic and apostolic faith in its integrity. Our bishops and priests need to preach the words of truth contained in *Humanae Vitae*, to be urgent in season and out of season, to convince, rebuke, and exhort, to be unfailing in patience and in teaching.²

¹ HV§17

² 2Tim.4:2

Visit our new website *The Humanae Vitae Project*, sponsored by the Population Research Institute (pop.org), which presents the most thorough and accurate history of artificial contraception, from its roots in the early twentieth century through the promulgation of *Humanae Vitae* in 1968.

<https://humanaevitaeproject.org/en/>



HUMANAE VITAE COALITION

Celebrate *Humanae Vitae*'s 50th Birthday at Your Parish!

by Dr. Christopher Manion

What's the best way to celebrate *Humanae Vitae*'s 50th birthday? For most of us the answer is “close to home”—specifically in our own parishes. Here's why.

Five years ago, when Timothy Cardinal Dolan was president of the U.S. bishops' conference, he admitted that our bishops have had “laryngitis” on Blessed Pope Paul's beautiful encyclical—for 50 years! Unfortunately, that's still true for many bishops who are too tied up with the political agenda of their national bureaucracy in Washington. There, issues like global warming, socialized medicine and federal contracts for the bishops' welfare agencies have dominated the agenda for years, crowding out pro-life efforts and leaving *Humanae Vitae* an orphan.

That doesn't mean that the lay faithful haven't been asking—we have! In fact, pleas to our shepherds have had some heartwarming results in recent months, with several bishops coming forward with strong public defenses of *Humanae Vitae*. But the real work has to come from the grassroots. Our busy bishops can't do it alone. They need our support and our prayers.

After all, the pro-life movement started at the grassroots, and its strength has stayed there. Bishops are often supportive of pro-life groups in

their dioceses, but few are focused on them. Most chancery staffs spend much more time on immigration, refugees, and other programs that receive federal funding. Pro-life efforts receive no federal funding, so pro-lifers have to fend for themselves.

While our bishops have countless distractions, our parish priests know us, and we know them. They offer our most reliable source of support and encouragement when it comes to celebrating *Humanae Vitae*'s birthday party.

Here is a good suggestion on how to make it work: Instead of telling your pastor, “Father, you ought to do something about this,” tell him, “Father, a group of us would like to have a reading group in the parish to study *Humanae Vitae*. We've got the texts, the commentaries and all the materials. All we need is some space in the parish center one night a week, and an announcement in the bulletin to spread the word. Don't worry, we'll do all the work, but we'd love to have your support, and it would be great if you could join us whenever you can.”

Instead of Father helping you, you're helping Father. And a further note from long pastoral experience: Don't ask Father on the way out of Mass; write him a note and ask for a few minutes of his time at his con-

venience. There, you'll have his full attention.

That letter also gives you the opportunity to pad your pitch with some supporting evidence. In this case, not only the support from bishops—including your own, we hope! —but especially the world-class conference that the bishops' conference in Washington is officially sponsoring in April at the Catholic University of America, thanks to support from CUA's stalwart President, Dr. John Garvey. The conference offers three days of top-notch speakers and presentations. Supporters of *Humanae Vitae* can cite this national conference as their inspiration for activities throughout the country on the diocesan and parish levels.

And here's some great news: our new website devoted to *Humanae Vitae* is now live! It's a treasure trove of information for your parish group. Just go to the link below to find not only the masterful history of contraception by Dr. Gonzalo Herranz—in four languages! —but also the latest news and links to a wide array of resources. We'll be updating the site continually with new reports, materials and insights from all over the world. In no time it will be your go-to site for *Humanae Vitae* news.

Just go to <https://humanaevitae-project.org/en/>.



Citizens Protest Court Mandate To Legalize Same-Sex Marriage Throughout All of Latin America

by Carlos Polo

On Tuesday, January 30, thousands of citizens from across the continent came before their governments' foreign ministry offices to demand that they defend their national sovereignty against an overreaching and interventionist ruling handed-down by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The protests occurred simultaneously in the United States, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil, Panama, and Peru. The Latin American Office of the Population Research Institute was in charge of the latter in the city of Lima.

The protest began after the publication of Advisory Opinion OC-24/17 this past January 9, an opinion of the court issued in response to an unformulated question from the Government of Costa Rica. According to the court, countries that are members of the inter-American system of human rights ought to legalize homosexual "marriage."

More than 55,000 signatures were collected in an online campaign by CitizenGO backing a declaration called the "Manifesto for the Sovereignty of the American States." This Manifesto demanded that every ministry of foreign affairs defend the sovereignty of their country, and that they not permit the Inter-American Court to impose on us laws with

ideological concepts foreign to our culture and popular sentiment.

"We will not permit seven justices not elected by the people to trample on national sovereignty, upon the concept of family, and the values of an entire continent," said Sergio Burga, manager of the Population Research Institute Office in Latin America.

"The Inter-American Court has exceeded its area of competence which is to safeguard the observance of the American Convention on Human Rights.

"The Inter-American Court on Human Rights does not have the competence to reinterpret this Convention or to create new rights. Neither when this human rights treaty was signed in 1969, nor in the years after it was ratified in the congresses, did any party state promise to approve marriage between persons of the same sex," Burga added.

This is not the only protest against the ideological abuses of the court—all of them insidiously put down in favor of leftist groups. In Peru, for example, the vast majority of citizens have expressed their desire to withdraw from the inter-American system because of decisions handed-down by the court in favor of terrorists which oblige the Peruvian state to indemnify them economically.

It is obvious that if the court exceeds its authority in its functions, states have no obligation to follow their decisions. The abuses of the court undermine its own legitimacy and discredit the entire inter-American human rights system.

For these reasons, the recent protests that took place simultaneously at the foreign ministry offices of the countries most representative of the region are not an isolated incident.

Latin Americans are tired already of the court passing on the left's ideological concepts as if they were human rights. They are also tired of bad leftist officials in their governments that submit our countries to these embarrassing rulings of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights which violate our national sovereignty.

The "Manifesto for the Sovereignty of the American States" was also accompanied by the approval of more than 70 civil society organizations that hope their respective foreign ministries will ignore the controversial Advisory Opinion OC-24/17.

*Translated from Spanish by
PRI Research Analyst Jonathan
Abbamonte*



■ Forced Family Planning Comes Full Circle in China

The Chinese birth rate fell last year, two years after the country changed from its long-standing one-child policy and allowed Chinese couples to have up to two children.

The drop alarms Chinese authorities who are trying to increase the size of the country's younger population to support its fast-growing number of elderly people.¹

Steven Mosher of PRI isn't surprised. He testified before the Congressional-Executive Committee on China in 2015 that he didn't expect the two-child amnesty to make a difference in the Chinese birth rate.

"Forty years of anti-natal, anti-child propaganda has left its mark on the Chinese psyche," said Mosher. "Few Chinese young people, who are themselves only children—and often the children of only children—are inclined to be generous when it comes to having children of their own."

Faced with a dropping birth rate, Mosher said he expects the Chinese Communist Party to soon "encourage," then "motivate," and finally "order" more children.

"If the higher birth rate called for by China's new Planned Birth policy cannot be achieved voluntarily, China's leaders will inevitably use force," said Mosher, who was the first American scholar allowed to do research in China in 1979 and first uncovered the practice of forced abortions and forced sterilizations to impose the one-child policy.

If they took brutal and invasive measures to limit childbearing, they

will do the same to increase it, he told me: "Childbearing in China may well become mandatory. Regular pelvic examinations will be instituted to monitor menstrual cycles and plan pregnancies. Abortion may be forbidden." But this is the very opposite of what Chinese leaders should do.

"They should abandon the Planned Birth policy altogether," Mosher said. "They should allow couples to freely choose the number and spacing of their children, and have as many, or as few, as they desire."

—World

■ Catholics in Peru Face Gender Ideology Pressure

Catholics in Peru celebrated a recent victory over gender ideology but faces new skirmishes against "ideological colonization," as the Holy Father describes foreign attempts to undermine Christian values in poorer countries.²

Just a month after celebrating the government's retraction of one variant of gender ideology, another one has popped up: the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers met to approve the "National Human Rights Plan: 2017-2021," according to Catholic news agency ACI Prensa, which broke the story.

The plan identifies members of the "LGBTI" (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Intersex) community as "vulnerable," therefore requiring protection — in fact, a privileged status.

As Steven Mosher of PRI pointed out to the Register, "What we have here is yet another effort to create a protected class of people and impose

penalties on those who are accused of discriminating against them," he said. "It's a logically imaginary class of people that tends to shrink or grow depending on personal preference, unlike a tribe with clear membership."

PRI has tracked how "generously funded outside groups in Canada, the U.S. and the European Union go into relatively poor countries like Peru, recruit a local front and undermine local democracies by imposing foreign values," said Mosher. "Following contraception imperialism and abortion imperialism, we now have gender imperialism."

—National Catholic Register

■ India's Missing Women and Sex-Selective Abortion

There are 63 million women statistically "missing" in India today due to a preference for sons, according to the Indian government's annual economic survey.³

Whereas female infanticide used to be more common in India, Steven Mosher of PRI said sex detection technology "has pushed it back into the womb." Despite laws that forbid using ultrasound to detect the gender of a baby for abortion, the practice is not only happening, but growing.

Mosher noted the mothers who have these abortions are often victims along with their prenatal daughters. Husbands and other relatives often pressure, and sometimes violently force, sex-selective abortions.

But Mosher believes there is hope, and it lies in a change of heart, not law.

“What people fail to realize is that it is Christianity that has raised the status of women,” Mosher said, noting Christians believe “we all possess an immortal soul, so we are all fundamentally equal.” He said sex-selective abortion can end if more people become Christians “because that elevates the status of women.”

—*World*

■ Chinese Newspaper Praises Pope Francis for Bishop ‘Concessions’

A newspaper controlled by the Chinese government, the *Global-Times*, has praised Pope Francis for making “concessions” to the Communist regime that have effectively resulted in the Vatican legitimizing excommunicated bishops loyal to the regime while forcing legitimate bishops of the underground Church into retirement.⁴

“Faced with a dropping birth rate, Mosher said he expects the Chinese Communist Party to soon “encourage,” then “motivate,” and finally “order” more children.

PRI’s Steve Mosher called the *Global Times’* article “propaganda” but also said he does not believe the Vatican should trust China’s new “god-emperor” Xi Jinping, saying that the whole thrust of Xi’s activities has been to consolidate his own power.

“Xi Jinping has more power than Mao had at his height,” he said.

Mosher said he, like many Catholics around the world, cannot understand Pope Francis’ dealings with Xi Jinping’s regime.

“Obviously the 10 million to 20 million Catholics in the underground Church have voted with their feet to

stay underground,” he said. “Why not just let the underground spread the Gospel?”

Mosher observed that Matteo Ricci and his fellow Jesuits, the 15th-16th century missionaries to China, sought to convert the Chinese Emperor to Christianity so that his subjects would follow suit. But today, in Xi Jinping’s negotiations with Francis, the roles seem to have been reversed.

“It’s not the Jesuit missionaries convincing the Emperor,” Mosher said. “It’s the Emperor convincing the Jesuit missionaries.”

—*LifeSite News*

¹ https://world.wng.org/content/same_sex_couples_fight_citizenship_battle#china

² <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/perus-perilous-politics-papal-visit-comes-amid-tensions>

³ https://world.wng.org/content/india_s_missing_women

⁴ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/chinas-state-run-paper-praises-pope-francis-wisdom-in-making-concessions-on>

Friend of PRI Ted Kershaw, Rest in Peace



Theodore G. Kershaw, Ted, died peacefully on January 24 at home, after a long illness, surrounded by family. Ted

was born in Palo Alto, CA to Gen. Theodore G. Kershaw and Henrietta Collbran on April 23, 1934.

Ted did investigative research in person on coercive government practices that forced abortion and sterilization on women in several

countries in Latin America and Africa. This work was close to Ted’s heart and was directed by Population Research Institute.

Ted proudly served in the U.S. Army for 24 years, attaining the rank of Lt. Colonel. He served two tours in Vietnam and received numerous medals and commendations. Ted graduated from UC Berkeley and had further studies at UCLA, Columbia Visual Arts College, CUA, and Dominican House of Studies. A student of iconography and a pro-

fessional artist, he began an icon painting group in Gaithersburg and instructed sisters from many countries in the study of icons while they were awaiting final vows.

His works have been displayed in many venues in the Washington, D.C. area where he spent over 35 years. He was a member of the Mother of God Community and an active parishioner at St. Martin of Tours parish in Gaithersburg, MD, instructing immigrants in the Catholic faith in both English and French.

From the Countries



JAPAN

Demographic Crisis Worsening in Japan

An article in *Mercator.net* has reported the prediction that 896 towns and villages across Japan will no longer be viable by 2040 due to falling birthrates.¹ A former minister for internal affairs, Hiroya Masuda, describes this as “local extinction.”

Masuda notes that birthrates have fallen since the 1970s and currently stand at 1.4 children per family. The most recent projections indicate that the population will shrink by 27 million between 2015 and 2053. That’s equivalent to the entire population of Australia vanishing.

At the same time, Japan is aging rapidly. The over-65s are estimated to rise from 26.6 percent of the population in 2015 to 38.4 percent in 2065.

Local governments have been trying to encourage young people to move back to rural areas by providing work opportunities and sharing details of vacant houses. Relocating to a small rural community, however, can be challenging. Villages and towns are close-knit communities and the returnee is expected to comply with local norms.



IRELAND

Ireland Pro-Life Law In Danger of Repeal

Ireland’s pro-life law is in serious danger following a special meeting of the Irish cabinet that formally approved the

holding of a referendum on abortion at the end of May, according to the *National Catholic Register*.²

A specially convened meeting in January on Ireland’s pro-life Eighth Amendment concluded with a news conference in which the Prime Minister Leo Varadkar outlined his government’s plans to hold a referendum to “repeal the Eighth” and insert an “enabling clause” that would give the parliament sweeping powers to legislate for abortion.

Clinical psychologist Ruth Cullen of the Pro-Life Campaign said that the government’s proposal would for the first time in Ireland’s history “withdraw basic human rights from a group of vulnerable, defenseless individuals.”

“This is the final frontier,” said Bishop Kevin Doran of Elphin, who chairs the Irish bishops’ Committee for Bioethics. “If we cross it, there will be no easy way back.”



CANADA

Canada Court Rules Doctors Must Refer For Euthanasia

Canadian courts are moving to eliminate doctors’ right to refuse to kill their patients, according to *Mercator.net*.³

A group of five doctors and three professional organizations were contesting a policy issued by Ontario’s medical regulator, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO), arguing it infringed their right

to freedom of religion and conscience under Canada’s Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The policy in question is that of “effective referral,” which states that a doctor who objects to participating in euthanasia cannot be forced to do it but is expected to pass the patient to another doctor who will.

Justice Herman J. Wilton-Siegel of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario denied the applicants’ request, writing: “Those who enjoy the benefits of a license to practice a regulated profession must expect to be subject to regulatory requirements that focus on the public interest, rather than the interests of the professionals themselves.”

Larry Worthen, executive director of the Christian Medical and Dental Society of Canada, said: “(Our members) felt referral made them complicit and that they wouldn’t be able to live with themselves or stay in the profession if effective referral is still required.”

The case is sure to be appealed, but if the doctors championing conscientious objection fail, throughout Canada doctors would be required to refer for euthanasia.

In the Carter decision which legalized it, Canada’s Supreme Court explicitly stated that legalizing euthanasia did not entail a duty on the part of physicians to provide it. Now, however, 18 months and more than a thousand deaths after legalization, conscientious objection is at risk.

¹ <https://www.mercatornet.com/demography/view/when-a-countrys-towns-and-villages-face-extinction/20888>

² <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/irelands-government-goes-all-in-on-repealing-pro-life-constitutional-amendm>

³ https://www.mercatornet.com/careful/view/canadian-court-tells-doctors-they-must-refer-for-euthanasia/20975?utm_source=MercatorNet&utm_campaign=438f1d391e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_02_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e581d204e2-438f1d391e-124647015