



PRI exposes China's 'horrific' program of harvesting organs from prisoners

Paralyzed victims 'still alive and breathing'

BY PRI STAFF

ROME — The Chinese government is harvesting organs from prisoners while they are still alive to supply its lucrative organ transplant industry, a leading expert on China has told *LifeSiteNews*.

He is therefore calling on the Vatican to speak out.

Steven Mosher, founder and president of the Population Research Institute, sat down for an interview in Rome with *LifeSiteNews* editor-in-chief John-Henry Westen.

Westen spoke with Mosher at the recent John Paul II Academy for Human Life and the Family conference on “Brain Death: A Medicolegal Construct: Scientific & Philosophical Evidence.”¹



PRI President Steven Mosher at the sixth annual Rome Life Forum in May 2019. / *LifeSiteNews*

Mosher said that China—the world’s leader in organ transplants—has moved to a “more advanced” version of its decades-long practice of executing prisoners for their organs and is now “paralyzing their victims” in order to extract their organs while they are still alive.

China’s policy of executing prisoners for their organs “began in earnest in the 1990s, when the Buddhist sect known as Falun Gong were being arrested by the hundreds of thousands,” he said. “We began to get horrific first-person testimony of how some prisoners were being

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Vatican's Pan-Amazon Synod: No Gospel for the Noble Savages?

by Steven W. Mosher

As we approach the 2019 Pan-Amazonian Synod, scheduled to be held in October, the organizers are becoming more and more open about their goals.

In the name of learning from, and protecting, the tribal peoples of Amazonia, the synod appears bent on promoting a radical form of environmentalism that borders on nature-worship, not to mention romanticizing the hunter-gatherers themselves as Noble Savages.

The indigenous peoples living in the Amazon Basin offer, according to the preparatory document, “a model of alternative, integral, and solidarity-based development, grounded on an ethical code that includes responsibility for an authentic, natural, and human ecology.”¹

Above all, the document goes on, they are to be lauded for their supposed “spirituality and wisdom”²:

For the indigenous peoples of the Amazon Basin, the good life comes from living in communion with other people, with the world, with the creatures of their environment, and with the Creator. Indigenous peoples, in fact, live within the home that God created and gave them as a gift: the Earth. Their diverse spiritualities and beliefs motivate them to live in communion with the soil, water, trees, animals, and with day and night. Wise elders—called interchangeably “*payés*, *mestres*, *wayanga* or *chamanes*,” among others—promote the harmony of people among themselves and with the cosmos.”

This is heady stuff. One could almost be reading a description of a kind of Garden of Eden— before the Fall, of course—one populated exclusively by New Adams and New Eves.

But is the Amazonian rainforest really a kind of heaven on earth? And are the primitive hunter-gatherers who have lived there for centuries — in harmony with the *very cosmos*, we are told—actually the wise and spiritual beings they are made out to be? Are they purer, nobler, or just all around better than us benighted Westerners?

As an anthropologist who has lived in the less developed world for many years and has visited tribal peoples in Papua New Guinea and elsewhere, I call fraud.

There are parts of the preparatory document that are true, and parts of it that are new. Unfortunately, the parts of it that are true are not unique to the Amazonians, while the parts of it that ascribe new and unique virtues to the Amazonians are simply false.

Take the claim that the inhabitants of the rainforest live in a kind of “communion” with the “soil, water, trees, and animals” that is unique among peoples. Clearly, this general attitude of respect for nature is not exclusive to the Amazonians. All believing Christians understand that they are “living within the home that God created and gave them as a gift.”

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¹ <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2018/06/08/180608a.html>

² <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2018/06/08/180608a.html>

PRI Smeared by Soros-Funded Media Group

BY PRI STAFF

A left-wing, George Soros-funded media organization in the United Kingdom, called openDemocracy, has just released a hit piece falsely accusing Population Research Institute of “subvert(ing) democracy” in Europe.¹

This is nothing more than an attempt to smear the good work that PRI and other Christian, pro-life, and pro-family organizations in the U.S. do on that continent.

OpenDemocracy’s report alleges that PRI, along with other Christian and pro-life organizations, is funneling so-called “dark money” into Europe because we do not disclose the names of our donors.²

Altogether, Christian and pro-life organizations have sent over \$51 million dollars of “dark money” to Europe since 2008, they claim.

The left-wing group further implies that U.S.-based organizations seeking to promote a pro-life or pro-family message are engaged in “subvert(ing) democracy.”³

A group of members of the European Parliament cited in the report spitefully refers to the work of PRI and other pro-life and Christian organizations in Europe as “nefarious outside influences.”⁴

This is all nonsense.

For over two decades, PRI has sought to defend the rights and dignity inherent to each and every person. From exposing human rights abuses in coercive population control programs like China’s one-

child policy to unveiling the myth of overpopulation and defending the right to life of the unborn, PRI has steadfastly upheld fundamental human rights and the culture of life.

PRI’s impact and reach has been influential in countries across the globe. Our international outreach and influence have infuriated those on the left, like openDemocracy, who seek to undermine the right to life and traditional family values.

Like many Christian and pro-life non-profits, PRI does not disclose the names of its donors. We have adopted this policy in order to protect the safety, privacy, and anonymity of our donors.

We note that the U.S. government has never required 501(c)3 non-profit organizations to make public the names of their donors, meaning that it is fully permissible under federal law for a 501(c)3 to keep its donor lists private.

“We are very proud of what we have been able to accomplish in Europe and elsewhere,” says PRI President Steven Mosher, “We have helped local pro-life, pro-family groups defend the right to life and traditional family values.

“PRI is largely supported by small donations from individuals who wish to support our mission to defend the rights of the voiceless,” Mosher continued. “Unlike some NGOs, we receive no government funding.”

The report’s allegation that PRI’s work in Europe “subvert(s) democ-

“The report’s allegation that PRI’s work in Europe “subvert(s) democracy” is precisely the opposite of the truth.

racy” is precisely the opposite of the truth. Instead, PRI fosters democracy through dialogue and advocacy defending the fundamental right to life and traditional family values.

Over the years, we have provided technical assistance and training to pro-life and other like-minded organizations in Europe who approach us seeking to make their messaging more effective.

OpenDemocracy’s allegations are hypocritical given that a substantial proportion of openDemocracy’s own revenue comes from left-wing philanthropic organizations in the United States.⁵

Its funders include George Soros’ Open Society Foundations, the Ford Foundation, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and the Tides Foundation. The U.S.-based Wallace Global Fund was also a significant donor for openDemocracy’s 50.50 project which produced the report.

^{1, 2, 3, 4} <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/5050/revealed-trump-linked-us-christian-fundamentalists-pour-millions-of-dark-money-into-europe-boosting-the-far-right/>

⁵ <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/supporters/>

Read the incredibly powerful words that guided the Church through her major crises

Dear PRI Supporter,

The Church has faced many crises in her 2000 years and survived every one of them, just as she will survive the current crises. Sometimes, though, it's difficult to see how and when the Church will be victorious in the battles we face right now. **Well, do not despair!** Instead, be inspired by the powerful words that guided the Church through major crises in the past.

You'll find these words in the book I'd like to send you – *Sermons in Times of Crisis*. These are sermons that played immense roles in guiding the Church through theological, political, ecclesiastical and cultural crises. Here is a brief look at the extraordinarily powerful sermons and homilies that await you in this book . . .

For decades, Poland had endured one of the Church's greatest crises: The Soviet drive to crush the Church in Poland. Then, before a massive crowd in Warsaw, **Pope St. John Paul II** delivered the sermon that helped set the stage for Poland's freedom, ultimately ending the crisis.

Pope John Paul II's words were so moving, so powerful that they had the crowd cheering, "WE WANT GOD!"

After Pope Pius IX restored the Catholic Church in England, **Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman** faced a huge Church crisis: He was called on to energize the English Catholic clergy of the newly established diocese of Westminster. England had been without apostolic presence for over 250 years. Cardinal Newman handled that crisis with his stirring "Second Spring" sermon. You'll find it – in all its magnificence – in *Sermons in Times of Crisis*.

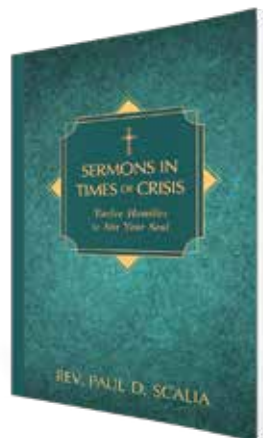
Sermons in Times of Crisis gives you 12 sermons and homilies, all of them certain to aid your spiritual growth. I just gave you a brief description of two of them!

The *Sermons in Times of Crisis* sermons have been selected by Fr. Paul Scalia (yes, he is the son of the late Supreme Court Justice Anton Scalia). Perhaps you've read Father Scalia's writing on the Faith – *That Nothing May Be Lost*. His work has appeared in *First Things*, *This Rock*, *The Catholic Thing* and other national Catholic publications.

Each selection in *Sermons in Times of Crisis* has a very insightful introduction by Father Scalia. For instance, Father's introduction to the sermon by St. Ambrose of Milan tell us this . . .

. . . "The greatest crisis faced by the Church are heresies: crises of doctrine and truth. To be sure, moral crises do tremendous damage. But so long as the sure and certain light of truth shines, the faithful can find the path again."

The light of Church truth is what you'll find in each selection in *Sermons in Times of Crisis*. This is a book that will deepen and strengthen your faith. It belongs in your home library. May I send you *Sermons in Times of Crisis* to thank you for your renewed support of \$50 or more? It's a gift that will help PRI **save more babies!**



...Please use the enclosed Gift Reply to request your copy of
Sermons in Times of Crisis

Gifts to PRI are tax deductible. Give today!

Organ harvesting, *continued*

taken out and executed specifically for their organs.”

“In the early days, it was done rather crudely,” Mosher explained. “They would force the prisoner to kneel down, shoot them in the back of the head, and then they would have an emergency vehicle right there with an operating table, and they would extract the organs—the heart, the corneas, all of the valuable organs that could be sold for tens of thousands of dollars.”

The organs were then put in cold-packs and taken to operating rooms where they could be transplanted, he said.

Mosher explained that, more recently, China has moved to a “more advanced version” by simply paralyzing their victim. “The victim is still alive and breathing but can’t move because the muscles are paralyzed, and they extract the organs while the individual is still living—the heart, the liver, the kidneys, anything you can imagine that has monetary value is being taken out.”

A ‘Peculiar’ and Robust Industry

“There is a tremendous amount of money, of course, in organ transplants” he said, “and China does more organ transplants than the rest of the world put together.”

Mosher noted that there has always been “something peculiar” about the organ transplant industry in China.

In the West, he said, patients “can wait six months or a year or forever for a tissue match for a kidney or a heart.” But in China, “you are tissue-typed as soon as you arrive” and “generally within the week and sometimes as soon as

24-48 hours you have the heart, the kidney, the liver that you’ve been waiting for.”

“The only way that can happen is by having a million people on death row in China who’ve already been tissue-typed,” said Mosher. “They put the tissue of the prospective buyer of the organ into the computer and when a match comes up that person is executed, and their organs are taken out and immediately transplanted into the buyer.”

Denial and Cover-Up

Mosher said the Chinese government has “gone to great lengths” to deny this is happening.

In 2010, he said, the regime created a program to suggest that “voluntary organ donations are increasing dramatically” and are legally acquired “from people who give their informed consent.”

But Mosher, who first exposed China’s one-child policy, pointed out that there are questions about what “informed consent” actually means in China. He said that under the one-child policy, China forced women to abort their children at seven months of pregnancy while claiming they had their “informed consent.”

He said the Chinese government’s new claim that there has been a “straight-line increase” in voluntary organ donation is pure propaganda. “It is clearly a cover story propagated by the doctors in charge of the organ transplant program ... to convince the world that, yes, we have millions of Chinese who are now voluntarily donating their organs,” he said.

“This is a question of literally killing people for their organs to make a profit off them.”

Mosher said the Chinese government has also made considerable efforts to convince the Chinese Academy of Sciences that it is serious about ending abuse in the organ transplant program.

Calling on Vatican to Speak Out

“It would be very helpful if the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, headed by Archbishop Marcello Sorondo, would actually speak out against the continuing practice of organ harvesting in China from people who are executed for their organs,” he said.

Mosher noted that the United States has called for an investigation into the problem of executing prisoners for their organs.

“I think a lot of people are speaking on this with the same voice, and it would be helpful if Archbishop Sanchez Sorondo added his voice to the people who are demanding China stop this horrible human rights abuse,” he said.

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¹ <https://www.jahlf.org/general-assembly-2019/>

Time for a New Parental Leave Policy?

Childcare costs in America leading to smaller families

BY JONATHAN ABBAMONTE

For decades, Americans have not been having enough births to replace themselves. Fertility in the U.S. has been below the replacement rate—roughly 2.1 births woman—since 1972.

The reasons for America's perennial low birth rate are many. But the among the biggest reasons are the rising costs of childrearing.

Over just the past 20 years alone, the cost of raising a child has skyrocketed by over 40 percent.¹

Moreover, the cost of giving birth in some places can cost as much as a new car, and the price of housing today is now higher than ever before, making it harder for couples to purchase a home for their family.^{2,3}

According to a survey from the *New York Times/Morning Consult*, the cost of childcare expenses is the number one reason adults cite for not having as many kids as they wished they could have.⁴

Also high on the list were concerns about the economy and financial stability as well as concerns about having enough free time to spend with their children or to devote to leisure.

Add to this the fact that many parents, especially women, take time off work to care for a new child, time off which for most Americans is unpaid.⁵ For most parents, the expenses around the time of birth are a major shock to their finances. Too many parents are also faced with the difficult choice of having to sacrifice their career in order to take time off to care for a new child.



Photo illustration / Getty Images

“Many American families, living paycheck to paycheck, cannot afford even short-term unpaid parental leave.”

Bottom line: Many parents today are delaying childbearing because they do not feel financially secure enough to take on the additional expenses that another child would bring.

Guaranteeing workers job-protected paid parental leave would give parents the freedom they need to afford taking time off from work for a new child while not sacrificing their careers and future income potential in the process.

In the *New York Times* survey, 39 percent of young adults surveyed said they were having fewer kids than their ideal because they did not have enough access to paid family leave. Another 38 percent said they had no access to paid family leave at all.

For too many Americans, access to paid family leave is an unattainable luxury. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, only 17 percent of American

workers have access to paid family leave.⁶

Since Congress passed the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA), Americans have been allowed to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a new child. But unpaid leave is just that—it's unpaid. Most Americans cannot afford to take unpaid leave for very long and often return to work sooner than they wanted due to lost wages or fear of losing their job.^{7,8} Many American families, living paycheck to paycheck, cannot afford even short-term unpaid parental leave.

The United States is the only remaining industrialized country in the world that does not offer some form of paid maternal leave. All OECD countries except the U.S. provide at least 12 weeks paid maternal leave and most countries provide additional paid parental leave on top of that as well.⁹

Providing American families with access to paid parental leave would help ease the significant financial burdens parents face when taking off time from work to bond with a new child and recover their health after childbirth.

Providing access to paid leave could also help reverse America's birth dearth crisis. Studies have shown that access to higher paid parental leave has a significant effect in boosting the number of births. Studies have also shown that paid parental leave most benefits those who need it most including young mothers, low-income families, those without a college degree, and minorities.

Moreover, in countries where parents are eligible to receive higher cash benefit payments from the government per child, the fertility rate tends to increase.¹⁰

And in Australia, after national paid parental leave was introduced for the first time in that country in 2011, the number of children couples planned on having increased significantly.¹¹

An overwhelming majority of Americans including most Republicans, Democrats, and Independents support some form of paid family and medical leave. Americans, however, disagree about how paid leave



PRI President Steve Mosher with Cardinal Raymond Burke at the largest March for Life ever in Rome this summer, with tens of thousands taking part.

Virginia Coda Nunziante, president of Italy's March for Life committee, gave the keynote address to the participants.

"We are here today to demonstrate against unjust laws, laws that kill innocent people, people who cannot react and cannot defend themselves," Nunziante said.

should be financed and who should be required to pay for it.¹²

Several paid parental leave proposals have been introduced in Congress this year by members of both parties.

One such proposal, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's FAMILY Act (S. 463), would seek to provide 12 weeks leave with up to 66 percent wage reimbursement.¹³

The proposal would, however, finance the program by introducing a new 0.4 percent payroll tax, half of which would be paid by the employ-

er and the other half which would be paid by the employee.

Although a majority of Americans support or somewhat favor paid leave financed through payroll contributions, many Americans are also strongly opposed to the idea of raising taxes to fund paid leave.¹⁴

As paid leave affects all American families, any paid leave policy adopted by Congress should strive to be favorable to all Americans and should not harm American families and businesses by instituting new entitlement spending.

¹ https://money.cnn.com/2011/09/21/pf/cost_raising_child/index.htm

² <http://money.com/money/4995922/how-much-costs-give-birth-state/>

³ <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CSUSHPINSA>

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/05/upshot/americans-are-having-fewer-babies-they-told-us-why.html>

⁵ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/work-in-progress/2010/12/13/career-off-ramps-are-taking-an-increasing-toll-on-womens-careers/#57ce7fdc774e>

⁶ <https://www.dol.gov/asp/evaluation/fmla/fmla-2012-technical-report.pdf>

⁷ https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2017/03/23/americans-widely-support-paid-family-and-medical-leave-but-differ-over-specific-policies/sdt-03-22-2017_paid-leave-00-02/

⁸ https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2017/03/23/americans-widely-support-paid-family-and-medical-leave-but-differ-over-specific-policies/sdt-03-22-2017_paid-leave-00-01/

⁹ https://www.oecd.org/els/soc/PF2_1_Parental_leave_systems.pdf

¹⁰ <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10680-013-9295-4>

¹¹ <http://econ-wpseries.com/2016/201604.pdf>

¹² <https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2017/03/23/support-for-paid-leave-policies/>

¹³ <https://www.congress.gov/bills/116th-congress/senate-bill/463/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22Economic+Security+for+New+Parents+Act%22%5D%7D&r=1&s=5>

¹⁴ https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2017/03/23/americans-widely-support-paid-family-and-medical-leave-but-differ-over-specific-policies/sdt-03-22-2017_paid-leave-00-04/



HUMANAE VITAE COALITION

The Truth Is Finally Out Now: Contraception Fails, NFP Works!

by Dr. Christopher Manion

For years, PRI has been warning about the dangers of contraception. As our founder, Father Paul Marx, O.S.B, never tired of explaining, the morning-after pill is an abortifacient. By design it ends the life of a newly conceived, newly created human being.

I still remember the chill I felt when he calmly explained that abortifacients had terminated the lives of hundreds of millions of newly created embryos. Real human beings. With real souls.

And most people don't know that even the "ordinary" birth control pill can cause early-term abortions.

"The Pill" wreaks havoc everywhere it goes. It represents a spirit of rebellion as old as fallen man. Recall the Garden of Eden.

As soon as our first parents eat the forbidden fruit, watch how quickly their original sin turns Adam against his wife: "The man said, 'The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate'" (Genesis 3:12).

Isn't that classic? As soon as he's caught, Adam blames her.

And that's what contraception does. It turns husband against wife, wife against husband, both against God and nature. "Don't be fruitful, don't multiply. Let the pill take dominion over you, your marriage, and your family."

Suddenly the man fears his wife: "She might get pregnant." The wom-

an is afraid, too – "He might get me pregnant." And the prospective child? Whose body is gloriously made? That child is the enemy. The mother's enemy. The father's enemy.

There you have the sexual revolution boiled down to one tiny pill.

"The pill will make you free," apostles of progress told us, but they were wrong. In fact, the Pill will make you sick. Along with the spiritual and emotional damage it causes, the chemical contraceptive can cause physical damage to a woman's body as well.

CDC Catches Up on NFP's Success

The Contraception Mentality devastates everyone it touches. But for years, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), a federal government agency, has advocated several "effective methods" – all of them artificial, invasive, and destructive – as superior to "Fertility-Awareness-Based Methods," which they assigned a failure rate of 24 percent.

This assessment "would discourage most couples from using them and would prevent doctors from recommending them," reports Gerard Migeon on the Natural Womanhood website. "Earlier this year they changed this posted rate to '2% to 23%' which is a major change for the industry," he adds.

It's as simple as that. Properly practiced, NFP works very effectively.

This is big news indeed, and it should be trumpeted far and wide. But don't expect the pharmaceutical companies to do it for you.

On the CDC's list of "Birth Control Methods," NFP is one of 16 listed. All of the other 15 – including those "emergency contraceptive pills" that are "flying off the shelves" – are commercial products.

They provide billions of dollars annually to their manufacturers, whose sales representatives hawk their wares not only to millions of medical practitioners and institutions, but government agencies, educational institutions, pharmacies and every other possible marketing avenue imaginable. In fact, "Plan B One-Step Contraceptive" is available on Amazon with free 2-day delivery.

Steve Mosher, President of PRI, puts the matter plainly: "Big Pharma, and its paid flacks and researchers, have been trying to keep the efficacy of NFP from becoming common knowledge. There's no money to be made off self-control, of course, in sexual matters or in any other area. "Ever since Aristotle, the West has recognized that a self-governing people need very little intrusive government. And they don't need contraceptives, either."

NFP can save families, save lives, and save souls. The CDC's endorsement is good news indeed. Spread the word.



PRI, CitizenGo Find Ways To Boost Citizen Activism

by Carlos Polo

I am pleased to be marking my second year on the board of trustees of CitizenGo, one of the most innovative pro-life organizations in citizen participation in public life.

In just a little over five years, CitizenGo has become an influential citizen platform that has surpassed 10 million active members. Through online alerts and petitions, citizens around the world have an effective means to make those in power respect the dignity and rights of each and every person.

CitizenGo carries out campaigns in 12 languages: Spanish, English, French, Portuguese, Italian, German, Polish, Russian, Croatian, Hungarian, Dutch and Slovak. It is active on four continents, influencing institutions, agencies, and organizations from 50 different countries.

PRI has collaborated with CitizenGo since the organization's founding in November 2013. From the PRI office in Latin America and with Carlos Beltramo, Director of PRI in Europe, we train staff in how to use of tools of political strategy, communication and scenario analysis.

It is no coincidence that RELEASE, the division of PRI dedicated to developing political participation tools, was presented to leaders of organizations from more than 20 countries at the CitizenGo Summer School in Rome last July.

There have been a few victories in which PRI accompanied CitizenGo. For example, we worked very closely with



The 2019 meeting of the CitizenGO Board of Trustees: (left to right) Carlos Polo, Brian Brown, Gualberto García, Luca Volor, Mateo Cattaneo and Ignacio Arsuaga.

the group to support the "Freedom Bus" campaign, a symbol of citizen resistance against the dictatorship of gender ideology espoused by the socialist Spanish government.

A similar "freedom bus" used by HazteOir, a subsidiary of CitizenGo in Spain, was later replicated in several cities in America and Europe. The bus was brought to the gates of the United Nations in New York City, and went on tour in Colombia, Chile, Mexico, France and Germany.

The bus even became noteworthy enough that an entire article was dedicated to it in a publication of the Open Society Foundations, an organization funded by George Soros.¹ The "Freedom Bus" has helped provide a resurgence of the conservative agenda and its influence in national elections.

At this last annual meeting of the CitizenGo Board of Trustees, the cen-

tral theme was to reflect on the new forms of political organizing arising from today's information technology.

The internet has made it possible for an organization to communicate with its members 24/7, year-round, at a minimal cost.

Additionally, the internet also makes it possible for an organization like CitizenGo to fundraise in an efficient, ongoing and low-cost way, creating a virtual circle of influence capacity and financial resources.

This evolution of political organizations is characterized by:

- Easy affiliation and participation in political activities over the internet.
- Constant online petitions with immediate response and high impact.
- The capacity to rapidly call for public demonstrations.
- A wide tactical repertoire that is both media-savvy and creative.
- The sense of belonging generated among members and the emotional link that they develop with the institution.

PRI and CitizenGo share this passion for innovation; to look for new forms of citizen participation in public life; to empower citizens and make citizen activism more effective; to adopt technology to improve communication; and to act more effectively for a better society.

¹ <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/gender-ideology-fiction-could-do-real-harm>

Vatican Synod, *continued*

I seem to recall that it was a Catholic Italian, not a “wise” Amazonian, who best expressed this attitude of praise and thanksgiving for the wonders of God’s creation we all feel. You would think a Vatican led by an admirer of St. Francis would understand this.

The suggestion that Amazonians have some unique claim to virtue is equally bogus. There may be “wise elders”—invariably male, by the way—running around the rainforest promoting the harmony of people among themselves and with the cosmos (whatever that means), but history suggests otherwise.

When Europeans first arrived in the 16th century, they found the Amazonian tribes in a state of constant warfare. “Wise elders” were leading raids on neighboring settlements, with the object being to capture women and territory. The practice of

cannibalism was not uncommon and provided another motive to wage war on neighboring peoples.³

According to a 2012 study by University of Missouri anthropologist Robert Walker, about one third of all deaths among the Amazonian tribes prior to the arrival of Europeans were due to violent conflict.⁴

So what was it that led to the end of this deadly cycle? According to Walker, it was none other than “the spread of Christianity and imposition of national legal structures.”⁵

As European missionaries began to reach the interior, the level of violence began to come down as many of these primitive tribes were taught the Fifth Commandment and converted to Catholicism. “Thou shalt not kill” was reinforced by the establishment of national governments — Brazil, Peru, Venezuela, etc. — that likewise frowned on peoples under their jurisdiction killing and, in some cases, eating each other.

In other words, what put an end to the violence was the arrival of Christian civilization.

Now the latter-day descendants of those same missionaries, prelates like Cardinal Pedro Barreto, want to reverse this process. Instead of continuing to convert the Amazon peoples, they want, in important respects, for the Amazon people to convert us.

This lack of commitment to evangelization is best illustrated by the Synod organizers’ view of what are

called “Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation.” (PIAV). These are tribes who have retreated to the most inaccessible reaches of the rainforest in order to avoid contact with the outside world. There are estimated to be around 150 such tribes, mostly numbering a few hundred people.

The Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network (REPAM), which is organizing the Amazonian Synod, has devoted a great deal of time and energy into promoting the rights of such tribes to live in total isolation.⁶

This strikes me as a very strange position for a member of the Catholic Church — a church that exists for the salvation of souls — to take.

The task of evangelization laid out in the Great Commission contains no exception to what is rightly called the “principle of universality.” Jesus Christ did not say, “Make disciples of all nations—but skip peoples who choose to live in isolation.”

Yet the organizers of the Amazonian Synod apparently believe that it is better to leave the Noble Savages—to use Rousseau’s term—of the Amazonian rainforest alone. The idea seems to be that it is better to help them maintain their own ethnic, cultural, and religious identity, pagan rites and all, rather than teach them and their children the saving grace of the gospel.



Indigenous Brazilian Woman and Child / Getty Images

³ <https://www.wdl.org/en/item/4069/>

⁴ <https://phys.org/news/2012-10-amazonian-tribal-warfare-modern-violence.html>

⁵ <https://phys.org/news/2012-10-amazonian-tribal-warfare-modern-violence.html>

⁶ <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2018-07/amazon-bishops-repam-uncontacted-tribes-rights.html>



■ Mosher Tells Story Behind Tiananmen

BREITBART NEWS—On the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre, PRI President Steven Mosher appeared on SiriusXM's Breitbart News Tonight with host Rebecca Mansour to recall how Chinese authorities emptied Beijing's hospitals of "dead and wounded" to "destroy the evidence" of what they had done that day, June 4, 1989.¹

"It began in February of 1989 with students peacefully demonstrating in favor of democracy, human rights, and an end to the one-party dictatorship," Mosher recalled. "They were holding signs with quotations from Patrick Henry, 'Give me liberty or give me death.'"

"They were quoting George Washington and Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln. ... The Chinese people, especially the young people ... had tasted freedom. Some of them had been in the United States and had come back, and they desperately wanted change in China."

Over a million people were demonstrating in Beijing in pursuit of "human rights" and "freedom," said Mosher, but it all came to a horrible and violent end. Mosher stated, "On the day and night of the massacre...what they did was bring in the 38th Army from the region of Mongolia with many, many, many Mongolian recruits. They were told there was an armed uprising in Beijing which wanted to overthrow the

Chinese Communist Party, and it was their job to put down that uprising."

Mosher continued, "There were tanks rolling into crowds of people at high speed, crushing them... The butchery was horrible."

"The hospitals were overflowing with the dead and wounded. But the next day ... they emptied out the hospitals of all the dead and wounded to try to destroy the evidence."

■ McCarrick Behind Bad China Deal, Mosher Says

EWTN – In June PRI President Steven Mosher was interviewed on "The World Over" with Raymond Arroyo for a report on the actions of disgraced ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, who continued to function as an "amateur" representative in foreign relations, specifically with China, despite Vatican restrictions on his official activity.²

Said Mosher, "I think that it's clear that McCarrick was freelancing here, but freelancing with the permission of Vatican officials who looked the other way while he continued to gallivant around the world."

"I think one of the reasons we're having so many problems in China in the aftermath of the Sino-Vatican deal is that deal was negotiated by Cardinal McCarrick," he said.

"Now, you don't want to have someone with all kinds of personal deficiencies being your chief negotiator with a country like China. If they know you have weaknesses—like McCarrick had

obvious weaknesses—they're going to take advantage of it."

"We do know he negotiated a very bad deal which is now turning out to be a disaster for Chinese Catholics."

■ Mosher: Why Bishop Denied Burial in China

LIFESITENEWS – PRI President Steven Mosher was quoted in an article about a bishop of the underground Catholic Church in China who died under house arrest and will not be permitted a Catholic burial.³

Asia News reported that Bishop Stefano Li Side, the legitimate ordinary of Tianjin, died June 8 after a long illness. He was 92 and had been living under house arrest for 27 years.

Because Li never joined the schismatic so-called Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, the state-backed religious authorities will not permit his body to be buried in a Catholic cemetery.

Mosher said this action underscores that the agreement between the Holy See and the Chinese government has not helped Catholics in China.

"Anyone who thinks that conditions for Catholics have improved following the signing of the secret Sino-Vatican Agreement has only to reflect on the disrespectful way that Communist officials, including representatives of the Patriotic Church, treated the good bishop," Mosher told *LifeSiteNews* via email.

¹ <https://www.breitbart.com/radio/2019/06/04/steven-mosher-after-tiananmen-massacre-china-emptied-out-the-hospitals-of-dead-and-wounded-to-destroy-the-evidence/>

² https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOF-h3NB_gM

³ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/faithful-chinese-bishop-died-under-house-arrest-denied-a-catholic-burial>

From the Countries



CANADA

Canadians March for Life in 50th Year

Thousands of Canadians gathered in Ottawa this summer for the national March for Life in protest of 50 years of legal abortion in their country, according to *LifeSiteNews*.¹

Pro-life advocates mourned the four million unborn children killed by abortion in the past five decades and also looked ahead to Canada's federal election in October.

Replacing Justin Trudeau and his party with pro-life politicians would be a significant victory for life and family advocates.

His father, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, introduced abortion in 1969 with the Liberal omnibus bill. The current prime minister promotes abortion as a cornerstone of his government's policy.



ENGLAND

And in London, Thousands Also March for Life

As many as 5,000 pro-lifers braved unpredictable weather to march on Parliament for the 2019 March for Life UK, according to the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.²

For the second year the march was held in London, after moving from Birmingham. The theme was

"Irreplaceable," according to co-director Isabel Vaughan-Spruce a reminder "that each human being from the moment of his or her conception is a unique individual that cannot be replaced by any other human being".

"The Parliament got it wrong more than 200 years ago when they decided that the black person should not be protected by law," said opening speaker Obianuju Ekeocha of Culture of Life Africa. "Who is worthy of personhood?" The babies in the womb are worthy of personhood! They deserve to be protected."

Also testifying was American Melissa Ohden, who survived a saline abortion 41 years ago.

"In my work as the founder of The Abortion Survivors Network, I have had contact with 286 other abortion survivors, including five from the U.K., four of whom are still alive today," she said.

"Despite the miracle of my survival, the doctor's prognosis for my life was initially very poor. My adoptive parents were told that I would suffer from multiple disabilities throughout my life. However, here I am today, perfectly healthy.

"Whether I had lived with the expected disabilities or not, my life still deserved to be protected and respected, I still was worthy of the love that my family freely offered."



HUNGARY

Hungary Faces Population Drop

Hungary is looking to lose up to a fifth of its current population by the middle of the century, according to an article in *Mercatornet*.³

Like much of the rest of Central-Eastern Europe, Hungary is facing a demographic crisis from declining population, brought about through emigration and low fertility rates.

The Hungarian government has announced that it is throwing more financial incentives at people to encourage more babies, and Hungarian Prime Minister Victor Orban is hoping that this will pay off, the report stated.

The Budapest Business Journal reports that the year-on-year change from the start of 2018 to the start of 2019 is not showing improvement yet.

The natural decrease in the first two months of this year was 36 per cent higher than in 2018. This was because there were 5 percent fewer births in the start of 2019 and 10.5 per cent more deaths.

At the same time the number of marriages declined slightly (down 2.1 per cent) and the total fertility rate decline from 1.49 children per woman to 1.43 children per woman.

¹ https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/pro-lifers-stand-together-for-march-for-life-on-50th-anniversary-of-legalized-abortion-in-canada?utm_source=LifeSiteNews.com&utm_campaign=eb3f8316a5-Daily%2520Headlines%2520-%2520U.S._COPY_500&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_12387f0e3e-eb3f8316a5-401373841&fbclid=IwAR3HE0tyy18u17yAyeN_zrgZvCtQMyKaLx5CnIjabGBb0S0R8IS2F2G_wSs

² https://www.spuc.org.uk/latest-news/latest-news/every-life-is-irreplaceable-thousands-march-for-life-in-london?fbclid=IwAR3UMLCAj5asr5P-PY--l9RYGzQYK_fkjx51wUJG31i04NBKGniv6SHV648

³ https://www.mercatornet.com/demography/view/hungarys-continuing-population-slide/22475?fbclid=IwAR1zKOiZRj1LZkhYcb6MfnrlqrKIFaIdyb_rqYSZX9wIV-ijfxusJG-QG6o