



Lies That Kill: China's Virus Death 20 Times Higher than Official Count

BY STEVEN MOSHER

In January, people in Wuhan began dying of the novel coronavirus. Not long thereafter, disturbing pictures began to leak out of China showing hospital hallways crowded with the bodies of the dead, and vans loaded with body bags heading toward crematoria. Yet the rapidly rising death toll these pictures suggested was not reflected in the official death toll, which remained puzzlingly low.

Now, I have long been skeptical of numbers coming out of China, which are always crafted with one goal in mind—to make the Party and its leaders look good. So I began to look for other metrics that might give me a clue as to what the real death toll was. I found one answer in the ovens of Wuhan's seven crematoria.

Understand that everyone who dies in China is cremated. Not long after the Communists took power in 1949, the traditional practice of burying the dead in coffins was outlawed on the grounds that it took land away from farming. This means that we can assume that the number of cremations equals the number of deaths.



Nurse holding test tube with blood for 2019-nCoV analysis / Getty Images

By January 30, the Wuhan authorities reported that only 170 people had died in Wuhan and the surrounding area. Yet two days before, on January 28th, they announced that they were “dispatching extra vehicles, staff, and protective gear to all of the local mortuaries.”

Why?

“To improve the capacity of transporting and dealing with corpses.” They also suddenly offered “free cremation for the corpses of coronavirus victims who died on January 26 or later.”

These actions made it obvious that the real body count was going up a lot faster than the official count. In fact,

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With his expertise on China, the source of COVID-19, PRI President Steven Mosher was featured in more than 90 interviews and articles in more than 40 different print, TV, radio and online news outlets from January through April 2020.

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Evidence Grows That Virus Escaped from Wuhan Biolab

by Steven W. Mosher

There are a growing number of people, such as Senator Tom Cotton and myself, who believe that the China coronavirus may have been under study at a Wuhan biolab, that it somehow escaped, and that this is how Wuhan became the epicenter of the pandemic that has changed all of our lives.

In fact, there is a paper, authored by two Chinese scientists, which traces exactly how they think this happened.

Their paper, titled “The Possible Origins of the 2019-nCoV coronavirus,” begins by confirming that the China virus came from an animal known as the Intermediate Horseshoe Bat. Interestingly, the paper, published in February, has since disappeared from the international scholarly database Research Gate, but is still available through the Wayback Machine and is now available on *LifeSiteNews*.

On this point about the virus coming from bats, the scientific community is now virtually united. Genetic analysis has revealed that the China coronavirus is from the same family of coronaviruses carried by the horseshoe bat.

But how did the horseshoe bats and their load of coronaviruses get to Wuhan, and how did one of these viruses manage to cross the species barrier and infect humans? On these questions, there is wide disagreement.

The Communist Chinese authorities initially put out the story that the bats were sold in the Wuhan wet market as food, and that a worker there accidentally became infected when butchering one of the little beasts for a customer. This story has been endlessly repeated by compliant American media outlets.

Sorry, China, but your own scientists, Botao Xiao and Lei Xiao, who work for the state-run South China University of Technology, make quick work of this story.

First, they point out that there are no known colonies of this species of bat within 900 kilometers—that’s 560 miles—of Wuhan. Second, they diligently interviewed 59 people with connections to Wuhan and each and every one confirmed that there were no horseshoe bats being sold there.

So how did the bats, and the viruses carried by the bats, get to Wuhan? They were carried there by humans, of course. Bill Gertz has documented how China researchers were extracting and studying deadly bat coronaviruses in two Wuhan biolabs.

Gertz writes that “Several Chinese state media outlets in recent months touted the virus research and lionized in particular a key researcher in Wuhan, Tian Junhua, as a leader in bat virus work... A video posted online in December and funded by the Chinese government shows Mr. Tian inside caves in Hubei province taking samples from captured bats and storing them in vials.”

The seven-minute video, reports Gertz, “boasts that China has ‘taken the lead’ in global virus research and uncovered over 2,000 viruses in the past 12 years, the time since the outbreak of the bat-origin virus that causes severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).” China’s frenzied collection efforts, led by Mr. Tian among others, have nearly doubled the number of known viruses.

Aside from collecting samples of bat urine and feces from caves, Mr. Tian also

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collects the horseshoe bats themselves. According to a May 2017 report by the Wuhan Evening News cited by Gertz, Mr. Tian has gathered thousands of bats for research work on bat viruses since 2012.

Mr. Tian works at the Wuhan Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the national center for China's bat virus research, and one of two Wuhan biolabs identified by the authors of "The Possible Origins" paper as the source of the leak.

"We screened the area around the seafood market and identified two laboratories conducting research on bat coronavirus," the Chinese researchers explained. "Within 280 meters from the market, there was the Wuhan Center for Disease Control & Prevention (WHCDC). WHCDC hosted animals in laboratories for research purposes, one of which was specialized in pathogens collection and identification."

Botao Xiao and Lei Xiao note that one WHCDC study used 155 horseshoe bats captured from Hubei province and 450 bats captured from Zhejiang province. They also noted that about seven miles away was the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), which was also conducting research on the same bats.

They concluded that the first case of a human having contracted the virus was probably a biolab worker from the WHCDC or WIV who accidentally exposed himself to blood or urine from a bat and infected himself. They also suggested that infected tissue samples from research animals, or the animals themselves, may have wound up in the wet market.

"The killer coronavirus probably originated from a laboratory in Wuhan," they write.



Doctor examines Covid-19 virus patient in restricted room / Getty Images

They conclude that "safety" may need to be improved in "high risk, biohazardous laboratories."

"Regulations may be taken to relocate these laboratories far away from city center and other densely populated places," they state.

The paper was quickly censored by the Chinese authorities and disappeared online. But curiously—and just as the authors had recommended—new regulations governing the "handling of dangerous viruses like the novel coronavirus" were in fact quickly put in place. Deepening the suspicion of a cover-up, Chinese officials not only refused to provide samples of the China coronavirus strains to U.S. researchers, it ordered private labs in China to destroy their samples and gene sequencing data.

Were they afraid that researchers might find out that the pandemic was in fact caused by a virus that had been isolated at one of China's research labs? It certainly looks that way.

The mainstream media seems intent upon protecting China from the accusation that the China Coro-

navirus escaped from a lab via an accidentally infected worker or the selling of an infected lab animal. Those of us who criticize the Chinese authorities for unleashing a pandemic upon the world are called "xenophobic" and "racist." They seem so intent upon making Trump look bad that they are bending over backward to make China look good.

But there is simply no question that China has for years been doing research on many dangerous coronaviruses at its Wuhan biolabs. Not only have the institutions in question openly bragged about their virus collection efforts, but the researchers involved have left a clear paper trail.

If Xi Jinping wants to prove that China is not responsible for the global pandemic now wreaking havoc all over the world, he should order the release of the research records of his Wuhan biolabs.

Of course, the likelihood of that actually happening is near zero, which in itself would be tantamount to an admission of guilt.

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exorcist must never utter when confronting demons...

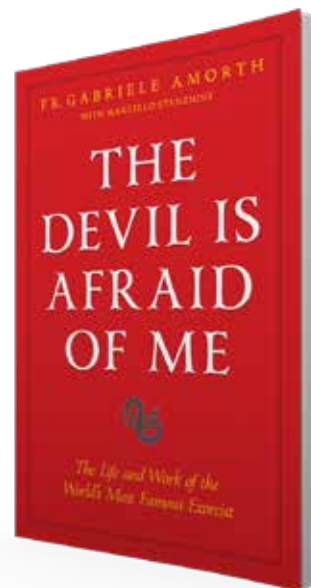
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amorth', is positioned to the right of the main text.

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Lies That Kill, *continued*

by all indications, the mortuaries were being simply overrun with corpses. Wuhan mortuaries had to add night and weekend shifts to cope with the numbers.

We know this because they posted “help wanted” advertisements online to recruit workers for night, swing, and weekend shifts. Also, for two full months during the height of the epidemic, from January 23 to March 23, no funerals were held at the mortuaries, and grieving relatives weren’t even allowed to pick up the ashes of their loved ones.

So how many bodies were cremated during this time? Let’s crunch the numbers. The seven mortuaries in Wuhan proper have a total of 84 ovens. Assuming that each cremation takes two hours, that number of ovens could have reduced 1,008 corpses to ashes each day.

At this rate, some 60,000 bodies could have been cremated over two months, from which we have to subtract the normal non-epidemic related mortality of roughly 10,000. This gives us an estimated number of deaths from the Wuhan Coronavirus of 50,000.

Another estimate comes from the huge numbers of funeral urns being handed out.

It was announced on March 23 that grieving relatives would finally be allowed to come to the mortuaries to pick up the ashes of their loved ones. Long lines quickly formed outside of Wuhan’s mortuaries as people waited for hours to receive the remains of their loved ones lost during the epidemic.

They were told that they must pick up the urns by April 4, a traditional holiday called Tomb Sweeping Day where Chinese memorialize their ancestors.

Investigative journalists from Caixin reported that funeral urns were being distributed at a rate of 500 a day at Wuhan’s seven mortuaries, meaning that a total of 3,500 urns were being handed out each day. Given that the window for picking up the urns was 12 days long, this would mean that 42,000 urns would be given out during that time.

One photo published by Caixin shows a truck loaded with 2,500 urns arriving at the Hankou Mortuary. When questioned, the driver said he had delivered the same number of urns to the same mortuary the day before.

Another photo shows stacks of urns inside the mortuary totaling some 3,500 urns. Taken together with the new shipment, the number of urns on hand at this one mortuary alone looks to be more than double Wuhan’s official death toll.

To buy the silence of the people, the Communist authorities have been handing out hush money. Wuhan resident Chen Yaohui told Radio Free Asia that “There have been a lot of funerals in the past few days, and the authorities are handing out 3,000 yuan in hush money to families who get their loved ones’ remains laid to rest ahead of Qing Ming,” he said, in a reference to the traditional Tomb Sweeping Day on April 4.

“It’s to stop them from wailing,” Chen said, referring to a traditional form of mourning. “Nobody will be allowed to wail after Qing Ming has passed.”

As reported by Bloomberg, U.S. intelligence agencies have also concluded that Beijing falsified its numbers, although their report remains classified. And when President Trump

was asked at his April 1 press briefing about China’s numbers, he responded that they “seem to be a little bit on the light side. And I’m being nice when I say that, relative to what we witnessed and what was reported.”

I think the president was being not just nice, but extraordinarily diplomatic, given Beijing’s ongoing deceit where the epidemic is concerned. Remember, we are talking about the same Communist Party that asserts no one died in Tiananmen Square, when the actual death toll from the Tiananmen Massacre was 10,000.

This is the same CCP that asserts that no one died in the famine after the Great Leap Forward, when in fact 42.5 million people starved to death.

Bear that in mind when you consider the official Chinese government data for Wuhan, which show that only 2,535 people died from the disease, and only 50,006 people were infected.

I think the official figures are understated by a factor of 20. That is to say, the real number of fatalities is perhaps 50,000. As for how many people were infected, if you assume a case fatality rate of 2 percent, then 2.5 million people in the city came down with the coronavirus.

Down to the present day, China continues to conceal the truth about the epidemic within its own borders by publishing false data. These are not harmless little white lies. They are lies that kill.

Tens of thousands of people will die unnecessarily because the Communist Chinese authorities did not warn us about the seriousness of the epidemic in Wuhan and share the data that it was collecting about the spread and treatment of the disease.



Culture War around the World Continues during Pandemic

by Carlos Polo, Director, PRI Latin American Office

While much of Latin America's population remains quarantined in their homes, anti-life and anti-family initiatives continue. Politicians with pro-abortion or LGTBI agendas decided to take advantage of their window of opportunity while all the attention and resources are set on stopping the advance of COVID-19.

Of course, in so doing they did not lack the support of NGOs which made the most twisted arguments to try to justify how abortion or LGTBI policies were needed in the midst of this health emergency.

Fortunately, the pro-life forces don't rest either. Many organizations are making heroic efforts, primarily from their homes, organizing mass demonstrations by digital means.

In Latin America, the COVID-19 pandemic poses a two-fold challenge: caring for the sick with very weak public health systems, and the precariousness of the economic situation for wide sectors of the population.

Many have survival income and at present have been quarantined for a month now without being able to go to work. Thus, pro-life efforts are aimed not only at blocking the pro-death agenda but at reorienting public resources toward the protection of human life.

■ **In Mexico**, there are 23 ongoing pro-death initiatives being promoted by the government of López Obrador who has adopted an abortion agenda for the smallest and most defenseless, euthanasia for the elderly, gender

ideology for the family, and drugs for everyone.

In the middle of the pandemic, these initiatives were presented by taking advantage of the official majority at many federal congresses. They all had a very similar text and there was much haste to have them approved before legislative activities were suspended due to the quarantine.

One extreme case is the state of Baja California Sur, where official parliamentarians violently took the congressional building, disqualifying opposition MPs who were not present, and called on surrogates to illegally appoint an illegal board. In this way they introduced an abortion initiative with text identical to the one presented in the state of Mexico.

However, the National Front for the Family (FNPF) and many other organizations have organized the protest of civil society organizations forcing the central government and state governments to prioritize the fight against COVID-19.

Rodrigo Ivan Cortés, president of the FNPF told us about the "FIAT" method they have been implementing. FIAT is an acronym for: Form, Inform, Activate (civic participation of the family) and Transform (minds, families, and communities). The aim is to defend and promote life, family, and fundamental freedoms in the public sphere.

■ **In Ecuador**, pro-life forces are confronting a bill in Congress that would amend the national public health code. The bill includes almost



all the topics on the pro-death agenda: Contraceptives, sterilization, and gender change treatments for all people, without age distinction, including for minors, and doctors would not be able to refuse to prescribe it.

With respect to abortion, the bill requires health care workers to maintain confidentiality for women who have illegal abortions, and the bill eliminates the current provision of law that requires health care workers to warn the police of a possible crime in an obstetric emergency. As a result, complications resulting from illegal surgical or chemical abortions would be covered up and remain hidden.

The great strength of the pro-life organizations in Ecuador is that they do not lose sight of even the slightest details when tracking these initiatives.

In September, they defeated an abortion bill in Congress supported by the government of President Lenin Moreno and his Minister of Government, María Paula Romo—who also happens to be the long-time leader of the abortion movement in that country.

■ **In Argentina**, President Alberto Fernández had promised to legalize abortion on demand with a bill that was set to be introduced in congress in the early days of March when the pandemic crisis began. However, the congressional agenda has prioritized the fight against COVID-19 and the economic emergency resulting from many Argentines being without work due to the quarantine. For the time being, the government has set aside its promise to pro-abortion activists because the political climate has changed in favor of the right to life.

On the one hand, the population has been questioning the government and especially the minister of health.

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While most of the population is suffering economically, the political class continues to receive fabulous salaries. On the other hand, the influence of the Catholic Church has been revitalized as a result of their numerous services to the poor, including the example of one priest who offers 4,000 meals a day in the city of Buenos Aires.

While the March for Life scheduled for March 28 had to be suspended, thousands of people participated in a virtual march. Another social media initiative was the “Pro-Life Wall”—a virtual list of thousands of people donating in support of the March for Life and its goal to stop the abortion bill.

However, the government has not abandoned its abortion plans. The government has restricted almost all health services to attend to coronavirus cases. But, following recommendations of the WHO, the government clarified that the legal interruption of pregnancy in exceptional cases provided for by law and access to contraception may continue.

■ **In Peru**, Congressman Alberto de Belaunde has introduced a gender identity bill. De Belaunde, an openly

gay congressman and a spokesman for LGTBI groups, proposed that all citizens, including minors, be able to define themselves by whatever gender they choose.

De Belaunde demanded an immediate approval for this gender identity bill to come into effect during the epidemiological quarantine. However, what he received immediately was the pro-life response.

Thousands of citizens asked the President of the Congress of Peru to focus efforts on defending the lives of those sick with COVID-19 who do not have enough respirators, and on defending the lives of police officers and infected medical personnel who have already counted many deaths among their ranks.

From the Population Research Institute office for Latin America we are very proud to be able to collaborate with all these efforts. If a global pandemic and confinement have not been able to stop us, nothing will stop us in the future.

Translated by PRI research analyst Jonathan Abbamonte



HUMANAE VITAE COALITION

Abortion a Preeminent Right Or the Challenge of Our Age?

by Dr. Christopher Manion, Director of the *Humanae Vitae* Project

When various states began enforcing their Wuhan virus shutdown policies in late March, the impact was immediate. Yes, the ban on religious services during Holy Week and Eastertide was devastating, but the impact on the economy was profound as well.

In just one business sector—hospitality—millions lost their jobs. Hundreds of thousands of restaurants were forced to close across the country. Not only were servers, cooks, and staff furloughed, but the industry’s suppliers and manufacturers of everything from catsup to napkins were shut down as well.

With grit, prayer and hope, those affected hunkered down. Not one of them sued.

Do you know who did?
Abortionists.

Last year, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam (a pediatrician!) endorsed infanticide for children who survive abortion. So it’s no surprise that his March lockdown order exempted abortion mills. His colleagues in Kansas (Governor Laura Kelly) and North Carolina (Governor Roy Cooper) followed suit. For them, abortion was “essential”—but ironically, following Cooper’s edict, Charlotte police started arresting sidewalk counselors outside an abortion mill there.

But the “abortion as essential” decision wasn’t unanimous. In issuing their own regulations, Governors Greg Abbot of Texas and Mike DeWine of Ohio refused to exempt abortionists as “essential” service

providers. They sought to preserve scarce protective medical devices for legitimate health care workers.

Well, “legitimate health care” wasn’t on the abortionists’ agenda. In both Texas and Ohio, the mass killers took the governors to federal court—and won (the Texas law was upheld on appeal to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals).

Abortion has become the Prime Mandate of America’s Left. The reason is simple, and has a logic of its own: if you can kill the most innocent, you can kill anybody—including the infirm, the aged, the poor, the unwanted, or the “undesirable.”

This power knows no limits.

At their annual meeting last November, America’s Catholic bishops confronted the Left’s relentless campaign to make abortion an “unalienable right.” The bishops voted 143-69 to reaffirm their position that abortion was the “preeminent” political issue facing the Church and the country this election year.

On March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, two of these prelates revisited the Church’s teaching to reflect on the importance of their November resolution.

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, who chairs the USCCB’s Committee on Pro-Life Activities, used the occasion to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Saint John Paul II’s *The Gospel of Life (Evangelium vitae)*. He quoted St. John Paul’s challenge to every age: “With great openness and courage, we need to question

how widespread is the culture of life today among individual Christians, families, groups and communities in our dioceses. With equal clarity and determination we must identify the steps we are called to take in order to serve life in all its truth” (*EV* 95).

The fact that a third of our bishops voted against the resolution last fall means that there’s a lot of work left to be done, not just once but “in season and out of season.” This effort calls for the energetic participation of the laity as well as that of our shepherds. We should be grateful for Archbishop Naumann’s bold wake-up call—and respond to it.

Also celebrating the encyclical’s anniversary on March 25th, Archbishop Samuel Aquila of Denver addressed “the significant challenges” that confront the culture of life. With Pope Saint John Paul II, he pointed to the “progressive darkening of the capacity to discern God’s living and saving presence [brought on by] the systematic violation of the moral law.”

Such welcome clarity, undoubtedly offered in humility, is no longer optional. In our secular culture today, the “darkening” identified by Archbishop Aquila has led many to allege that our country’s greatest social sin is to offend somebody.

Behind that pathetic ruse lies what Pope Emeritus Benedict calls the “Dictatorship of Relativism.” This virus of our darkened age poses a greater challenge to our age than the Wuhan virus ever will, and we must confront it just as forcefully.



Life and Lessons from Spain, Locus of Wuhan Virus Spread

by Carlos Beltramo, Ph.D. Director, PRI European Office

I have been living in Spain for a few years now, and our country is now one of the most dramatic centers of the Wuhan virus expansion. As I write these words we are suffering the brunt of the pandemic: many are dying, the entire Spanish population is in quarantine, and doctors and health workers are showing great courage.

As I write this, I have been confined with my six children and my wife for several weeks in my house, unable to go out except to the supermarket or the pharmacy. My children study, so much as they can, using the computer. My son doesn't know if he will start college normally next fall and my daughter can't see her boyfriend except through the Skype app. Police control the streets very strictly. Almost all businesses are shut down and the economy is a wreck right now.

As a member of the PRI in Europe I have been observing reality and trying to influence it. The first order of business is to denounce the socialist and communist government of Spain. Our own government bears a profound responsibility for the fact that the virus has spread so much throughout the country, both in its bungling bureaucracy and in its disastrous mistakes.

Consider, for instance, this travesty: Driven by its ideology, the national government failed to protect the people and instead turned March 8 into a burning cauldron of contagion. Officially, that particular day is

dedicated to the honoring of women, but in recent years it has become the Spanish Left's celebration of radical feminism and abortion.

Even though the government knew since mid-February that the pandemic was already out of control in Spain, it intentionally deceived the public so that these radical feminist marches could take place. As a result, that day saw demonstrations in 77 Spanish cities bringing hundreds of thousands of people together in tightly packed streets and open spaces. It's an undeniable fact: If the government had banned these gatherings, we Spaniards wouldn't be mourning so many dead today.

But the government wasn't satisfied merely to allow the marches. Officials also allowed soccer games, political events, concerts and many other mass events to take place the same day.

The sad truth is, many of the dead that we are mourning today were infected on that fateful March 8. Now we are locked in our houses—my university, like all universities, remains totally closed—and the government offers no clear explanation as to why this lockdown is required or when it will end.

The problem is that we have noticed that this same government has been trying to take advantage of this misfortune to impose more aggressive policies that further limit our freedom. There's a paradox here: They are incompetent in fighting

the virus, but they manipulate the public through fear and deception to disguise the dangerous steps the state is taking that leave us with less freedom.

Clearly the result will be an economic crisis. Their recipe for surviving it will be to further limit the freedom of the people and to impose upon us a more socialist state—precisely when it is this same socialist and communist state that has produced the current failure that has brought so much death to Spain!

The pandemic is demonstrating that mammoth governments are ineffective, especially those of the Left and those that attack the family. But it is our charities and our families that will play a crucial role in rescuing our economies, communities and values. For example, HazteOír, a pro-life and pro-family NGO with which PRI collaborates in Madrid, is using all of its resources to buy medical material and bottled water—thousands of bottles!—that the government is incapable of providing to doctors or to those in their sickbeds.

As long as I can do my work from here, I will help, together with my family, to seek a better solution for Spain. In the meantime, it is my turn to continue being locked down, praying for the sick and the dead, and waiting for the moment to emerge and try to live a normal life.

Translated by Christopher Manion, Ph.D.

How One U.S. Parish Gave Communion During National COVID-19 Lockdown

BY STEVEN W. MOSHER

While most of the Catholic world has suffered weeks of no access to the sacraments during the COVID-19 lockdowns, every parishioner in our community here in Ave Maria, Florida, has consistently been able to receive the Eucharist after every Mass—thanks to the courage of our pastor, Father Cory Mayer, and his fellow parish priests.

This good news came on the eve of the Annunciation in the form of an e-mail from Father Mayer:

“I have wonderful news! The bishop has given us permission to distribute Communion! ...

The plan, which received the blessing of our bishop, Bishop Frank Dewane of the Diocese of Venice, involves Live Streaming the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The members of the parish community will participate from a safe location, either in their homes or perhaps in their cars. The priest will then process outside and distribute Communion in the open air in a nearby school parking lot.

The guidelines for those who wish to receive Communion are straightforward:

- 1. Communion will be distributed outside the front doors of the Parish Academy after the completion of the Live Streaming Mass. This will be offered at 12:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, and at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday.*
- 2. The priest will continue distributing Communion after the Mass for 30 minutes.*
- 3. Those wishing to receive the Eucharist during this time should park their car in the parking lot. Then they should*



Facebook / Ave Maria Parish in Florida

line up along the front walkway of the Academy, at all times maintaining at least six feet of separation from the person in front of them. Markers will be placed on the sidewalk to help with this “social distancing.”

4. The usual conditions for receiving Communion apply, namely, fasting for an hour prior to receiving communion and being in a state of grace. You may also wish to recite an “Act of Contrition.”

Although the circumstances of the epidemic vary from state to state and, in some cases, from county to county, it seems to me that this is a model that many parishes and dioceses could and should follow.

Catholics throughout America have been advised that they should watch Mass on television and avail themselves of spiritual communion. I understand spiritual communion well. I am a convert to the Catholic faith and, during my yearlong RCIA program, I availed myself of it each and every Sunday. As my wife went up to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, I would kneel in my pew and beg Our Lord to come to me in spirit.

To judge by the graces I received during this time, He did. But nothing

matched the joy that I felt when I was finally able to accompany my wife up to the Communion rail and receive the Body and Blood of Christ for myself.

Now I do not know whether the China Virus, the Wuhan Flu, or whatever you want to call it, is a divine punishment or not. But the closure of my parish church—for wholly valid prudential reasons, it would seem—certainly *felt* like a punishment. Why would you deny the faithful access to the sacraments, especially now when the need is so great, if there was any way to avoid it?

Would military chaplains leave the battlefield just because bullets are flying, or would they run—not walk—to the sound of the guns so they could succor their wounded and dying comrades?

I thank God that Bishop Dewane and Father Mayer have been willing to set up a “field hospital” to treat the spiritually “wounded.”

Whatever their sins, here in Ave Maria parish, at least, they were not without the healing balm of the Sacraments. Which even during a pandemic, is the best medicine of all.

This article was first published in LifeSiteNews.



■ China's Economy Took Virus Hit In First Quarter

LIFESITENEWS — The birthplace of the COVID-19 virus was also the first country to suffer drastic economic effects of the subsequent social distancing shutdowns, Steven Mosher, president of the Population Research Institute, reported in *LifeSiteNews*.¹

“There is virtually no economic activity taking place in much of China,” he said in late February. “Most factories are shut down, and the only things that many Chinese are consuming are food and whatever medical supplies they can get their hands on.”

The Communist Party was still projecting that the world's second largest economy will grow “around 6 percent” in 2020. But foreign analysts saw it differently, Mosher said: HSBC lowered its estimate for first-quarter growth from an annualized rate of 5.8 percent to 4.1 percent and projected 5.3 percent growth for the year.

One sure sign of the economic shutdown through the first quarter of 2020 was the clear sky over China's major metropolises, all virtually free of pollution, Mosher wrote. According to a Morgan Stanley analyst, this suggested that “human activities such as traffic and industrial production ... are running 50-80% below their potential capacity.”

■ Mosher Online: History, Future of *Bully of Asia*

PATRICK COFFIN SHOW — Steven Mosher appeared this spring on the Patrick Coffin Show to discuss his book *Bully of Asia* and more recent developments, including the outcomes of the 2018 Vatican-China deal and the COVID-19 pandemic.²

China is often in the news and most recently for the Wuhan coronavirus, reported the online website in a summary of the interview.

“But the 800-pound panda bear is the fact that China invented totalitarianism centuries before Christ, a collective reality of self-understanding that was tailor-made for the Communist revolution when it arrived.

“China expert Dr. Steven Mosher has both a historical and religious context. As a historian, he knows the pattern of oppression and bondage under Communism. As a Catholic convert, he knows how critical China is to the mission of the Church.”

The interview, available in full online in audio form, includes Mosher's thoughts on Communist Party leader Xi Jinping's belief in Sinocentric world domination and the nightmare scenario this would present to the West, why the one-child (and now two-child) policy is backfiring demographically in China, whether China is lying about the coronavirus, and how the Vatican's recent dealings with China have been both naive and a disaster for the underground Catholics in union with Rome.

■ Warren Backs UNFPA, Supporter of China's Coercive Policies

NATIONAL CATHOLIC REGISTER—In an article on Sen. Elizabeth Warren's abortion advocacy and her push for U.S. dollars to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Steven Mosher was quoted with historic background on the agency.³

According to the article, Warren—a Democratic senator from Massachusetts who dropped out of the presidential race in March—previously signed a letter to the State Department that urged a restoration of the \$32.5 million in funding to the UNFPA. The Trump administration had withdrawn this funding due to UNFPA's partnership with the Chinese government.

Mosher, cited for having conducted investigations of the one child policy in China, has described the UNFPA as “the notorious U.N. agency that has been the chief international cheerleader for, and financial supporter of, China's repressive ‘planned birth’ policies from their beginning.”

“PRI reports led the U.S. State Department to conduct its own investigation, which confirmed PRI's findings, namely, that the ‘one-child policy’ was just as rigorously enforced in Chinese counties where the UNFPA was in charge as elsewhere in China,” Mosher told the *Register* in 2017. “The UNFPA was not a force for moderation in China, but was aiding and abetting the Chinese government's enforcement of the policy.”

¹ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/coronavirus-is-killing-chinas-economy-may-force-communist-govt-to-take-drastic-measures>

² <https://www.patrickcoffin.media/china-the-worlds-biggest-bully/>

³ <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/laurettabrown/hypocrisy-on-abortion>

From the Countries



UNITED STATES UN's Massive New Stimulus Package To Include Abortion

According to an article in *LifeSite News*, the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, has announced a new fund to address the coronavirus pandemic to which he is asking all nations to contribute 10 percent of the world's annual income.¹

This unprecedented “human-centered, innovative and coordinated stimulus package” would be administered at the international level, and if approved, would amount to approximately \$8.7 trillion USD, an amount 2,900 times greater than the UN's annual budget of 3 billion USD.

Among the objectives of the plan, Guterres includes “attention to continued delivery of sexual reproductive health services, such as access to contraceptives without prescription during the crisis.”

“Sexual reproductive health services” are a euphemism often used by international organizations to refer to abortion and contraception.

Steven Mosher, president of the Population Research Institute, was quoted in the article in opposition to the initiative.

“The UN bureaucracy primarily exists to perpetuate itself and various Left-wing causes that are inimical to liberty and sovereignty,” Mosher told *LifeSite*. “If the China coronavirus teaches us anything, it is that in moments of global

crisis we can only trust our fellow citizens not a distant and detached group of bureaucrats who are better compensated than nearly all Americans.”



HUNGARY Prime Minister Ties Virus Spread To Immigration

According to a recent article in *Church Militant*, Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán is connecting the spread of the coronavirus with unbridled migration.²

Commenting on the “logical connection” between the spread of coronavirus and migration, the prime minister told Kossuth Rádió, “we are fighting a two-front war: One front is called migration, and the other one belongs to the coronavirus.”

Orbán observed that most of Hungary's early cases of the virus were found among Iranian students. The prime minister said that in Hungary, “It's no coincidence that the virus first showed up among Iranians.”

Iran represents one of the heaviest-hit regions by the coronavirus outside China and shares particularly close and lucrative relations with the communist regime in Beijing.

PRI President Steven Mosher corroborated the “logical connection” Orbán makes between migration and the disease:

“It goes without saying that viruses can only spread if they have help from their human hosts. That's how the

Chinese coronavirus got from China to Iran in the first place, and probably how it got from Iran to Hungary.

“What Orbán is saying is only common sense, which seems to be in increasingly short supply in these days of political correctness run amuck.”



TAIWAN Leading In Response To Pandemic

While Italy and Iran—countries with close relations with China—suffered disproportionately in the early days of COVID-19, there is another country, much closer to China that suffered far less, notes PRI President Steve Mosher in an article in *LifeSiteNews*.³

Despite huge cross-border traffic with neighboring China, the 25 million people of Taiwan are virtually free of the Wuhan flu. As of April 24 the island nation has reported only 426 cases and 6 deaths.

One reason is that the democratically elected government of Taiwan reacted to the widening epidemic in real time, Mosher wrote.

China first admitted to the World Health Organization that it had “several” cases of a new pneumonia on December 31. The very same day, Taiwan's Centers for Disease Control began monitoring passengers arriving from Wuhan.

With China withholding information about the nature of the new pneumonia, Taiwan erred on the side of caution, screening passengers for no fewer than 36 known viruses.

¹ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/united-nations-wants-10-of-worlds-annual-income-in-fund-for-coronavirus-response>

² <https://www.churchmilitant.com/news/article/hungary-pm-orban-immigration-is-responsible-for-coronavirus-epidemic>

³ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/the-world-has-a-lot-to-learn-from-taiwans-hugely-successful-response-to-chinese-coronavirus>