



Long Live the Right to Life – Viva Texas!

There are plenty of reasons to be a proud Texan – business friendly, tasty BBQ, top tier sports teams, Big Bend National Park, Whataburger and so much more.

BY KATARINA CARRANCO
DIRECTOR, PRI ROME OFFICE

As a native Texan, devout Catholic and avid pro-lifer, today especially, I could not be prouder to call the great state of Texas home. Texas has always been known as the “friendly state” and with the Texas Heartbeat Bill recently enacted, it just got friendlier to the unborn.

The new legislation, which potentially will save thousands of unborn babies’ lives, is not only a win for the state of Texas and pro-life communities, but for all the unborn children who may not otherwise see the light of day.

Texas now is saving from abortion every unborn child with a de-



sneakpeekpic / Getty Images

tectable heartbeat. The Texas Heartbeat Bill bans abortions after the first six weeks of pregnancy—the timeframe in which a heartbeat is usually detected.

An emergency petition filed by Planned Parenthood and the ACLU

to stop the legislation from taking effect, but it failed to sway the United States Supreme Court. It refused to intervene, and the Texas Heartbeat Bill became law on September 1.

(continued on page 4)

INSIDE

- 2 Fauci’s Link to COVID Pandemic
- 5 The Secret of Catholic Morality
- 6 Mexico’s Moves against Life
- 8 Democrats and Catholics in Conflict

- 9 Salvadoran President Favors Life
- 10 Europe: Pro-Life Is ‘Violence’
- 11 PRI in the News
- 12 From the Countries



If the Virus Has a Godfather, It Would Be Anthony Fauci

by Steven W. Mosher

From the beginning of the pandemic, Dr. Anthony Fauci has angrily denied reports that he was funding gain-of-function research at the Wuhan lab.

Gain-of-function, or GOF, is the intentional engineering of viruses in the lab to make them more infectious and deadly to human beings.

When Fauci was pressed again on this point by Sen. Rand Paul at a June congressional hearing, he insisted that the National Institutes of Health “has not ever and does not now fund gain-of-function research in the Wuhan Institute of Virology.”

Then Fauci doubled down: “If anyone is lying here, senator, it is you.”

But what if it’s Fauci who’s lying?

We have long known that Fauci approved NIH grants to Peter Daszak’s EcoHealth Alliance, which in turn subcontracted some of the work to the Wuhan Institute of Virology. And right up to the onset of the pandemic, Daszak himself was bragging about the “great progress” being made on the gain-of-function front.

Daszak said in November 2019: “We’ve made great progress with bat SARS-related coronaviruses, identifying more than 50 novel strains, sequencing spike protein genes, identifying ones that bind to human cells, using recombinant viruses [and] humanized mice to see SARS-like signs, and showing some don’t respond to MAbs [monoclonal antibodies], vaccines.”

Did Daszak’s royal “we” refer to GOF research being done by his subcontractor, the Wuhan Institute of Virology?

“Would there be a pandemic if the agency that Fauci oversees had not trained and funded Chinese researchers over the years?”

New documents obtained from the NIH by *The Intercept* suggest that the answer is yes. After reviewing 900 pages of grant applications and progress reports, *The Intercept* authors conclude:

Scientists working under a 2014 NIH grant to the EcoHealth Alliance to study bat coronaviruses combined the genetic material from a “parent” coronavirus known as WIV1 with other viruses. They twice submitted summaries of their work that showed that, when in the lungs of genetically engineered mice, three altered bat coronaviruses at times reproduced far more quickly than the original virus on which they were based. The altered viruses were also somewhat more pathogenic, with one causing the mice to lose significant weight. The researchers reported, “These results demonstrate varying pathogenicity of SARSr-CoVs with different spike proteins in humanized mice.”

Let’s break this down.

(continued on next page)

POPULATION
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE

Review

The Population Research Institute Review is published bimonthly by:

**Population Research
Institute**

109 East Main St.
Front Royal VA 22630
(540)-662-5240
pri@pop.org
www.pop.org

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

Steven W. Mosher
President

Joel Bockrath
Executive Vice President

Karen Shannon
Development Manager

Carlos Polo
*Director, PRI Latin
American Office*

Carlos Beltramo
*Director, PRI European
Office*

Katarina Carranco
Director, PRI Rome Office

Allen Baldanza
New Media Coordinator

Design by
Perceptions Studio
Amherst, New Hampshire

If the Virus Has a Godfather, It Would Be Anthony Fauci , *continued*

First, the grants — there were at least two — were intended to fund GOF research, that is, the creation of new chimeric SARS-related coronaviruses that could more easily infect human cells and would thus be more deadly to human beings.

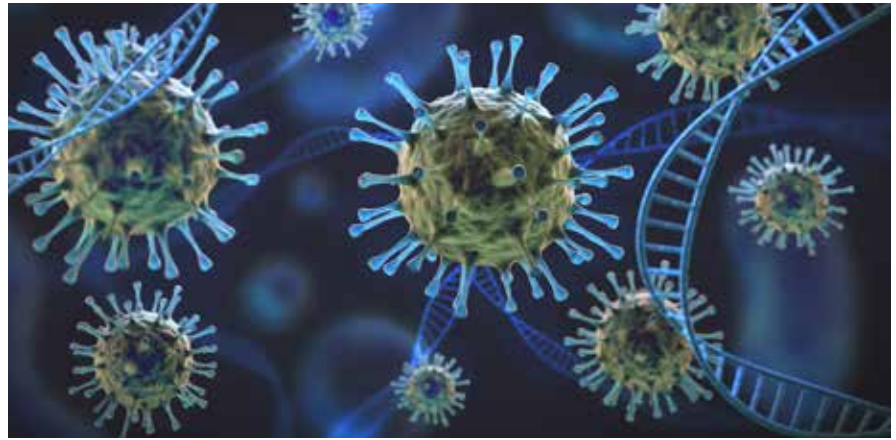
And that's exactly what they did, as Daszak's progress reports back to the NIH make clear:

- Increased Infectiousness: "... three altered bat coronaviruses at times reproduced far more quickly than the original virus." The faster the virus replicates, the faster you become ill.
- Increased Pathogenicity: "The altered viruses were also somewhat more pathogenic, with one causing the mice to lose significant weight." This is not a Weight Watchers program for mice. The more weight the mice lose, the sicker they are, and the more dangerous the virus.

So if the Wuhan researchers had succeeded in genetically engineering three viruses to be more infectious, one of which was more deadly as well, then it would seem that they met the GOF goals. They certainly thought so: "These results demonstrate varying pathogenicity of SARS[related-coronaviruses] with different spike proteins in humanized mice."

Vincent Racaniello, professor of microbiology and immunology at Columbia University, agrees: "There's no question that from the weight loss [of the mice] it's gain of function. Tony Fauci is wrong saying it's not."

Bear in mind that we are not talking about ordinary mice, but so-called "humanized" mice. These are mice that have been genetically engineered to resemble human beings in one very specific way: The mouse receptors on their lung cells have been replaced with human receptors.



matejmo/Getty Images

Viruses make their way into cells by attempting to insert their spike protein "key" into the receptor's "lock." The researchers in Wuhan attached various spike protein keys to the original coronavirus to see which one "fit" best. In three cases the new key worked so well on the human receptor that the virus was able to quickly gain entry and replicate that much faster.

If a chimeric virus can infect and kill a humanized mouse, it can also infect and kill a human being. That's what gain-of-function research is all about.

All of the scientists interviewed by *The Intercept* insisted that the Fauci-funded research "could not have directly sparked the pandemic. None of the viruses listed in the write-ups of the experiment are related to the virus that causes Covid-19."

Well, yes and no.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus is distinctly different from the chimeric viruses created in the Wuhan labs' civilian research program. But there was a parallel military research program run by the People's Liberation Army in Wuhan whose experiments with genetically engineered viruses and humanized mice were, of course, not reported in the published literature and certainly not to the NIH.

This program surely relied on techniques that we taught Chinese military scientists and may have even benefited from Fauci's funding as well. Who knows? The Wuhan Institute of Virology is a Black Box. Ditto other Chinese labs, military and civilian alike.

The question we should be asking is this: Would there be a COVID-19 pandemic if the NIAID, the agency that Fauci oversees, had not trained and funded Chinese researchers over the years?

The answer is: probably not.

At the end of its damning article, *The Intercept* tries to give Fauci an out: "[T]he documents do not prove Paul's claim that Fauci was lying, as they do not make clear whether Fauci read them."

This strains credulity.

For over a decade Fauci has been the main cheerleader and chief funder of gain-of-function research. When that research was effectively banned in the U.S. by more prudent people, he ensured that it continued overseas. He was determined to create a superbug.

If the coronavirus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic has a godfather, his name is Anthony Fauci.

This column was originally published in LifeSiteNews.

Long Live the Right to Life – Viva Texas!, *continued*

Editor's Note: In early October, at the request of the Biden administration, a federal judge issued a temporary injunction blocking the implementation of the law. Two days later, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the law may continue while the case is being reviewed; as of this writing, the law is in effect.

The Texas Heartbeat law was met with great joy and gratitude from pro-lifers everywhere.

"Texas leads the way in protecting the unborn," says PRI President Steve Mosher. "I have spoken in many states urging the passage of Heartbeat legislation, including Texas. I couldn't be happier about the Texas Heartbeat Act, which is saving babies every day."

"The Texas Heartbeat Act is novel in approach, allowing for citizens to hold abortionists accountable through private lawsuits," stated Rebecca Parma of the Texas Right to Life. She continues, "No heartbeat law passed by another state has taken this strategy. Additionally, the bill does not punish women who obtain abortions."

The law is not enforced by the state, but rather exclusively through individuals, who can file lawsuits against those who perform or knowingly aid in the performance of an abortion after the fetal heartbeat is detectable.

Pro-life Texas Governor Greg Abbott tweeted, "No freedom is more precious than life itself. Starting today, every unborn child with a heartbeat will be protected from the

ravages of abortion. Texas will always defend the right to life."

The National Institute of Family and Life Advocates President Thomas Glessner said, "We congratulate Texas for being the first state in America to ban killing innocent children in the womb as early as six weeks in pregnancy. Furthermore, we applaud the U. S. Supreme Court for allowing the ban to take effect and saving lives."

Texas is the first U.S. state to pass this kind of law, but there is no doubt that several other states will follow suit. States such as Georgia, Florida and South Dakota are already in the beginning stages of implementing a similar law.

This law succeeds an earlier law, Senate Bill 8 signed into law on May 19, 2021, which made it a felony to commit dilation-and-evacuation abortions known as 'live dismemberment' on living preborn children, usually performed in the second trimester of pregnancy. The Texas legislature claimed it was a "brutal and inhumane" procedure—which it certainly is.

After the signing of this newest law, crisis pregnancy centers are anticipating a surge in patients. Several pro-life organizations, including the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, LoveLine.com, the Human Coalition Action, have committed to redouble their efforts to protect women facing unexpected pregnancies and their unborn children.

According to Chelsey Youman, Texas legislative director for the group Human Coalition Action, "the Legislature and Governor prioritized

“ We congratulate Texas for being the first state in America to ban killing innocent children in the womb as early as six weeks in pregnancy.

this historic legislation, and with his signature, approximately 50,000 precious human lives will be saved in Texas next year alone!"

Texas' historic law goes into effect just as the Supreme Court is poised to consider another pro-life law: Mississippi's new statute that restricts most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. The outcome of this case — *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* — will have enormous ramifications. Will the pro-life majority on the Supreme Court overturn *Roe v. Wade*? If so, this will return the matter to the states, many of which, like Texas, will pass strong pro-life legislation.

Every abortion has two victims, one dead and one injured. The Texas Heartbeat Act is good news for Texas babies and women. We celebrate them and this pro-life victory which is now saving lives every day!

Viva Texas and long live the right to life!

PRI's special gift to you . . .

The Book We Need Right Now... The Joy of Catholic Morality!

If you, like so many, were raised with the Baltimore Catechism, then you may think you already know all you need to about Catholicism. Well, you most likely will reconsider this once you read this newly released book from Ascension Press, the publisher of the #1 podcast for the first months of 2021, *The Bible in a Year*.

In *Made by God, Made for God: Catholic Morality Explained*, Catholics will find a fresh approach to the timeless moral teachings of the Catholic Church. The author, Matthew Minder, explains: "The theology that animates this volume attempts to be truly Catholic and 'universal,' putting down its roots into Sacred Scripture. It is also animated by the theology of the Common Doctor of the Church, St. Thomas Aquinas, along with his late school."

He goes on: "But fear not! I strive to avoid technicality and scholarly tedium."

Steeped in Scripture and Catholic tradition, this book reveals the beauty of Catholic morality in a relatable and easy-to-understand way.

Often, Catholic morality is seen as a list of things we can't do. But what it actually offers is a way to live that brings us closer to God and makes our joy complete. You will find two sections.

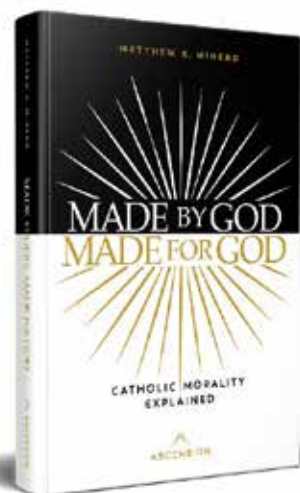
Section 1 is The Life of Divine Grace, and contains five chapters: The Divine Life of the Children of God ... "This New Commandment I Give to You" ... "Putting on Christ": The True Meaning of Virtue... Sin: "A Man

Went Down to Jericho"...and Forward, Always Forward: Continuous Conversion and the Moral Life.

Section 2 offers insights on the Moral Life of the Children of God through meditations on the Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity... The Universal Call to Mysticism: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit...The Church and the Sacraments: The Wellsprings of Eternal Life...and the Christian Moral Virtues, Prudence, Justice, Courage, Temperance, each examined through several thought-provoking chapters.

The concluding synthesis: "Remember What You Are Called To!"

Surely this is the book we all need to read right now, to help transform our world. It deserves a prominent place in the bookshelf of every Catholic home as it will have on mine. And you can have *Made by God, Made for God* in your home before the end of the 2021 with your gift today of \$50 or more.



Please use the enclosed Gift Reply to request your copy of...

*Made by God, Made for God:
Catholic Morality Explained*

Gifts to PRI are tax deductible. Give today!

Mexico's Supreme Court of Justice Sends Chilling Message Against Life

Two recent sessions of Mexico's Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation have sent a chilling message threatening the country's historic protection of unborn children.

BY PRI STAFF

While the Court routinely announces its decisions before its definitive opinion is made a matter of public record, the oral comments of its members during their deliberations on two recent cases could indicate a serious weakening of Mexico's long-standing opposition to abortion.

This fall the Court announced that it was annulling Articles 196 and 224, section II of the Penal Code of the State of Coahuila, extending the invalidity to portions of articles 198 and 199 of the same law.

Article 196 reads: "A sentence of one to three years of imprisonment will be imposed on the woman who voluntarily performs an abortion or on the person who performs the abortion with the consent of that woman." [Case 148/2017, "Against article of the Criminal Code of the State of COAHUILA."]

If confirmed, the Court's actions could impose "obligatory criteria for all of the country's judges" to apply in such cases, said Court President Arturo Zaldívar. "From now on, you will not be able to, without violating



Stockcam/Getty Images

the court's criteria and the constitution, charge any woman who aborts under the circumstances this court has ruled as valid," he added.

Justice Luis Maria Aguilar called the decision a "historic step.... Never again will a woman or a person with the capacity to carry a child be criminally prosecuted," he said. "Today the threat of imprisonment and stigma that weigh on people who freely decide to terminate their pregnancy are banished."

Ten of the Court's eleven members were present, and all ten supported the decision.

Two days later, the Court ordered the elimination of Art. 4(a) of the Constitution of Sinaloa, which reads: "From the moment an indi-

vidual is conceived, he enters under the protection of the corresponding law, until his death." [Case 106/2018 and 107/2018, "Promoted by Deputies of the Sinaloa State Congress and the National Human Rights Commission."]

Pending the publication of the Court's final opinion of public record, the Sinaloa case might well indicate the Court's annulment of the protection of the right to life from conception, implying that no state is empowered to grant such protection. Should this be the case, the ruling would represent a radical change of criteria from the Court's previous rulings.

For instance, in 47 cases litigated from 2007 until 2020, the Supreme

Court of Justice of the Nation had ruled in favor of respecting the sovereign power of the States to legislate on the protection of life.

In a similar action brought in the state of Veracruz by “Las Brujas Del Mar” [“The Witches of the Sea”] and other feminist groups, the Court decided in 2020 that it could not engage in matters outside its jurisdiction.

Twenty-two states in Mexico have laws prohibiting abortion, six states have found it unnecessary to address abortion in law, and abortion is decriminalized in three states and in Mexico City.

Biden’s Possible Role

Until now, pro-life forces in Mexico have focused their efforts on action in the various states. If the recent rulings of Mexico’s Supreme Court of Justice do in fact prove to have legalized abortion throughout the country, the efforts of pro-life groups will be radically challenged and transformed.

Some of these groups suspect that the Biden administration might have had a tangential impact on the Court’s recent rulings. On September 9, the White House announced that the Biden administration had reached an agreement with Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador “to relaunch the U.S.-Mexico High-Level Economic Dialogue (HLED) in recognition of our broad strategic economic relationship.”

The language of the announcement resonates with the prime mandate of the Biden administration, shared by its dependable ally, the international pro-abortion movement: making abortion “safe, free, and le-

“ The Court is giving constitutional status to the notion that the ‘right to decide’ of the mother is above the right to life of the child.

gal” not only in the United States, but throughout the world.

For instance, the agreement aims for the “reduction of poverty and inequality,” a phrase often used by the pro-abortion movement as code for abortion as an indispensable feature of “equal rights for women.”

Similarly, the agreement “promotes sustainable economic and social development.” In the language of the international “development” community, this phrase also embodies abortion as an indispensable ingredient.

Mexico’s Pro-Lifers Keep Up the Fight

The Catholic Bishops Conference of Mexico responded with a strong statement affirming the rights of all involved in the life of the unborn child.¹ In it they argue that the Court is giving constitutional status to the notion that the “right to decide” of the mother is above the right to life of the child.

The bishops call for the protection of both lives: that of the mother and that of the child. For this reason, they object to the Court’s decision, which implies a “discrimination of the human being because of its gestational stage, placing the unborn child as if it were a legal good” that may not be

protected. The bishops point out that this path is dangerous:

“We live in a time of great social challenges and, as Pope Francis said, of ‘broader social pathologies such as the distorted view of the person, a view that ignores his dignity [...] that fosters a throwaway culture.’ This requires us to work together for the common good, for human dignity and for the fundamental rights of all people, regardless of their condition.”

Mexico’s pro-life leaders also spoke up. In a statement sent to ACI Prensa, the National Front for the Family disagreed with the court’s ruling:

“The ministers of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation were not congruent and respectful of their own rulings, since the states of the country and their congresses enjoy, by constitutional mandate, freedom to legislate in areas of their competence and in matters not reserved for the Federation,” it said.

Rodrigo Iván Cortés, president of the National Front for the Family observed that a solid majority of Mexicans support the right to life.

“The recognition of the right to life from conception does not violate women’s rights or jeopardize their safety; on the contrary, it protects them,” he said.

¹ <https://cem.org.mx/Slider/828-A-FAVOR-DE-LA-MUJER-Y-DE-LA-VIDA.html>



Women's Health Protection Act: Catholics, Congress and Conflict

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

In November 1928, on the Saturday following Republican Herbert Hoover's defeat of Democrat Al Smith in the presidential election, an Irish Catholic group in Cincinnati held their annual dinner.

As the program began, a local pastor delivered the invocation. It was brief: "Ladies and gentlemen: this past Wednesday, the shortest telegram in history was sent, from Al Smith to the Pope. It contained one word: 'Unpack!'"

The crowd roared, but my father, the evening's featured speaker, sighed. "He hit it out of the park. How was I supposed to follow that up?" he lamented years later.

Irish Catholics have always met adversity with humor, and those days were adverse indeed. Al Smith was the first Catholic presidential nominee of a major party, and the country was rife with Anti-Catholicism. That bigotry had top billing with the Ku Klux Klan, but a broad swath of Americans shared it as well.

Throughout the 1928 campaign, critics had pilloried Smith, a Catholic and the popular governor of New York, as a "tool of the Pope." However risible the charge might seem today, it was effective in 1928 because, at the time, the Democrat Party was the natural home for millions of America's Catholics.

Not anymore.

On September 24, by a vote of 218 to 211, the Democrat-led U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 3755, the "Women's Health Protection Act."

It was a Congressional Declaration of War on life.

Bishop Calls Act 'Nothing Short of Child Sacrifice'

San Francisco's Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone said the Women's Health Protection Act allowed "nothing short of child sacrifice." It is "surely the type of legislation one would expect from a devout Satanist, not a devout Catholic," he added. Kansas City Archbishop Joseph Naumann called it "most extreme pro-abortion bill our nation has ever seen."

That didn't matter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who corralled all of her fellow Catholic Democrats, save one, to vote for the bill. The outlier was Rep. Henry Cuellar of Texas, who joined the unanimous Republicans to vote against the bill.

Consider the bill's radical impact: its sponsors insist that the text merely "codifies" *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that overturned pro-life legislation in dozens of states. But that assertion is beyond deceptive. In fact, the bill mandates what its authors wish the Supreme Court had said in 1973.

H.R. 3755 bars any and all state legislation restricting abortion, up to, through and beyond birth. It prohibits waiting periods, informed consent, and conscience rights. All hospitals are required to provide abortions, and medical personnel cannot be exempted on the basis of conscience rights. Parents will have no right to withhold

consent for their minor daughters' abortions because they have no right to be informed about them.

Put plainly, Democrats have become the party of the Culture of Death. One wonders, why do our bishops find it so hard to confront them? Why are Archbishops Naumann and Cordileone not joined by a unanimous and forthright American hierarchy?

Some history might help.

In generations past, America's bishops had been strong supporters of Wilson, FDR, and JFK, all of them Democrat presidents. By the time today's bishops entered the seminary in the 1970s, being a Democrat was bred in the bone.

Catholic historian James Hitchcock said that even in 2007, most pro-lifers were Democrats – even those who had voted for Republicans because of abortion. Indeed, many never left the Democrat fold (in my family he was right: my father published Goldwater's "Conscience of a Conservative" in 1960; when he died a nineteen years later, he was still a Democrat.)

My, how things have changed.

The legislation is unlikely to be approved by the Senate, but the Democrats' message is clear: their candidates on the national, state, and local level will either endorse abortion wholeheartedly, or they will be defeated.

Pro-lifers are now faced with the sad fact that there is no alternative regarding candidates and officeholders regarding abortion.



El Salvador's 'Cool' President Affirms the Protection of Life

by Carlos Polo, Director, PRI Latin American Office

The president of El Salvador has announced that the country's constitution will continue the protection of life from conception to natural death.

In doing so, President Nayib Bukele has shown he is listening to the voices of the Salvadoran people who are pro-life and pro-family.

His declaration was prompted by Vice-President Felix Ulloa's introduction of draft constitutional reforms in favor of abortion, euthanasia and same-sex marriage. The reforms met with immediate protest from the Episcopal Conference of El Salvador and several civic associations, mostly Catholic and evangelical.

In response, Bukele publicly discredited the proposed reforms. Currently the link on the official Salvadoran government website no longer even shows the document.

Evidently, this has not been an easy matter, nor has it been concluded. The issues of gender ideology and the accumulation of power, among others, are still pending. But the Salvadoran pro-life movement has been able to score a victory at the outset.

Nayib Bukele is a young president with a very strong social media presence. The media called him "the millennial president" and he has always emphasized his irreverent character against everything traditional. In the description on his Twitter account, he mocks his critics by claiming the title of "the coolest dictator in the world." His nonchalance has

undoubtedly polarized the country between those who love him and those who hate him, leaving very few undecided.

For that reason, the important thing about this first triumph is that these threats to life and family are no longer "cool" issues in El Salvador, at least among Bukele's followers. After all, anyone who knows Bukele knows how difficult it is to influence his decisions.

Bukele's Facebook post on September 17 was clearly intended to remove any doubts about his government's position on life and family:

"I have decided, so that there is no doubt, not to propose any kind of reform to any article that has to do with the right to life (from the moment of conception), with marriage (keeping only the original design, one man and one woman) or with euthanasia."

News agencies reproduced these words verbatim under the headline, "El Salvador closes the doors to abortion, euthanasia and homosexual marriage." And naturally, they turned for comment to representatives of radical feminist groups and "human rights" NGOs who lamented the president's decision, thus reaffirming the importance of the pro-life victory.

Another point that became clear in the reports from international news agencies is that Bukele's decision undoubtedly responded to the statements by the Episcopal Conference of El Salvador and pro-life organizations.

The Catholic bishops were very clear in stating in their communiqué that, "As Christians, we are absolutely in favor of life, from its conception until its natural death... a constitutional reform that sets the conditions for the legalization of abortion cannot be accepted."

Echoing the bishops' statement, 90 pro-life organizations demanded Bukele to be consistent with his promises: "Mr. President, you have publicly expressed your position in favor of human life from conception... Therefore, we request the rejection of this draft bill of constitutional reforms... since it includes a series of violations of the constitutional rights of minors, parents and the family itself, and does not respond to the sovereign will of the majority of the Salvadoran people..."

The change of course of the government of El Salvador in the voice of its loquacious president opens a horizon of hope.

Oscar Castellanos, lawyer and pro-life advocate in El Salvador, summed up the episode this way: "The response given to us by Mr. President gives us hope that the clamor of the majority of Salvadorans, who support life, family, religious and educational freedom and other conservative values that have always characterized us, has been heard."

"We will be attentive that this promise is fulfilled and that these fundamental rights are never violated for ideological reasons."



Saving Babies Now a Crime, Say European Bureaucrats

by Carlos Beltramo, Director, PRI European Office

On September 16, the European Parliament passed a resolution to define a new type of crime: “gender-based violence.”

The resolution denounces truly terrible practices, such as the murder of women, forced marriages, human trafficking and female genital mutilation. But it lumps in with these a new “crime”: the defense of the life of the unborn.

Incredible as it may seem, preventing a woman from having an abortion is now a crime of gender violence against women’s human rights in the European Union. This resolution is yet another step in the imposition of abortion as a human right, initiated earlier this year with the Matic Report, which we covered in a post on PRI’s Weekly Briefing.¹

As much as pro-abortion and progressive groups sometimes try to hide it, “sexual and reproductive health” consists of both the provision of contraceptives and the promotion and state funding of abortion. This European Parliament Resolution confirms the idea that abortion is part of reproductive health. The new resolution argues that preventing “sexual and reproductive health” is gender-based violence:

“...Highlights the fact that reproductive coercion and the denial of safe and legal abortion care is also a form of gender-based violence; stresses that the European Court of Human Rights has ruled on several occasions that restrictive abortion laws and the

lack of implementation violates the human rights of women; emphasizes that girls’ and women’s autonomy and ability to make free and independent decisions about their bodies and lives are preconditions for their economic independence, for gender equality and for the elimination of gender-based violence; strongly condemns the attack against women’s rights and gender equality in the Union, in particular the setback to women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights and the de facto ban on safe and legal abortion in Poland.” (Number 39).

The resolutions of the European Parliament do not carry the weight of law in each European country. Instead, they are recommendations that each country can then use or not in its own territory. Most often, the resolutions of the European Union are applied in all countries without any problems.

But if an individual country resists implementing a resolution, the bureaucrats in Brussels can put pressure on that country by giving it less participation in the governing bodies of the European Union. Some of these organisms are critical, like the European Commission or the Eurogroup. The Eurogroup decides where the money of the taxpayers who live in Europe goes.

All this means that the European Parliament officially recommends that the countries of the European Union legalize abortion. And they argue that those countries that do not have legal-

ized abortion are violating women’s human rights.

A strong majority of 427 votes approved the Resolution, with 119 against and 140 abstentions.

Until now, what defined gender-based violence in Europe was the “Istanbul Convention” of 2011. By the resolution’s admission, countries such as Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, and Slovakia have not yet ratified it. Even more, Poland has announced its intention to withdraw from the convention.

Perhaps because of this, the new resolution directly attacks Poland, which also has a law that restricts abortion in many ways. In October 2020, Poland’s Supreme Court ruled that abortion is not legal for malformations of the unborn child, making Polish law even more child-friendly. Many of the Polish people supported this move, but it was a step backward for progressives in Europe.

This pressure is not only on the countries. The resolution condemns the actions of “anti-gender and anti-feminist movements in Europe and worldwide that systematically attack women’s rights, including sexual and reproductive rights, and aim to overturn existing laws that protect them, thus endangering the respect of human rights and of the rule of law.” (Number 16)

That means us. The pro-life movement has been put in the crosshairs of a persecution that has just begun.

¹ <https://www.pop.org/will-abortion-throughout-all-nine-months-of-pregnancy-be-declared-a-human-right/>

PRI in the News



■ Mosher: China's Wealthy Being Imprisoned, Executed

EPOCH TIMES—True to his communist colors, the Chinese dictator Xi Jinping has been killing off free enterprise in China one billionaire at a time, according to a recent article by PRI President Steven Mosher.¹

“Over the past year, the war on the wealthy in China has picked up steam,” he wrote. “Taking their cues from Xi’s hostility toward private enterprise, government officials at all levels are arresting, imprisoning, executing, and even ‘suiciding’ their wealthy.

“Literally hundreds of Chinese billionaires and CEOs have been disappeared. Some have emerged a few weeks or months later in recorded propaganda videos, robotically expressing their undying devotion to the Party and Chairman Xi. Others are serving long prison sentences.”

Even Jack Ma, once China’s wealthiest man, disappeared late in 2020 after he publicly criticized China’s banking system, Mosher wrote. Ma’s company, e-commerce giant Alibaba, which he created using stolen U.S. technology, is being downsized by regulators and its stock price has plummeted. Ma is reportedly undergoing “re-education” at the hands of Party officials in a secret location.

Mosher wrote that in September 2020, Ren Zhiqiang, a real estate mogul who criticized Xi’s handling of the

pandemic, was jailed for 18 years on “corruption.” In August, Sun Dawu, a Chinese agricultural mogul, received a similar sentence for “provoking trouble.”

The clampdown is especially felt in minority areas, Mosher wrote. Salih Hudayar, prime minister of the East Turkistan Government in Exile, reported that CCP officials have arrested hundreds of wealthy Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples as part of its ongoing campaign of genocide, sentencing them to long prison terms on bogus charges. Radio Free Asia has reported that four prominent Uyghur billionaires have been sentenced to 18 to 20 years in prison.

In addition to re-education or long prison terms, some Chinese billionaires have simply been executed.

■ PRI Research Cited on Sex-Selective Abortion

PREGNANCY HELP NEWS—PRI’s research on the crisis of sex-selective abortion was cited in an article on a recent bill in Canada against the practice.²

Bill C-233, which was supported by the majority of Canadians, was advanced by Cathay Wagantall, a Member of Parliament (MP) in the House of Commons, and would have made it illegal to abort a baby solely based on its sex. The bill failed in a 248-82 vote.

“Research performed by the Population Research Institute (PRI) showed

an estimated 24 million sex-selection abortions were performed globally from 2000 to 2014,” the article stated. “The fact is this is a critical issue that will forever alter the future of, not just Canada in the wake of its sex selective abortion ban bill’s failure to pass, but the world.”

■ Mosher: Abortion Limit Not Based on Compassion

ALETEIA—China’s announcement that it is restricting abortions to medically necessary ones is good, but was “not done out of compassion for the unborn,” according to PRI President Steve Mosher.³

The directive was a brief sentence in a plan published by the State Council, China’s cabinet, to improve women’s health, according to the article.

According to Mosher, the plan is to “try and avert the looming demographic disaster that faces China, brought on by the decades-long one-child policy.”

The article stated that this year, Beijing will allow couples to have three children, up from the one-child restriction implemented in 1980 and the two-child policy of 2015.

Between 2014 and 2018, there were an average of 9.7 million abortions in China per year, according to National Health Commission data reported by Reuters.

¹ https://www.theepochtimes.com/communist-road-kill_4008028.html

² <https://pregnancyhelpnews.com/we-must-refuse-to-accept-sex-selective-abortion>

³ <https://aleteia.org/2021/09/27/china-calls-for-restriction-on-abortion/>

From the Countries



RUSSIA

Russia Boosts Helps To Pregnant Women

Russian authorities are developing plans to boost the quantity of social and psychological assistance available to pregnant women in an attempt to reduce the number of abortions, reported RT, a news agency financed by the Russian government.¹

A cabinet office decree was published last week naming several ways to prevent abortions, including medical and legal assistance to women in difficult life situations, the online news site reported.

The government intends to increase the percentage of women receiving pre-abortion counseling to 80% by 2025, with the goal of reducing terminations by half, the report stated.

Abortions in Russia have dropped almost 40 percent due to increased medical and social support for pregnant women, according to Russian Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova.



AUSTRALIA

Marie Stopes Closes Fifth Abortion Facility

Marie Stopes Australia will close its abortion facility in Newcastle, New South Wales, according to Right to Life UK recently reported.²

The largest provider of abortion services in the region, which previously closed four of its Queensland locations, stated that “physical clinics in regional areas are no longer financially viable.”

The five centers were responsible for approximately 5,000 abortions annually and employed over 40 staff.

The closures were “a really difficult decision,” according to Jamal Hakim, the managing director of Marie Stopes Australia.

“Costs, when it comes to sexual reproductive health care and particularly delivery of abortion care, continue to increase and COVID hasn’t helped,” he said. “The stigma as well means it’s difficult to continue to find a workforce.”



JAPAN

Japan Population Crisis Still Looms

The world’s fastest aging country is Japan, where a record 29.1 percent of the 125.2 million Japanese are now senior citizens aged 65 or older, reported *The Straits Times*.³ Of the nation’s 86,510 centenarians, half turned 100 this year.

People living longer is great news, the paper noted, except that the is accompanied by a worsening fertility crisis, according to Masashi Kawai, who heads the think-tank Research Institute of Countermeasures for Population Decline.

Government forecasts show that just 770,000 babies are expected this year. This is not only the lowest fertility estimate since records began in 1899 but represents a steep decline by about 70,000 babies from last year.

This year also marks a five-year decline after the number of childbirths slipped below 1 million for the first time in 2016.

¹ <https://www.rt.com/russia/535411-increase-help-pregnant-women/>

² <https://righttolife.org.uk/news/5th-marie-stopes-australia-abortion-clinic-closes-due-to-financial-difficulties>

³ <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/as-japan-celebrates-its-elderly-a-population-crisis-looms-with-scarcity-of-babies>

Making Your Christmas List? Checking It Twice?

Now more than ever, when you want reliable fact-based pro-life information about US and UN funding for programs in Africa, or the truth about China’s hegemonic anti-people policies, where do you turn? If you’re like more than 100,000 others, you turn to PRI. Why? Because you know you’ll receive top-notch demographic research from faithful Catholics committed to providing the truth and to Putting People—all people—First!

So, when you are making your Christmas list, please remember that your tax-deductible year-end gift, by check or through our secure website donation page, can mobilize a pe-

tion to change U.S. policy, could provide a critically needed ultrasound to a care center in a poor African region, or send an investigator to India. Your gift makes a huge impact because it offers immediate resources that are directed to current needs to document and fight the human rights violations and work to promote a culture of life.

To make a lasting impact, join our Circle for Life with your automated monthly gift, by debit or credit card.

However you choose, when you donate, you are Putting People First. That will surely help you have a Merry Christmas!