



PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

A Monthly Publication of the
St. Teresa of Avila Pro-Life Committee

Issue No.179 August 1, 2018

Dianne Machesney, Editor 412-366-7869



Pope Says Abortion Reflects Nazi Mentality

In a speech to a family association Saturday, Pope Francis again stressed that God's vision of the family is between a man and a woman and compared the abortion of children who are sick or disabled to a Nazi mentality.

"I've heard that it's fashionable, or at least usual, that when in the first few months of pregnancy they do studies to see if the child is healthy or has something, the first offer is: Let's send it away," the Pope said June 16, referring to the trend of aborting sick or disabled children. This, he said, is "the murder of children. ... To get a peaceful life, an innocent [person] is sent away. ... We do the same as the Nazis to maintain the purity of the race, but with white gloves."

It's an atrocity, but we do the same thing," he said, according to Italian media.

Pope Francis spoke to members of the Forum of Family Associations, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. [EWTN News 6/18/18](#)

Quebec Doctors Say Lack of Palliative Care is Forcing Patients Into Assisted Suicide

When the Canadian province of Quebec first brought in assisted suicide legislation, 262 people died under it in the first seven months – about three times more than anticipated.

Now, doctors are voicing concern that patients are being forced into choosing physician assisted suicide, because of a shortage of palliative care. Moreover, some are saying that lack of access to proper care is depriving patients of free and informed consent to having their lives ended.

Some doctors are saying that since Quebec's medical aid in dying law came into effect in 2016, access to palliative care has gone down, while patient requests for assisted suicide have increased steadily. "The issue of medical aid in dying is available to 100 per cent of the population and [in] palliative care the resources are only available to 30 per cent of the population," said Teresa Dellar, Director of the West Island Palliative Care Residence.

<https://www.spuc.org.uk/news/news-stories/2018/june/limited-palliative-care-forcing-patients-to-choose-assisted-suicide-say-quebec-doctors>

What are the Five Best Arguments Against Euthanasia?

As medical societies around the world consider changes to their position on euthanasia, several influential doctors and ethicists have co-published a commentary in the Journal of Palliative Care opposing any policy change.

Among the authors of the article, entitled "[Physician-Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia: Emerging Issues From a Global Perspective](#)", are Georgetown University's Daniel Sulmasy, who served on President Obama's Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues, Margaret Somerville, a legal scholar and one of the most vocal opponents of the legalization of euthanasia in Canada, and influential palliative care specialist Lukas Radbruch.

The authors summarize what they take to be the five strongest reasons to oppose euthanasia. They include:

- 1) "slippery slopes": The authors assert that "despite safeguards for euthanasia in the Netherlands and Belgium, there are data that safeguards are ineffective and violated...Allowing voluntary euthanasia has led to nonvoluntary euthanasia".
- 2) "lack of self-determination": The authors note that many expressions of a desire for death do not mean that a patient wants to euthanasia or assisted suicide; "As individual requests for PAS-E are often labile, complex in origin, and subject to the individual's changing priorities, such requests require careful and repetitive attention".
- 3) "inadequate palliative care": "Holistic knowledge of palliative care", they state, "is the most urgent ethical obligation of jurisdictions worldwide rather than legalizing PAS-E
- 4) "medical professionalism": doctors assisting in PAS-E, the authors argue, threaten the moral integrity of the medical profession.
- 5) "difference between means and ends": the push for PAS-E confuses the problem of suffering with the life of the person: "we must kill the pain and suffering, not the person with the pain and suffering".

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29852810>



Pro-Life Group Releases List of Products, Cosmetics and Vaccines Made Using Cells From Aborted Babies

Children of God for Life released a new list this week that informs consumers about products that are made or tested with cells from aborted babies.

"There are no food products containing aborted fetal material – nor has there ever been!" the group said. There are some vaccines, medicines and cosmetics that do use materials derived from aborted babies directly in the product. The list provides details about the products.

View it at: <https://cogforlife.org/wp-content/uploads/fetalproductsall.pdf>



Medical Journal Admits “Brain Dead” Patients May Not Really be Dead

50 years ago, an ad hoc Harvard Medical School committee declared that patients in an “irreversible coma” were dead from a legal and ethical point of view. By irreversible coma, the committee had in mind “comatose individuals who have no discernible central nervous system activity”. In making this pronouncement, the committee was seeking to resolve a series of ethical and legal questions that had arisen since the advent of positive pressure ventilation and research into vital organ procurement.

The criterion was rapidly enshrined in law around the US and, indeed, the globe, and it became the most common standard by which vital organ procurement and the withdrawal of treatment were regulated.

Yet 50 years on, the brain death criterion for death is under intense criticism, with several high profile legal cases in the US calling into question the claim that brain dead patients are really dead.

Read the whole report at:

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2678247>



Berkeley, California City Council Passes Measure Calling for “Humane Population Control”

The Berkeley City Council made a troubling move Tuesday, June 12, when it called for population control measures to protect the environment.

While the council claims it will promote “humane” measures to reach its goal, historically, government population control measures quickly devolve into horrific human rights abuses, including forced abortions and sterilizations. Environmental protections are important, but they should not threaten basic human rights.

The council claimed the earth is experiencing a “climate emergency” that could have a bigger impact than World War II. Its members said immediate action is necessary to “humanely stabilize population” and “reverse ecological overshoot.”

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2018/06/13/berkeley-declares-climate-emergency-worse-than-world-war-ii-demands-humane->



US Supreme Court Issues Narrow Ruling in Same-Sex Wedding Cake Case

On June 4th, the U.S. Supreme Court decided the case of *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*. The case involves a Christian baker named Jack Phillips who declined in 2012 to create a custom wedding cake for a same-sex ceremony. State officials sought to compel Phillips to create such cakes under Colorado's public accommodations law. The Supreme Court ruled 7-2 in favor of Phillips under the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Chairman of the Committee for Religious Liberty, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., of Philadelphia, Chairman of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, and Bishop James D. Conley of Lincoln, Chairman of the Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), issued the following joint statement:

"Today's decision confirms that people of faith should not suffer discrimination on account of their deeply held religious beliefs, but instead should be respected by government officials. This extends to creative professionals, such as Jack Phillips, who seek to serve the Lord in every aspect of their daily lives. In a pluralistic society like ours, true tolerance allows people with different viewpoints to be free to live out their beliefs, even if those beliefs are unpopular with the government."

The USCCB filed an *amicus curiae* brief supporting Masterpiece Cakeshop, which can be found here: <http://www.usccb.org/about/general-counsel/amicus-briefs/upload/16-111-tsac-USCCB.pdf>.

Diaper Sales Plummet as Americans Have Fewer Babies

As Americans have fewer babies, diaper sales are plummeting. That's the word from the biggest companies that sell diapers across the country.



To hear it from abortion activists, overpopulation is rampant in the United States. But the truth is that Americans are having fewer babies than ever before and the United States has joined nations around the world in falling below the replacement rate.

According to a new report, because America's birth rate is at its lowest level in three decades that has turned into a big problem for a company that makes Pampers and Huggies. Birth rates have been dropping since 2008 and the downturn in the number of babies born has caused sales of disposable diapers and training pants to fall 6% in just one year and 4 percent the year prior.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2018/06/15/diaper-sales-plummet-as-americans-have-fewer-babies/>



Pro-Life Win

On June 26, in a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled to protect the free speech of pro-life pregnancy centers in *National Institute of Family and Life Advocates v. Becerra*. The decision held that a California law requiring pregnancy centers to post notices on their walls about the state's free abortion program – in effect making them abortion referral centers – was likely unconstitutional.

Americans United for Life 6/27/18