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PENNSYLVANIANS FOR
HUMAN LIFE / SWR

Butler Chapter

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Butler Chapter

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Abortion: An Economic Disaster

The chief reason for opposing abortion is a moral one. Abortion kills innocent human life and this alone defeats any other argument, social or economic, made in favor of it. The moral principle that the unborn deserve a right to life should always be the paramount argument against abortion.

Choose Life!

**Summer 2006
Farm-Show Time!!!**



One reason often given in favor of abortion is economic. Large numbers of women seeking abortion claim they cannot afford a child. (Whether this means that they are truly poor or simply unwilling to change their lifestyles to accommodate new life is unclear.) Nations, too, put forth the economic argument. Babies cost money, and abortion reduces the future drain of resources, or so the thinking goes. China's one-child policy is perhaps the most striking example of governmental sanctioning of abortion to control population and economics.

Of course, with our superior moral argument against abortion, we do not need to win the economic argument. But what if we can win at this level too? The more we refute potential reasons offered in defense of abortion, the better. The truth is that using abortion to limit population growth is bad economic policy.

Somewhere along the line, the notion became popular that population growth was way too high. High population growth would soon exhaust the earth's finite resources and lead to famine and mass misery for the world's crowded inhabitants, we were told. In 1968, Paul Ehrlich authored *The Population Bomb*, an 'alert' to the dangers of overpopulation replete with scary scenarios that never came to pass. If it were not for the fact that he and others

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Economic Disaster (continued)

championing zero population growth convinced so many that population growth was a bad thing, his landmark book would be a funny joke.

For instance, Ehrlich wrote in *The Population Bomb* that “The battle to feed all of humanity is over. In the 1970s and 1980s hundreds of millions of people will starve to death in spite of any crash programs embarked upon now.” In fact, far from experiencing this catastrophic loss of life due to food shortages, the world has never been more prepared to fight famine. World population has doubled since Ehrlich offered this scare, but food production has grown much faster.

What Ehrlich and the zero population group fail to do is recognize that gold, oil, timber, soil, etc. are not the only resources we have. Human life itself is the ultimate resource! Two hundred years ago this country’s population was a fraction of what it is today. True, we may be more ‘crowded’ than we were then, yet no one can honestly deny that our standard of living has improved immeasurably. Why? Because millions of **human** resources came along and invented or discovered solutions to challenges facing humanity.

To the extent that abortion kills human resources, it makes us poorer as a nation. How many Einsteins, Edisons, Fords or Carnegies were among the 45 million babies we aborted since 1973? And it’s not just the brightest among us that contribute. Growing population is necessary to support institutions we have come to view as given, such as social security. In 1950 there were 16 workers for every social security beneficiary. Today there are 3.3 workers supporting every one person on social security. In the not-too-distant future, there will only be two workers for every one beneficiary. It’s not that there are too many old people drawing social security. Rather, there are too few young people contributing, a demographic trend made worse by abortion.

Europe, which is largely experiencing negative population growth, is finally beginning to realize the mess it is in. Many countries (Russia, Germany, France) have either enacted or are considering financial incentives for couples having more children. Sadly, like us, these countries still abort their future problem solvers, and some are addressing their demographic troubles by killing on the other end of the age spectrum. A society that doesn’t value its youngest generation enough to protect it in the womb is easily persuaded that its oldest generation represents a financial burden and has a duty to die.

So the next time you’re told that abortion is good because it rids us of children we cannot afford, you can respond that this position, in addition to being morally bankrupt and socially offensive, does just the opposite and leads to disastrous long-term economic consequences.

Donations

LifeLine

In Memory of:

Toni Schnell & Son by Mary Jo Koch

Carol Suchonic by Mary Jo Koch

Sara Spagnola by Esther Kerr

Florence Kocher by Eleanor Lasky

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Charlotte Borer & Thomas Reese by Mary Jo Koch

Birthday of Linda Jean

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Lucille Collins Korbe by

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Merl V. Collins by Harold & Gloria Schnur

In Honor of:

College Grads, Mary &

Shannon Tychnowitz by

Granny

Susan Tychnowitz by

Parents

In Memory of:
Toni Schnell by Rita Leyn

Other Lifeline Donations:

- Joseph Lutz
- Missy Sutton
- Patricia & Wm. Liberto
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- Gloria Armstrong
- Norval Dunn
- St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church
- Ron & Cathey McCormick
- Westminster Presbyterian Youth Group & Congregation
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- Dolores Bacher
- Carrie Shay
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- Amerivision
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- Martha & Reynold Keck
- Wal-Mart
- Anonymous

Other PHL Donations:

- Barbara Shulik Leovic

PHL

Kevorkian Denied Parole for Fourth Time

Assisted suicide activist Jack Kevorkian has once again been denied parole by the Michigan Parole Board. Kevorkian, who has served seven years of his second-degree murder conviction in the euthanasia death of a patient with Lou Gehrig's disease, claims he has less than a year to live. Corrections Department spokesman Russ Marlan admitted that prisoners can be granted a medical release if doctors determine they have less than one year to live, but a parole board health review determined that was not the case with Kevorkian.

Richest Men Team Up to Help Planned Parenthood

Warren Buffet, the renowned investor and world's second richest man, has decided to donate the bulk of his fortune (80% of his estate, or \$37 billion) to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the world's largest charity co-founded by the world's richest man, Bill Gates. Buffet, who in the past has supported pro-abortion organizations, will see his donated money do the same under the Gates foundation. Since 1998, the Gates foundation has given Planned Parenthood of America almost \$12.5 million, including funds to persuade teenagers to support abortion and money to lobby the United Nations to champion pro-abortion proposals. In fact, the international branch of Planned Parenthood has gotten roughly \$21 million from the Gates foundation in the last seven years to promote abortion in third-world countries and set up pro-abortion family planning centers in eastern Europe, South America and Africa.

See You at the Farm Show!

The PHL pro-life booth is making another appearance at this year's Farm Show (August 7-12, 2006). Please join us at this family-oriented event to give witness to a principle every family needs: Respect for Life.

Booth hours are already being filled by faithful volunteers – men, women and teens willing to donate just three hours of their hectic summer toward this noble cause. Many thanks to those whose names already fill the schedule! For those who would like to join in a shift or back up those already scheduled, please consider this an invitation to join the ranks of the “veteran volunteers.” We'd love to meet you!

Please call Becky Cascino at (724) 282-8280 for more information. Have a great summer!

Abortion Around the World

Whereas the United States kills between 1.3 million and 1.4 million children annually, the total number of abortions for the entire world is estimated at closer to 46 million (26 million legal and 20 million illegal). Below are some figures - estimates in many cases - regarding abortion worldwide. (Abortion numbers, ratios and rates are from *The Incidence of Abortion Worldwide*, by Stanley K. Henshaw, Susheela Singh and Taylor Haas, appearing in a 1999 edition of *International Family Planning Perspectives*.)

China

The 1999 study estimates that China performs 7.9 million abortions annually, with 26.1 out of every 1,000 women aged 15-44 obtaining an abortion each year. 27.4% of all pregnancies end in abortion, according to the study. The study's authors note that these estimates for China are likely below the actual numbers due to underreporting, and offer an abortion rate of 35 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44 as possible.

Indeed, with the one-child policy China employs to limit population growth, it's hard to believe that the actual abortion count is not considerably higher. With at least five times the number of women of child-bearing age as the United States and a policy of forced abortion, it's quite possible that China aborts over 11 million babies each year.

Abortion in China has not only resulted in age imbalances (not enough young people), but has also caused gender imbalances. Baby sex selection has led to 119 boys for every 100 girls, far different from the norm of 103 boys for every 100 girls. This gender imbalance fosters its own set of problems, and is blamed for sex-trafficking and the kidnapping of teenagers and young adults for forced marriages.

Japan

Japan faces a looming demographic catastrophe due to its negative population growth, which is caused in part by abortion on demand (343,000 annually, ending 22.4% of all pregnancies, according to the aforementioned study).

Its population is among the oldest in the world, with 27% over 60 years old now and a projected 42% over 60 in the year 2050. By comparison, those over 60 make up 17% of the population in the United States now, and 26% in 2050 (projections from the United Nations). Without more young people — Japan's growth rate is 1.25 children per woman, below the 2.1 rate needed to sustain a given population — Japan's older population will have to work until much later in life. Those who can no longer work will be tempting targets of euthanasia.

Russia

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Abortion Around the World (continued)

According to the study, the Russian Federation accounts for 2.3 million abortions annually, ending an astonishing 62.6% of all pregnancies. 68 out of every 1,000 women of child-bearing age (15-44) resort to abortion each year.

Recently, Russian President Vladimir Putin decried the country's declining population as the "most acute problem of contemporary Russia." Russia's population is dropping by more than half a million citizens a year.

In response to this crisis, Putin said that childcare benefits should be increased and more support given to women who have a second child. He also lobbied the legislature for more generous birth bonuses and educational benefits for mothers. These may be good ideas, but here's another one: Eliminate abortion and your annual half-million citizen decline becomes a positive 1.5 million person gain.

Other country-specific abortion data from the 1999 study for countries in which abortion is not restricted follow:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Abortions</u>	<u>% of Pregnancies Ending in Abortion</u>
Australia	91,900	26.4
Belarus	155,700	61.9
Canada	106,700	22.0
Cuba	209,900	58.6
England/Wales	167,900	20.5
Germany	130,900	14.1
Kazakhstan	178,000	41.3
France	156,200	17.7
India	566,500	2.1
Italy	140,400	21.1
Korea, South	230,000	24.6
Romania	394,000	63.0
Turkey	351,300	20.5
Ukraine	635,600	57.6
Vietnam	1,520,000	43.7
Yugoslavia	119,300	45.8

Pro-Life Panoply

Last week I went to the cancer center for my quarterly CT scan to see if the little nasties in my lung are still in remission. The waiting room in the center is an interesting place . . . lots of nervous people and their caretakers generally trying to look nonchalant. But seeing the kids with hats or do-rags covering their baldness stresses me out. There doesn't seem to be a lot of fairness to this stuff sometimes. God will have to explain it more thoroughly.

There was one early teenage girl who seemed like this might have been her first time in the cancer center. Her large brown eyes reflected how scared she was. But she was accompanied by her father, who kept saying soothing words to her, which seemed to help her relax.

Fathers are important that way. Not that mothers can't help us in that regard, but with me at least, when my father would speak soothingly to me I would experience a great calm over whatever I was stressed about. Both our heavenly Father and our brother Jesus continually tell us not to be afraid, that They are with us. That is very helpful. But there is nothing like the human voice of our earthly fathers telling us the same thing to make us believe it in our hearts. As one little kid said in a different context, "I pray to God, but sometimes I need some skin too."

I was thankful that the young lady's father was there to give her assurances. On this day following Father's Day I give thanks to God for our fathers, grandfathers and those male figures who have helped us to not be afraid.

Incidentally, I had a good CT scan. The cells in my lung are no bigger, and there are no more of them than at the time of the last scan. That's as good as it gets, medically speaking, with this cancer. My wife and I are grateful to God for all His blessings and His infinite mercy.

- Rick Givan

Visit the PHL Website

You are invited to visit PHL online! Our website, phlbutler.org, contains past editions of our newsletter, lots of great links to other pro-life resources, current action alerts and other useful and interesting information.

If you are interested in receiving legislative alerts or receiving the newsletter electronically, please contact Marj Vincent at marjvincent@zoominternet.net.