



PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

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91% of Women Who Were Denied Abortion Raise Their Children Just Fine

The Turnaway Study found that of women who give birth after being denied abortion, 91% raise their children themselves (9% place for adoption). Of those who raise their children themselves, 91% emotionally bond to their babies normally, and 98% say they no longer wish they'd gotten an abortion.

Overall, the article finds women increasingly viewed their abortion denials positively "in parallel with growing bonds with the baby and, for some, a new sense of purpose in life gained from the challenge of the responsibility of a child."

[91% of Women Who Were Denied Abortion Raise Their Children Just Fine - LifeNews.com](https://www.life.com/news/91-percent-of-women-who-were-denied-abortion-raise-their-children-just-fine)

HELP AFTER MISCARRIAGE

Miscarriage is so often a silent and hidden trauma. Though you may want privacy, it doesn't mean your pain has to be neglected or your grief borne alone. Whether you have suffered a miscarriage yourself or know someone who has, here is some help from guides, ministries, books, and communities.

<https://www.redbird.love/carried-with-love>

This guide with information to help before, during, and after miscarriage is from a Catholic ministry for parents who have lost children called Red Bird Ministries. It is well-laid out, easy to navigate, and covers many different aspects of navigating this particular suffering.

<https://blog.holyheros.com/infant-loss-resources/>

This page from Holy Heroes has helpful links on everything from naming your baby to parish support and specific prayers to pray. It features illustrations from the book Jellybean, A Baby's Journey to God — a sweet story that explains miscarriage in a way children can grasp. Its simplicity and light-filled images help parents process their grief also.

[Where can women turn for help when they have a miscarriage? \(aleteia.org\) 4/16/24](https://www.aleteia.org/2024/04/16/where-can-women-turn-for-help-when-they-have-a-miscarriage/)

U.S. birth rate hits record low last year, signaling surge in childlessness



The U.S. birth rate hit a record low last year of 1.62 births per woman according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), part of a worldwide trend of declining birth rates that have been shown to stem from rising childlessness.

The U.S. has had birth rates mostly below replacement level since 1972, according to United Nations (U.N.) data, with a minor brief respite from 2006 to 2007, when birth rates were just at replacement level. Birth rates hovered near replacement level from about 1989 to its recent peak of 2.11 births per woman in 2007. Since then, the birth rate has steadily declined.

[U.S. birth rate hit record low last year, signaling surge in childlessness - LifeSite \(lifesitenews.com\)](https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/us-birth-rate-hit-record-low-last-year-signaling-surge-in-childlessness)



Catholic Neonatologist Wins Award for Exemplary Medical Care of Most Fragile, Vulnerable Babies

Notre Dame's de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture honors **Dr. Elvira Parravicini**, who tells moms and dads, 'My mission is to save your baby's life. But no matter what, I am walking with your baby, you and your family. I will not abandon you.'

Parravicini began developing the Neonatal Comfort Care Program (NCCP) in 2008 with the goal of serving infants with short life expectancies through specialized medical protocols not common at most hospitals. From prenatal diagnosis to birth and beyond, the NCCP helps parents develop a plan for prenatal care, delivery and postpartum care and coordinates bereavement support and counseling for families should their child not survive.

In recognition of her work in defense of the dignity of unborn human life, Parravicini was awarded the Evangelium Vitae Medal on April 27. The medal, which is awarded annually by the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture at the University of Notre Dame, is the nation's most important award for heroes of the pro-life movement. [National Catholic Register 5/7/24](https://www.nationalcatholicregister.org/2024/05/07/evangelium-vitae-medal/)

PRO-LIFE ADVOCATE SENTENCED TO NEARLY 5 YEARS IN PRISON

Catholic pro-life advocate Lauren Handy has been sentenced to 57 months in prison followed by three years of supervision for protesting the murder of late-term unborn children at a notorious abortion facility in Washington, D.C. Following the convictions, Handy and most of the co-defendants were denied release while awaiting sentencing.



Handy's attorneys from the Thomas More Society expressed their opposition to the almost five-year-long prison sentence and stated in a news release that they would be working to appeal the decision. [LifeSiteNews 5/14/24](https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/lauren-handy-sentenced-to-57-months-in-prison)



When Dead Doesn't Mean Dead

The medical criteria to diagnose brain death establishes only partial loss of brain function ("partial brain death"). All Catholics agree that patients with partial brain death are alive, and the Catholic Church forbids removing vital organs when this act would kill the patient. The April 11 statement by The National Catholic Bioethics Center affirms that 'a partial brain death standard can never be acceptable to Catholics.'

In response to a clear need for updated guidance, a statement was released in February 2024 titled "Catholics United on Brain Death and Organ Donation: A Call to Action." The document explained that at least half, and as many as **four out of five, donors declared brain-dead are alive when their organs are removed based on the persistent function of a part of the brain called the hypothalamus.** "Catholics United" was endorsed by 151 Catholic health-care professionals, theologians, philosophers, ethicists, lawyers, apologists, pro-life advocates and others, including a BD survivor and a professional organization.

In recognition of this reality, "Catholics United" makes several strong recommendations, including:

- Decline to be an organ donor at the Department of Motor Vehicles.
- Refuse to be an organ donor after death in advance directives.
- Improve education on end-of-life care and organ donation at the pastoral level.
- Advocate for conscience protection rights for health care professionals and institutions with regard to participation in BD determinations and organ transplantation.

[National Catholic Register 4/8/24](#)

Planned Parenthood Caught Selling Livers From Aborted Babies for \$1,500 in New Undercover Videos

The Planned Parenthood abortions business was exposed several years ago as one of the biggest sellers of body parts from aborted babies.

Over a dozen videos chronicled, how America's biggest abortion company kills babies in abortions and then potentially illegally sells their body parts to universities for grisly, unproven research. Eventually, Planned Parenthood officials admitted under oath to doing this.

Now, unreleased footage from the initial series of videos from the Center for Medical Progress shows more of this shocking truth.

Previously censored undercover footage of Planned Parenthood abortion officials, played for the first time in a Congressional hearing on March 22, shows leadership from the nation's largest abortion provider admitting the "financial incentive" to sell aborted fetal body parts and describing how to mutilate fetal bodies to hide violations of the federal partial-birth abortion law.

[Planned Parenthood Caught Selling Livers From Aborted Babies for \\$1,500 in New Undercover Videos - LifeNews.com](#)

PA Battling to Prevent an Abortion Amendment Being Enshrined Into the State Constitution in 2024

In 2022, the Pennsylvania No State Constitutional Right to Abortion Amendment passed in both the House and Senate chambers of the General Assembly. This initiative declared that the constitution grants no right to a taxpayer-funded abortion or any other right relating to abortion. Abortion is legal in Pennsylvania up to 24 weeks of pregnancy, with exceptions for the life of the mother and the "substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function." The proposed amendment would maintain current laws regulating abortion and prevent the taxpayer funding of elective abortion.

In Pennsylvania, citizens do not have the power to initiate statewide initiatives or referenda. Only the legislature has this power. A proposed amendment requires a simple majority vote (50%+1) in each legislative chamber during two successive legislative sessions to refer a constitutional amendment to the ballot.

A legislative session for Pennsylvania consists of two calendar years. To be put on this year's November ballot, the proposed amendment that passed in 2022 would again have to pass through both House and Senate during the current 2023-2024 session. Due to the 2022 elections, the leadership of the PA General Assembly changed and is now divided: the Republicans control the Senate and the Democrats control the House.

The Pennsylvania *No State Constitutional Right to Abortion* Amendment would still need to go through the proper committees in order to go to the full chambers for a vote. Currently, there has been no movement in the House committees regarding this amendment.



1 in 25 Women Who Take the Abortion Pill End Up in the Emergency Room

In 2000, the FDA approved the use of chemical abortion drugs with several safety standards including three in-person doctor visits to check for ectopic pregnancy, severe bleeding and life-threatening infections. It required doctors to prescribe the drugs to pregnant women seven weeks or under gestationally and implemented reporting requirements for serious complications.

After 16 years of requiring critical safety standards, the FDA egregiously removed them without sufficiently evaluating the impact on women's health. In 2021 the FDA abandoned in-person office visits, acknowledging that women harmed by these drugs would need to rely on overcrowded emergency rooms and conceding that studies used to justify the decision were "not adequate."

Now, according to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), one in 25 women who have chemical abortions will end up in the emergency room.

[1 in 25 Women Who Take the Abortion Pill End Up in the Emergency Room - LifeNews.com](#)

Congress Asks WHO to Reject Radical Anti-Life Group

Members of the U.S. Congress threatened to cut U.S. funding to the World Health Organization (WHO) if the global health body enters into official relations with controversial abortion and sexual rights law firm, the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR). The Congressional letter highlights the growing mistrust of the American people toward the WHO and of widespread support for federal prohibitions on the use of U.S. foreign assistance for abortion.

The WHO unabashedly promotes abortion as a health and human rights issue. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the WHO promoted abortion as an essential service. This latest move to bring a litigious legal group into the inner working of the agency signals a new level of comfort with abortion activism within the organization, especially from Western donor countries—including the U.S., which is the single largest donor to the WHO.

[Center for Family & Human Rights 5/16/24](#)