

# Abortion

This outline is available for download at [www.RespectLifeMissouri.org](http://www.RespectLifeMissouri.org)

## Welcome & Opening Prayer

Facilitator opens meeting with a “thank you” to all who have attended, introduction of new members, and a prayer. It is important that all participants feel welcomed and participate within their own comfort level.

### Opening Prayer to End Abortion

*Almighty Father, we gather here tonight in repentance, in resolve, and in rejoicing.*

*We gather in repentance, because we, Your people, could long ago have ended child-killing in this nation.*

*We gather in repentance, for so many of Your people rightly call on You to act to save the unborn, but fail to realize that You call them to act to save the unborn.*

*We gather in repentance, for so many of Your people rightly lift up their hands and say "Lord have mercy," but fail to lift a finger to have mercy on the unborn.*

*We gather in repentance, because not one drop of innocent blood is shed upon the land, without every person on the land sharing responsibility for it.*

*We gather, Lord, in resolve.*

*We are resolved to reach our goal, not just to fight abortion, but to end it.*

*We will stop at no sacrifice and count no cost in defending the unborn.*

*We resolve that we will continue to challenge public servants who fail to serve the public yet to be born, and will continue to challenge voters to elect only those who will advance a Culture of Life.*

*Finally, Lord, we gather in rejoicing.*

*We rejoice that You have called us to do pro-life work, not as some "hobby" to be squeezed in when we have time, but as the very heart and soul of our quest for justice in this world.*

*Bless this gathering and bless this movement.*

*We pray in the saving Name of the Author of Life, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

## Presentation: Abortion

**NOTE: The Powerpoint presentation is available online for download.**

- ❖ The presentation file has been updated into the same PDF format as this session outline so it should be just as easy to access. If no laptop/projector is available, a printout of individual slides can also be copied/printed and used as both a presentation and as a handout for participant notes.
- ❖ The content in the slide presentation is designed to be straight-forward but also to allow flexibility.
- ❖ The comprehensive nature of the written facilitator notes below has been provided to allow for diversity among groups, for an extended and on-going education, and for later reference on the topic. **Therefore, it is possible that all the content included in the facilitator notes will *not* be**

**covered in a single session. Please review the information below for each slide and then create a presentation that is your own based on the needs of your particular group.**

- ❖ If necessary, the Respect Life Office can answer any questions or provide guidance on any topics in the slide deck. Please contact the Respect Life Office at (816) 756-1850 or [francis@dioceskcjsj.org](mailto:francis@dioceskcjsj.org) if you cannot access the on-line files.

### **Slide 1: Introduction** Abortion

### **Slide 2: Topics for Discussion**

- Learn the truth behind the lies about abortion
- Review the history of the abortion battle
- Take an honest look at our current “culture of death”
- Prepare ourselves by understanding the Church’s teaching on abortion
- Discuss what we will do to end abortion

### **Slide 3: Definitions**

- a·bor·tion (ə·bôr·shən) *n.* An induced fatally premature expulsion of a human embryo or fetus from the womb.
- mur·der (mər·dər) *n.* To unlawfully kill another human being.
- leg·is·la·ture (le·jəs·lā·chər) *n.* An officially selected body of persons vested with the responsibility and power to make laws.
- ju·di·ci·ar·y (jü·di·shē·er·ē) *n.* A system of courts for the administration of laws and justice.

Be sure to emphasize the fact that legality is the only thing separating abortion from murder and that laws are made by the legislative branch of our government (Senate and House of Representatives), not the judicial branch (Supreme Court).

That means a decision that has resulted in the killing of 50,000,000 Americans was made based on the opinion of nine people who are not responsible for making laws, are not accountable to anyone but the President of the United States, who have a guaranteed lifetime job, and who cannot be voted out.

### **Slide 4: Brief History of Abortion**

Abortions have been practiced around the world throughout history. Views on abortion and the means of accomplishing it have changed through the course of history. Some cultures have looked at it as evil; some have promoted it under the guise of necessity and safety. At one time women took herbs and potions to bring it about, now we have surgical procedures to extract the child from its mother’s body.

1. [The Ebers Papyrus](#)- from Egypt, 1550 BC; oldest medical book, contains recipes meant to induce abortion
2. [Bas-Relief](#)- Cambodia, 1150 AD; a bas-relief is a type of sculpture, this one shows a demon pounding on a pregnant woman’s stomach to cause an abortion
3. [Newspaper](#) -- "The Female Abortionist." Madame Restell is portrayed as a villainess in an 1847 copy of the National Police Gazette
4. [Poster](#)- Russia/Soviet Union, 1925; promotes hospital abortion because of the danger of death from going to self-taught midwives

5. Eugenics -- The modern day abortion rights movement began as the American Birth Control League in 1921. Among its founding board members were Margaret Sanger, Lothrop Stoddard, and C. C. Little. The latter two people were known for their racist views, but Margaret Sanger continually shows up in the company of other racists. In fact, she was the guest speaker at a Ku Klux Klan rally in Silverlake, N. J. in 1926. Not only did she not disassociate herself from these racist views, her own writings leave little doubt as to her sympathies. In implementing a plan called the "Negro Project," that was designed to sterilize Blacks and reduce the number of Black children being born in the south, Sanger wrote:

*"[We propose to] hire three or four colored ministers, preferably with social-service backgrounds, and with engaging personalities. The most successful educational approach to the Negro is through a religious appeal. And we do not want word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population, and the minister is the man who can straighten out that idea if it ever occurs to any of their more rebellious members."*

### **Slide 5: Real Feminists**

Being familiar with the history of abortion can be helpful in fully understanding why we stand against it. Throughout history our knowledge has expanded, and just as there have always been those promoting, performing, and seeking abortions, there have been strong leaders standing up against abortion.

Susan Brownell Anthony was a prominent American civil rights leader who played a pivotal role in the 19th century women's rights movement to introduce women's suffrage into the United States.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B Anthony- early feminists; these two women fought endlessly for rights for women in America...they also fought against abortion.

"The Apotheosis of Suffrage," a cartoon mocking Stanton and Anthony -- Not everyone thought that what Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony were working towards was a good idea. This 1896 political cartoon pokes fun at Stanton and Anthony by suggesting they be considered as important as George Washington. Today, we wouldn't think it's funny because just as George Washington is considered a "forefather" of American democracy, Stanton and Anthony are "foremothers" of the struggle for women's equality.

In her writings, Susan B. Anthony occasionally mentioned abortion. Susan B. Anthony opposed abortion which at the time was an unsafe medical procedure for women, endangering their health and life. She blamed men, laws and the "double standard" for driving women to abortion because they had no other options. She believed, as did many of the feminists of her era, that only the achievement of women's equality and freedom would end the need for abortion. Anthony used her anti-abortion writings as yet another argument for women's rights.

In 1979, Susan B. Anthony's image was chosen for the new dollar coin, making her the first woman to be depicted on U.S. currency. The size of the dollar was, however, close to that of the quarter, and the Anthony dollar never became very popular. In 1999 the U.S. government announced the replacement of the Susan B. Anthony dollar with one featuring the image of Sacagawea.

The SBA List is a pro-life political organization founded in 1992, when the pro-abortion Emily's List PAC rose to power. The SBA List founders recognized the uphill battle women faced with only two pro-life women leaders in Congress. They vowed to level the

playing field by creating a full program to encourage and elect more women as pro-life candidates for national office. Through advancing, mobilizing and representing pro-life women they directly contradict the claim that abortion is a woman's right and the premise that abortion somehow liberates women.

## **Slide 6: American History**

The Declaration of Independence, one of the greatest documents in our history, states two basic principles on which our nation is founded: "the recognition of the dignity and rights of the human person as endowed by the Creator and liberty and justice for all". Our government is sworn to the protection of the weak and marginalized. However, at the time of our nation's founding, it was still believed that life did not begin until the time when the baby began to move in the womb, known as quickening. James Wilson, who signed the Declaration of Independence and helped to frame the Constitution said that "...with consistency, beautiful and undeviating, human life, from its commencement to its close, is protected by the common law. In the contemplation of law, life begins when the infant is first able to stir in the womb. By the law, life is protected not only from immediate destruction, but from every degree of actual violence, and, in some cases, from every degree of danger."

The United States adopted the law of England in the case of abortion, saying that it was legal before quickening. In the 1820s, anti-abortion laws began to appear, though, in individual states. At first, post-quickening abortions were a felony, and eventually pre-quickening abortions became a misdemeanor. By 1900 Abortion was almost completely illegal in every state.

Early feminists, like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who have already been mentioned, unlike many modern day feminists, fought against abortion. They wanted not only punishment for procuring and performing abortions but also for the complete prevention of them. Anthony wrote that only focusing on passing anti-abortion laws would be "only mowing off the top of the noxious weed, while the root remains." She believed that abortion was a burden that weighed on the conscience during life and the soul after death.

In the 1960s, however, new laws began to pass that slowly allowed legal abortion back into our culture, at first making allowances only for the safety of the woman, but by 1973, 18 states also allowed abortion in cases of rape and incest.

## **Slide 7: January 22, 1973**

Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton

These two decisions together have allowed legal abortion on demand at any stage of pregnancy in all 50 states. These two original rulings established legal abortion as follows:

- 1) In the first three months of pregnancy, no one can interfere with a woman's decision to abort her child,
- 2) After the first three months, but before the "viability" of the unborn child, an individual state can enact laws to protect the health of the mother but cannot prohibit the abortion of the unborn child, and
- 3) After "viability" of the unborn child, an individual state can, if it chooses to do so, enact laws to protect the unborn child but abortion must be allowed if the life or "health" of the mother is at stake. The Supreme Court defined "health" as the "medical judgment" exercised in light of all physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and age factors. This broad definition of "health" has consequently made abortion legal until birth.

Viability – is a point in fetal development at which the unborn baby may be able to survive outside of the womb.

This ruling was made under the Due Process Clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. It states that “No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.” Essentially, a woman can choose to abort her child if giving birth to the baby would breach her rights of being a U.S. citizen, the rights of life, liberty, and property.

### **Slide 8: Norma McCorvey**

Jane Roe was the lead plaintiff in the landmark Roe v. Wade case. Her real name is Norma McCorvey. By the time the Supreme Court made its ruling in favor of Roe, Norma had already given birth to a daughter, who she gave up for adoption. She was pro-choice for some time, even working in abortion clinics; however, in 1995 Norma had a pro-life and a Christian conversion.

After her dramatic conversion in 1995, Norma McCorvey spent two years working with the pro-life activist organization Operation Rescue. In the summer of 1997, with the assistance of her friend, Ronda Mackey, Norma decided that it was time to start her own pro-life ministry.

Norma's ministry focuses in two main areas:

- Speaking out publicly on the abortion issue from a Christian/pro-life perspective. Her knowledge of the pro-choice movement and the abortion industry--she previously worked for both—is a significant asset in this area.
- Working as a catalyst to assist other pro-life organizations in their particular areas of expertise. Norma is aware that there are many lesser known, but yet significant, organizations dedicated to helping unborn children and their mothers. She uses her leverage to promote some of these organizations and further their development.

### **Slide 9: Sandra Cano**

Sandra Cano is the former plaintiff in the "Doe vs. Bolton" case. By way of history, Doe vs. Bolton was a landmark decision of the United States Supreme Court legalizing “Partial Birth Abortion.” The Supreme Court's decision was released on, January 22, 1973 the same day as its companion case Roe v. Wade.

Today Sandra Cano is pro-life and has stated her opposition to abortion from the beginning. The paperwork she thought was related to a divorce she sought from an abusive husband and the liberation of her children from foster care turned into one of the most infamous cases in our nation's history. The American Civil Liberties Union attorney that Cano believed was helping to reunite her with her children and to obtain a divorce claimed that her client applied for an abortion but was turned down. Cano says she was lied to and that the lawyers handling the case did not explain to her what was happening and why.

Sandra Cano is currently the President of the pro-life “Wonderfully Made” ministry. The vision and mission of Wonderfully Made Ministry is to be a “voice for the voiceless”, both nationally and internationally, via speaking engagements by lobbying politicians and endorsing like-minded organizations.

## Slide 10: The "Procedure"

While some surgeries carry a risk of harm, abortion is intended to harm. It may be one of the most common surgical procedures in the world, but it is hardly a harmless one. A better understanding of the techniques involved makes this abundantly clear.

- RU-486 (The Abortion Pill) -- Medical abortions are a two-step procedure, generally requiring three trips to an abortion facility, and can be performed on embryos in the first six or seven weeks of pregnancy. Patients that smoke, have asthma, high blood pressure or are obese cannot take the necessary drugs for a medical abortion. Those that do qualify begin the process by taking the first pill (RU-486 or mifepristone) to block the hormone (progesterone) that maintains the uterus' nutrient lining during pregnancy. Once the uterus is compromised, the embryo starves and dies. Two days later, the woman returns to the abortion facility for a dose of misoprostol to initiate uterine contractions. Oftentimes, the woman is allowed to take this dose at home rather than at the abortion facility. Most women will expel the dead embryo within four hours of taking the second drug. The final visit must take place two weeks later to ensure that the abortion has taken place. If it hasn't, which is the case 5-10% of the time, a surgical abortion will then be required.
- Methotrexate -- Similar to RU-486, except the drug is administered by a "shot". A second drug is inserted into the vagina to trigger labor and expulsion of the baby.
- The "Morning-After Pill" (Emergency Contraception) -- Given within 72 hours of sexual intercourse, this is a mega-dose of progesterone. It makes the lining of the womb inhospitable to the fertilized embryo, making it difficult for the baby to attach. This causes an early abortion.
- Suction -- Suction Aspiration abortion (also called Vacuum Aspiration) is the most common abortion procedure in practice today. About 90% of all abortions happen in the first trimester, and this method accounts for the vast majority of those first trimester abortions. For the procedure to begin, the woman's cervix must be manually dilated with a series of rods to allow for the insertion of a hollow plastic tube with a sharp cutting-tip. This tube is connected to a suction machine that is able to pull the tiny, developing human being apart as it is suctioned out of the uterus (killing him or her in the process). The remains are deposited into a collection canister. The placenta must then be cut away from the uterine wall before it, too, can be sucked into a collection bottle.
- Dilation and Curettage (D & C) -- In a Dilation & Curettage abortion, a sharp curette is used to dismember and remove the embryo or fetus from the mother's uterus (instead of the suction cannula used in vacuum procedure). The curette is inserted directly into the mother's uterus and used to scrape, first, the baby and then the placenta out of the uterus and through the cervix. Bleeding is generally profuse. Dilation & Curettage may also be used in non-abortive circumstances to treat abnormal uterine bleeding, dysmenorrhea, etc.
- Dilation and Evacuation (D & E) -- Dilation and Evacuation is a 2nd trimester abortion procedure. For the procedure to take place, the woman's cervix must first be dilated, usually with laminaria, over a two or three day period prior to the abortion. Laminaria sticks are made of sterilized and compressed seaweed that can be inserted into a woman's cervix. Here, they begin expanding from moisture absorption, resulting in an enlarged cervix. When the woman returns for the actual abortion to take place, forceps are inserted through the enlarged cervix into the uterus. The abortion provider then uses the forceps instrument to dismember the fetus by seizing a leg or arm and twisting it until it tears off and can be pulled out of the uterus. This will continue until only the head remains. Finally the skull is crushed and also pulled out. The body parts must then be reassembled to ensure that the entire baby has been removed.

- Saline Amniocentesis -- The extreme risk of saline amniocentesis to the mother has removed them from common practice today. Dilation & Evacuation abortions have largely replaced the saline variety. In saline abortions, done after the 16th week, a large needle is inserted through the woman's abdominal wall and into the baby's amniotic sac. A concentrated salt solution is injected into the amniotic fluid resulting in acute hypernatremia or acute salt poisoning. The baby breathes in and swallows the solution and is usually dead within a couple hours. Dehydration, hemorrhaging of the brain, organ failure, and burned skin also contribute to the fetus' demise. The mother generally goes into labor the next day and delivers a dead baby.
- Prostaglandin -- Prostaglandin is a chemical hormone which induces violent labor and premature birth when injected into the amniotic sac. Since prostaglandin results in an unusually high percentage of live births, salt, urea or another toxin is often injected first. The risk of live birth from a prostaglandin abortion is so great that its use is recommended only in hospitals with neonatal intensive care units. The risk to the mother is also greater with the use of prostaglandin; complications can include cardiac arrest.
- Inter-Cardiac Injection -- An ultrasound is used to locate the baby's heart. Poison is then injected into the heart, causing a heart attack, and killing the preborn baby. Used in hysterotomy abortions and commonly used when multiple babies are present in order to kill one or two or three or more that the others may have a better chance of living, or when a baby is "defective" in some way.
- Dilation and Extraction (D & X) / Partial-Birth Abortion -- Dilation and Extraction (often called partial birth abortion) is used during the 2nd or 3rd trimester and is usually performed on a viable baby. The Ultrasound-guided procedure is essentially the breach delivery of a live baby. Forceps, inserted through the cervical canal, are used to position the fetus so that it can be delivered feet first and face down. The child's body is then pulled through the birth canal, but the head (too large to pass through the cervix) is left inside. With arms and legs exposed, the abortion provider then inserts blunt surgical scissors into the base of the fetal skull and spreads the tips apart. A suction catheter is inserted into the skull and the brain is sucked out. The skull collapses until the baby's head can pass through the cervix. This form of late-term abortion is now illegal under the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

**Slide 11: "Before I formed you..."**

" Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you."

Jeremiah 1:5

**Slide 12: Iraq - Afghanistan War – Casualties**

Iraq War: On Dec. 18, 2011, after 7 years, there were 4,488 U.S. service men and women killed.

Afghanistan War: On May 28, 2010, after 7 years, there were 1,005 U.S. service men and women killed.

That means over 5000 brave Americans had been killed in one of the most dangerous places on earth!

**Slide 13: September 11, 2001 – Casualties**

World Trade Center (New York): 2,752 killed  
 Pentagon (Washington D.C.): 184 killed  
 Flight 93 (Shanksville, PA): 36 killed

Imagine almost 3000 innocent Americans killed in one day right here on our home soil !

**Slide 14: Babies – Casualties**

Over 3600 innocent American children are killed every day in what should be the **safest** place on Earth...every day, every week, every month, every year...**since the Vietnam War!**

**Slide 15: 3600 Babies**

Having trouble wrapping your head around what 3600 children look like, this is a picture of 3600 children...

**Slide 16: 1 out of every 4 babies conceived in America...**

Still a little hard to comprehend--that is 25% of all children conceived in this country. In other words, we are missing an entire generation, you are missing one fourth of your class, and that isn't even counting the subsequent children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren that will also never be born!

**Slide 17: "Oh, Say, Can't You See...?"**

Each Star = 1,000,000 children killed by abortion in the U.S. since 1973.

Each Stripe = 100,000 children killed every year by abortion in the U.S...that is more than the number of Jews killed each year during the Holocaust.

In approximately the same amount of time it has taken you to read this slide, another child has been killed by abortion in the United States.

**Slide 18: "I call heaven and earth..."**

"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

Deut. 30:15-20

**Slide 19: Black Children are an Endangered Species -- (Take the time to review the slide)**

Abortion is a scourge on American society even worse than slavery, and especially for our African-American brothers and sisters. In 100 years, our great-great-grandchildren will look back at today and the war on abortion just like we look back today on the Civil War! The current attack on minorities and the poor in our country is nothing less than genocide!

**Statistics**

- The Black population is the only one in our country that is declining. 127,303 more African Americans are dying than being born each year

- African-Americans make up 17% of live births, while they make up 36% of abortions in the U.S.
- Black women are almost 5x as likely as White women to have an abortion; Hispanic women are almost 3x as likely.
- Approximately every minute one Black child is aborted in the U.S.
- The most common demographic of women having abortions is non-White, poor, and unmarried.

U.S. Stats by Race	2004	2004
	(Number of Abortions)	(Rate per women of child-bearing age)
White	417,530 (34% of total)	11 per 1,000 women
Black	453,040 (36% of total)	50 per 1,000 women
Hispanic	269,420 (22% of total)	28 per 1,000 women
Other	95,230 (8% of total)	-

Only 0.3% of abortions (<1 out of every of 3000) are because of rape or incest. Almost 98% of abortions (>2900 of every 3000) are because of an unwanted or inconvenient pregnancy.

In cases where prenatal testing identifies cases of Down Syndrome in babies, about **92%** of these babies are eliminated by abortion yearly.

***Let's abolish abortion!***

#### **Slide 20: AuschWichita – Holocaust in the Heartland**

Josef Mengele was a German SS officer and a physician in the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. He initially gained notoriety for being one of the SS physicians who supervised the selection of arriving transports of prisoners, determining who was to be killed and who was to become a forced laborer, but is far more infamous for performing grisly human experiments on camp inmates, for which Mengele was called the "Angel of Death".

George Richard Tiller was an American "physician" and medical director of an abortion mill in Wichita, Women's Health Care Services, one of only three nation-wide which provided abortions after the 21st week of pregnancy (late-term abortion). He claimed to have "treated" patients who discovered late in pregnancy that their babies had severe or fatal birth defects and he routinely aborted healthy late-term babies by simply getting a second opinion from another "physician" that carrying the baby to term would cause the mother "substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function", which was found out to sometimes just mean stress, embarrassment, or inconvenience to the mother. Many believe Tiller would have lost his medical license had he not been murdered by an anti-abortion activist on May 31, 2009.

The murder of abortionists cannot be tolerated. We must work to help others understand that all pro-lifers are anti-abortion but being anti-abortion does not necessarily make you pro-life. It is absolutely necessary to understand that the choice to take the life of another person in order to solve a problem is *not* pro-life. This core belief is precisely what makes us "pro-life".

#### **Slide 21: "Roe vs. Wade has kept abortion confidential, safe, and legal since 1973"**

Guess which one of these pictures was *not* taken at an abortion mill! That's right, the dog with the log chain—it takes a lot to make a junkyard dog look good but these are actual pictures taken on location at abortion mills in the Midwest. These are the same people

who are trying to scare you with useless rhetoric about women being driven to “back-alley” abortions if Roe vs. Wade is over-turned.

**Slide 22: “Would you like to try one of our combos, today?”**

Planned Parenthood is the world's largest birth control enterprise and the most vocal proponent of legal abortion. Founded in 1916 by elitist and eugenics advocate Margaret Higgins Sanger, Planned Parenthood Federation of America Inc. (PPFA) is affiliated with the London, England-based International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

Planned Parenthood argues that *“everyone has the right to choose when or whether to have a child”* and it pushes for laws and constitutional amendments that guarantee *“reproductive freedom”*, a phrase encompassing unlimited birth control and abortion for everyone, regardless of age.

PPFA has nearly 100 affiliates and 850 *“health centers”* in every state and Washington, D.C. Affiliates must maintain an active lobbying unit. PPFA admits that it kills over 300,000 preborn human beings every year. Those mills not yet committing surgical abortions onsite must refer to abortionists elsewhere.

PPFA's income is over \$1 billion per year with nearly one-third coming from taxpayers. This *“not-for-profit”* entity ends virtually every fiscal year with tens of millions of dollars in *“excess revenue over expenses”* (known to most people as *“profit”*). The *“excess”* for 2006-2007 alone was \$114.8 million.

On June 30, 2006, PPFA had net assets valued at \$951.8 million, of which \$383.1 million was unrestricted (essentially a savings account) and \$160 million was temporarily restricted. Despite these huge sums, PPFA incessantly claims to need more taxpayer dollars.

Planned Parenthood commits more abortions than any other single entity in the United States. In a newsletter distributed to its abortionists, PPFA said, *“We see abortion as a necessary, desirable service and as an integral piece of comprehensive reproductive health care services.”*

Planned Parenthood opposes proposed laws that would protect human beings who live in the womb, including bans on late-term abortions, those committed for *“birth control”* or *“convenience”*, and those executed for the purpose of sex selection. It fights legislation that would require parental consent or notification before an abortion may be committed on a minor, as well as other bills that have widespread public support. At the same time, Planned Parenthood claims its views are in harmony with those of most Americans.

Planned Parenthood claims to be pro-woman but it opposes *“women's right to know”* legislation on abortion. And despite dozens of studies showing a link between breast cancer and abortion, Planned Parenthood refuses to tell women about the research.

Would you believe the picture in the upper left is an actual Planned Parenthood (minus the drive-thru sign)?

**Slide 23: What are the risks of abortion?**

*“In medical practice, there are few surgical procedures given so little attention and so underrated in its potential hazards as abortion. It is a commonly held view that complications are inevitable.”* Dr. Warren Hern, world-renowned abortionist

Partial list of the risks of abortion:

hemorrhage · perforated uterus · lacerated cervix · torn bowel/intestine · injuries to urinary tract · infection and septic shock · retained abortive tissue · complications from anesthesia · masked ectopic pregnancy · misdiagnosis of fetal age · ignoring pre-existing conditions · sexual assault · hysterectomy · heart failure · embolism · abscess · coma · incapacitation · amputation · aspirated vomitus · hepatitis · abortion when not pregnant · unintended sterilization · psychological injury · future miscarriages · death · breast cancer

**Slide 24: So how does abortion *increase* the risk of breast cancer?**

A growing amount of evidence from quality studies suggests that induced abortion, but not spontaneous abortion or miscarriage, increases risk of breast cancer.

Of course, induced abortion is not the only risk factor for breast cancer. Most women diagnosed with breast cancer have never had an abortion. Most women who have had an induced abortion will not get breast cancer. Like a family history of breast cancer, which is involved in about 15 percent of all breast cancer cases, induced abortion is just another risk factor.

For instance, cigarette smoke is a carcinogen. While only 15% of cigarette smokers get lung cancer, the risk has been well acknowledged. In comparison, induced abortion as a risk factor for breast cancer is somehow not as widely publicized.

Induced abortion boosts breast cancer risk because it stops the normal physiological changes in the breast that occur during a full term pregnancy and that lower a mother's breast cancer risk. A woman who has a full-term pregnancy at 20 years old has a 90% lower risk of breast cancer than a woman who waits until age 30.

As soon as a woman conceives, the embryo secretes human chorionic gonadotrophin or hCG, the hormone we check for in pregnancy tests. HCG causes the mother's ovaries to increase the levels of estrogen and progesterone in her body resulting in a doubling of the amount of breast tissue she has. After mid pregnancy at 20 weeks, the fetus/placenta makes hPL, another hormone that starts maturing her breast tissue so that it can make milk. It is only after 32 weeks that she has made enough of the mature breast tissue that is cancer-resistant that she lowers her risk of breast cancer.

Induced abortion before 32 weeks leaves the mother's breast with more vulnerable tissue for cancer to start. It is also why any premature birth before 32 weeks, not just induced abortion, increases breast cancer risk. By the end of her pregnancy, 85% of her breast tissue is cancer-resistant. Each pregnancy thereafter decreases her risk a further 10%. Spontaneous abortions in the first trimester on the other hand don't increase breast cancer risk because there is something wrong with the embryo, so hCG levels are low. Another possibility is that something is wrong with the mother's ovaries and the estrogen and progesterone levels are low. When those hormones are low, the mother's breasts do not grow and change.

A woman can use this information to make an informed decision about her pregnancy. If she doesn't have the resources to raise a child or is not ready to be a mother, there are millions of couples waiting to adopt any child, even one with disabilities. Women need to understand their own bodies so that they can make the best decision for themselves.

**Slide 25: "All the days of his life..."**

"All the days of his life have been planned out by God before any have come to be."

Psalm 139:16

## Catechesis/Evangelization

### Slide 26: Holy Scripture

1. The Bible teaches that human life is different from other types of life, because human beings are made in the very image of God.
2. The Bible teaches that children are a blessing.
3. The Bible teaches that the child in the womb is truly a human child, who even has a relationship with the Lord.
4. Scripture repeatedly condemns the killing of the innocent.
5. The Bible teaches that God is a God of justice.
6. Jesus Christ paid special attention to the poor, the despised, and those whom the rest of society considered insignificant.
7. Scripture teaches us to love.
8. Life is victorious over death.

### Slide 27: The Catholic Church

*"What could ever be a sufficient reason for excusing in any way the direct murder of the innocent? This is precisely what we are dealing with here. Whether inflicted upon the mother or upon the child, it is against the precept of God and the law of nature: 'Thou shalt not kill.' "*

Pope Pius XI commenting on abortion in his encyclical on Christian Marriage Dec 31, 1930

*"Pope Paul VI declared that the teaching of the Church about the morality of abortion 'has not changed and is unchangeable.' Although some people point out that Saint Thomas Aquinas thought the soul did not come to the fetus ('ensoulment') until sometime after conception, the fact is that he considered abortion gravely sinful even before this time. He taught that it was a 'grave sin against the natural law' to kill the fetus at any stage, and a graver sin of homicide to do so after ensoulment."*

John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York

The Catholic Church has consistently taught that abortion, at any stage of development, is evil. However, its stance has changed down through the years on whether a given abortion is murder.

A brief timeline:

- Circa 100 to 150 AD: The Didache (also known as "The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles"), was a document written for the guidance of Christians. It forbade all abortions.
- Prior to 380 AD: Many Christian leaders issued unqualified condemnations of abortion. So did two church synods in the early 4th century:
- Circa 380 AD: The Apostolic Constitutions allowed abortion if it was done early enough in pregnancy. But it condemned abortion if the fetus was of human shape and contained a soul.
- St. Augustine (354-430 AD) accepted the Aristotelian Greek Pagan concept of "delayed ensoulment". He wrote that a human soul cannot live in an unformed body. Thus, early in pregnancy, an abortion is not murder because no soul is destroyed.
- Pope Innocent III (1161-1216): He determined that a monk who had arranged for his lover to have an abortion was not guilty of murder if the fetus was not "animated" at the time.

- Early in the 13th century, he stated that the soul enters the body of the fetus at the time of "quickening" - when the woman first feels movement of the fetus. Before that time, abortion was a less serious sin, because it terminated only potential human person, not an actual human person.
- Pope Sixtus V (1588) issued a Papal statement "*Effraenatam*" which threatened those who carried out abortions at any stage of gestation with excommunication and the death penalty.
- Pope Gregory XIV (1591) revoked the previous Papal statement and reinstated the "quickening" test, which he determined happened 116 days into pregnancy (16½ weeks).
- Pope Pius IX (1869) dropped the distinction between the "fetus animatus" and "fetus inanimatus." The soul was believed to have entered the pre-embryo at conception.
- Leo XIII (1878-1903): He issued a decree in 1884 that prohibited craniotomies. This is an unusual form of abortion used under crisis situations late in pregnancy. It is occasionally needed to save the life of the pregnant woman.
- He issued a second decree in 1886 that prohibited all procedures that directly killed the fetus, even if done to save the woman's life.
- Canon law was revised in 1917 and 1983 to refer simply to "the fetus." The church penalty for abortions at any stage of pregnancy was, and remains, excommunication.

*"God, the Lord of life, has entrusted to men the noble mission of safeguarding life, and men must carry it out in a manner worthy of themselves. Life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception: abortion is an abominable crime."*

Second Vatican Council, *Gaudium et Spes*

#### **Slide 28: Thou Shalt Not Kill**

*"Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being."*  
Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2258

Throughout the Bible we find the Fifth Commandment (Sixth in Catholic teaching) in various forms: You shall not kill, do not slay the innocent and the righteous. In the Old Testament, blood is always considered a "sacred sign of life." To shed that blood, to end that life, is a violation to the dignity of the human being, the golden rule, and the very holiness of our Creator.

#### **Slide 29: Evangelium Vitae**

*"Every individual, precisely by reason of the mystery of the Word of God who was made flesh, is entrusted to the maternal care of the Church. Therefore every threat to human dignity and life must necessarily be felt in the Church's heart; it cannot effect her but at the core of her faith in the Redemptive Incarnation of the Son of God, and engage her in her mission of proclaiming the Gospel of Life in all the world and to every creature."*

Pope John Paul II, *The Gospel of Life [Evangelium Vitae]*

Every human is recognized as having certain rights, the most inviolable being the right to life.

*“From the time that the ovum is fertilized, a life is begun which is neither that of the father nor of the mother, it is rather the life of a new human being with his own growth. It would never be made human if it were not human already.”*

#### Declaration on Procured Abortion

#### **Slide 30: Idolatry**

In the Old Testament when Israel fell into idolatry, one of the gods they worshiped was Molech, and thus they offered up their sons and daughters as human sacrifices to it. Though accounts differ according to religious tradition and region, common themes include the focal point of a giant bronze statue of Molech, which was hollowed out to contain a fire, and the beating of drums and playing of flutes to drown out the anguished cries of the victims. This was especially important for the parents of the child being sacrificed, for although it was considered an honorable and necessary deed to offer one's children to the demanding god, it was surely as traumatic an ordeal as it would be today.

Some accounts describe a fire being lit inside the statue, and the sacrificed child being placed in its hands, which were then raised to its open mouth, at which point the child fell into the flames below. Another account suggests that the child remained in the bronze hands, and was burned through the conductive heat over several hours. There are also passages in twelfth century Rabbinical texts which describe offerings of a ram, an ewe, a calf, an ox, turtledoves, and sifted flour, placed inside the idol's internal compartments along with the child, comprising a strange sort of sacrificial “stew”. In all its forms, however, the ceremony was called “*passing through the fire.*”

Obviously, Molech worship is an abomination unto the Lord, as children are a gift from the Lord (Ps. 127:3). Thus, sacrificing their children to Molech, besides breaking the First and Second Commandments, is firstly a violation of the Sixth Commandment against murder (Ex. 20:13). Secondly, it is taking God's good gifts and offering those gifts of God up as sacrifices to worthless, lifeless idols. Molech worship is so detested by God that he warned Israel very sternly against it (Lev. 18:21 & 20:2-5) saying Molech worship through children sacrifice is a profanation of God's name, and the punishment for Molech worship is *death!*

#### **Slide 31: Summary**

- Learned the truth behind the lies about abortion
- Reviewed the history of the evil that is abortion
- Took an honest look at our current “culture of death”
- Now understand the Church's teaching on abortion
- Discussed what we will do to help end abortion

#### **Closing Prayer**

#### **Slide 33: Prayer to St. Michael**

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.  
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.  
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts,  
by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan,  
and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.  
Amen.