

# Taking it to the World

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

## Welcome & Opening Prayer for Life

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 “Hail Mary”

*Gracious and merciful, Lord  
Grant me the understanding that I have been truly blessed with an abundance of Your gifts,  
the humility to know that nothing is done but through Your hand,  
and the courage to accept my challenges and suffering so that others who are less fortunate may enjoy  
even a little relief.  
In Your Blessed Mother’s name we pray, “Hail Mary, Full of Grace...”*

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## Presentation – Taking it to the World

**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 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@diocesksj.org](mailto:francis@diocesksj.org) if you cannot access the on-line files.

**Slide 1 Introduction** Taking it to the World

### Slide 2 Topic for Discussion

- Learn how abortion is viewed by some of the major world religions
- Review current abortion legislation and trends from around the globe
- Discuss what our Holy Fathers have said regarding abortion
- Determine what we, as American Catholic pro-life leaders, are going to do about abortion worldwide

**Slide 3 Largest World Religions** – We will only discuss Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Judaism

1. Christianity: 2.1 billion
2. Islam: 1.5 billion
3. Secular/Agnostic/Atheist: 1.1 billion
4. Hinduism: 900 million
5. Chinese traditional: 394 million
6. Buddhism: 376 million

7. Primal-indigenous: 300 million
8. African traditional: 100 million
9. Sikhism: 23 million
10. Juche: 19 million
11. Spiritism: 15 million
12. Judaism: 14 million

#### Slide 4 Christianity

Christians believe Jesus is the son of God, God having become man and the savior of humanity. Christians, therefore, commonly refer to Jesus as Christ or Messiah. Adherents of the Christian faith, known as Christians, believe that Jesus is the Messiah prophesied in the Hebrew Bible (the part of scripture common to Christianity and Judaism, and referred to as the "Old Testament" in Christianity.).

The foundation of Christian theology is expressed in the early Christian ecumenical creeds, which contain claims predominantly accepted by followers of the Christian faith. These professions state that Jesus suffered, died from crucifixion, was buried, and was resurrected from the dead to open heaven to those who believe in him and trust him for the remission of their sins (salvation). They further maintain that Jesus bodily ascended into heaven where he rules and reigns with God the Father.

Most denominations teach that Jesus will return to judge all humans, living and dead, and grant eternal life to his followers. He is considered the model of a virtuous life, and both the revealer and physical incarnation of God. Christians call the message of Jesus Christ the Gospel ("good news") and hence refer to the earliest written accounts of his ministry as gospels.

##### Christianity and Abortion

Much of the pro-life movement around the world finds support in the Catholic Church, conservative and fundamentalist protestant denominations, the Eastern Orthodox Church, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). However, the pro-life teachings of these denominations vary considerably.

The Eastern Orthodox Church considers abortion to be immoral in all cases. According to the Patriarchate of Moscow, all abortions are evil, but priests are told not to withhold communion from women who received an abortion because their life was at risk if the baby was born.

The National Association of Evangelicals and the LDS Church oppose abortion on demand, but consider abortion allowable in cases with clear evidence of severe fetal deformity, dire threat to the life/physical health of the pregnant woman, or when a pregnancy results from rape or incest.

The Southern Baptist Convention believes that abortion is allowable only in cases where there is a direct threat to the life of the woman.

The Catholic Church teaches that abortion is immoral in all cases.

Other mainstream protestant denominations such as the Episcopal Church, Disciples of Christ, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, United Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church, Quakers, and the United Church of Christ are often pro-choice.

#### Slide 5 Islam

Islam is the religion articulated by the Qur'an, a religious book considered by its adherents to be the verbatim word of the single incomparable God, Allāh, and by the Prophet of Islam Muhammad's demonstrations and real-life examples, called the Sunnah, collected through narration of his companions in collections of Hadith. Islam literally means submission to God. An adherent of Islam is a Muslim, meaning "one who submits (to God)". Muslims regard their religion as the completed and universal version of a monotheistic faith revealed at many times and places before, including, notably, to the prophets Abraham, Moses and Jesus.

Islamic tradition holds that previous messages and revelations have been changed and distorted over time. Religious practices include the Five Pillars of Islam, which are five duties that unite Muslims into a community. Islamic law, Šarī'ah, touches on virtually every aspect of life and society, encompassing everything from dietary laws and banking to warfare, welfare, and appropriate conditions for war.

The vast majority of Muslims belong to one of two major denominations, the Sunni (87–90%) and Shi'a (10–13%). Islam is the predominant religion in the Middle East, North Africa, and large part of Asia. Sizable communities are also found in China and Russia, and parts of the Balkans and the Caribbean. About 13% of Muslims live in Indonesia, the largest Muslim country, 31% in the Indian Subcontinent, and 20% in Arab

countries. Converts and immigrant communities are found in almost every part of the world. With approximately 1.57 billion Muslim, Islam is the second-largest religion in the world and arguably the fastest growing religion in the world.

#### Islam and abortion

Although there are different opinions among Muslim scholars on the topic of Islam and abortion, most agree that the termination of a pregnancy after four months - the point at which, in Islam, a fetus is thought to become a living soul - is not permissible. Among Muslims, abortion is "Haram" or forbidden in most cases but is acceptable depending on the circumstances around the pregnancy.

Many Islamic thinkers contend that in cases prior to four months of gestation, abortion should be permissible only in instances in which a mother's life is in danger or in cases of rape. Some Muslim scholars also argue in favor of abortion in early pregnancy if the newborn might be sick in some way that would make its care exceptionally difficult for the parents (e.g. deformities, mental retardation, etc). In principle, the Qur'an condemns the killing of humans (except in the case of defense or as capital punishment), but it does not explicitly mention abortion.

Although there is no actual approval of abortion in the world of Islam, there is no strict, unanimous ban on it, either. Islam has not given any precise directions with regard to the issue of abortion. Hence it is not a matter, which has been clearly stated in the Shari'ah (Islamic Law) but rather an issue pertaining to the application of the knowledge of the Shari'ah. Such application may vary in conclusion with a difference in the basic premises of one's arguments.

### **Slide 6 Judaism**

Judaism is a set of beliefs and practices originating in the Hebrew Bible, also known as the Tanakh, and explored and explained in later texts such as the Talmud. Jews consider Judaism to be the expression of the covenantal relationship God developed with the Children of Israel—originally a group of a dozen tribes claiming descent from the Biblical patriarch Jacob and later the Jewish people. According to most branches, God revealed his laws and commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai in the form of both the Written and Oral Torah.

Judaism claims a historical continuity spanning well over 3000 years. It is one of the oldest monotheistic religions, and the oldest to survive into the present day. Its texts, traditions and values have inspired later Abrahamic religions, including Christianity, Islam and the Baha'i Faith. Many aspects of Judaism have also directly or indirectly influenced secular Western ethics and civil law.

The world Jewish population is approximately 13 million, of which about 40% reside in Israel and 40% in the United States. The largest Jewish religious movements are Orthodox Judaism, Conservative Judaism and Reform Judaism. A major source of difference between these groups is their approach to Jewish law. Orthodox and Conservative Judaism maintain that Jewish law should be followed, with Conservative Judaism promoting a more "modern" interpretation of its requirements than Orthodox Judaism. Reform Judaism is generally more liberal than these other two movements, and its typical position is that Jewish law should be viewed as a set of general guidelines rather than as a list of restrictions whose literal observance is required of all Jews.

#### Judaism and abortion

In Judaism, views on abortion draw primarily upon the legal and ethical teachings of the Hebrew Bible, the Talmud, the case-by-case decisions, and other rabbinic literature. In the modern period, moreover, Jewish thinking on abortion has responded both to liberal understandings of personal autonomy as well as Christian opposition to abortion. Generally speaking, traditionalist Jews firmly oppose abortion, with few health-related exceptions, and liberal Jews tend to allow greater latitude for abortion. By the 20th century, liberal-minded Jews were among those most active in the pro-choice movement.

- Orthodox Judaism -- Due to the diversity within Orthodox Judaism, there are a range of halakhic opinions about abortion, though they generally prohibit abortion except in quite limited circumstances. All agree, however, that abortion is not only acceptable but mandatory to save a mother's life. Orthodox law decisors generally forbid abortion to prevent the birth of a severely defective fetus.
- Conservative Judaism -- The Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Jewish Law and Standards takes the view that an abortion is justifiable if a continuation of pregnancy might cause the woman severe physical or psychological harm, or when the fetus is judged by competent medical opinion as severely defective. Before reaching her final decision, Conservative Judaism holds that the woman should consult with the biological father, other members of her family, her physician, her Rabbi and any other person who can help her in assessing the many grave legal and moral issues involved.

- Reform Judaism -- Reform Judaism permits abortion, not only when the woman's life is at stake, but also when a pregnancy is "a result of rape or incest; when through genetic testing, it is determined that the child to be born will have a disease that will cause death or severe disability, and the parents believe that the impending birth will be an impossible situation for them," and for several other reasons. More generally, the "Reform perspective on abortion can be described as follows: Abortion is an extremely difficult choice faced by a woman. In all circumstances, it should be her decision whether or not to terminate a pregnancy, backed up by those whom she trusts (physician, therapist, partner, etc.). This decision should not be taken lightly (abortion should never be used for birth control purposes) and can have life-long ramifications. However, any decision should be left up to the woman within whose body the fetus is growing."

Traditional Judaism regards a fetus as a being that is developing towards being a person. In Judaism a fetus is not considered to be a person until it is born. Before that it is regarded as a part of the mother's body, although it does possess certain characteristics of a person and some status. The high status given to a fetus is demonstrated by the fact that Jewish law permits desecration of the Sabbath in order to save the life of a fetus.

## Slide 7 Hinduism

Hinduism is the predominant religious tradition of South Asia, especially in the Republic of India and in Nepal. Hinduism is often referred to as Sanātana Dharma (a Sanskrit phrase meaning "the eternal law") by its adherents. Generic "types" of Hinduism that attempt to accommodate a variety of complex views. Hinduism also includes yogic traditions and a wide spectrum of "daily morality" based on the notion of karma and societal norms such as Hindu marriage customs. Hinduism is formed of diverse traditions and has no single founder. Among its roots is the historical Vedic religion of Iron Age India, and as such Hinduism is often called the "oldest living religion" or the "oldest living major tradition". Demographically, Hinduism is the world's third largest religion, after Christianity and Islam, with approximately one billion adherents, of whom approximately 905 million live in the Republic of India. Other significant populations are found in Nepal (23 million), Bangladesh (14 million) and the Indonesian island of Bali (3.3 million). A large body of texts is classified as Hindu, divided into Śruti ("revealed") and Smṛiti ("remembered") texts. These texts discuss theology, philosophy and mythology, and provide information on the practice of dharma (religious living). Among these texts, the Vedas are the foremost in authority, importance and antiquity. "Hindū" is the Persian name for the Indus River, first encountered in the Old Persian word Hindu, corresponding to Vedic Sanskrit Sindhu, the Indus River.

### Hinduism and abortion

Hindu medical ethics stem from the principle of ahimsa - of non-violence. When considering abortion, the Hindu way is to choose the action that will do least harm to all involved: the mother and father, the fetus and society. Hinduism is therefore generally opposed to abortion except where it is necessary to save the mother's life.

Classical Hindu texts are strongly opposed to abortion:

- one text compares abortion to the killing of a priest
- another text considers abortion a worse sin than killing one's parents
- another text says that a woman who aborts her child will lose her caste (social standing)

Traditional Hinduism and many modern Hindus also see abortion as a breach of the duty to produce children in order to continue the family and produce new members of society.

In practice, however, abortion is practiced in Hindu culture in India, because the religious ban on abortion is sometimes overruled by the cultural preference for sons. This can lead to abortion to prevent the birth of girl babies, which is called 'female foeticide'.

The doctrine of reincarnation, which sees life as a repeating cycle of birth, death and rebirth, is basic to Hindu thinking. The karma generated in one's present life determines whether one enjoys a higher or suffers a lower existence in the next reincarnation. According to the doctrine of reincarnation a fetus is not developing into a person, but is a person from a very early stage. It contains a reborn soul and should be treated appropriately. By the ninth month the fetus has achieved very substantial awareness. According to the Garbha Upanishad, the soul remembers its past lives during the last month the fetus spends in the womb but these memories are destroyed during the trauma of birth.

## Slide 8 Buddhism

Buddhism is a religion and philosophy encompassing a variety of traditions, beliefs and practices, largely based on teachings attributed to Siddhartha Gautama, commonly known as the Buddha, "the awakened one". Buddha lived and taught in the northeastern Indian subcontinent sometime between the 6th and 4th centuries BCE. He is recognized by adherents as an awakened teacher who shared his insights to help sentient beings end suffering, achieve nirvana, and escape what is seen as a cycle of suffering and rebirth.

Two major branches of Buddhism are recognized: Theravada ("The School of the Elders") and Mahayana ("The Great Vehicle"). Theravada—the oldest surviving branch—has a widespread following in Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia, and Mahayana is found throughout East Asia and includes the traditions of Pure Land, Zen, Nichiren Buddhism, Tibetan Buddhism, Shingon, Tendai and Shinnyo-en. While Buddhism remains most popular within Asia, both branches are now found throughout the world. Various sources put the number of Buddhists in the world at between 230 million and 500 million, making it the world's fourth-largest religion.

The foundations of Buddhist tradition and practice are the Three Jewels: the Buddha, the Dharma (the teachings), and the Sangha (the community). Practices may include renouncing conventional living and becoming a monastic, support of the monastic community, meditation, cultivation of mindfulness and wisdom, study of scriptures, physical exercises, devotion and ceremonies.

#### Buddhism and Abortion

There is no single Buddhist view on abortion. Buddhists believe that life should not be destroyed, but they regard causing death as morally wrong only if the death is caused deliberately or by negligence. Traditional Buddhism rejects abortion because it involves the deliberate destroying of a life. Buddhists believe in rebirth and teaches that individual human life begins at conception. The new being, bearing the karmic identity of a recently deceased individual, is therefore as entitled to the same moral respect as an adult human being. Modern Buddhists, however, are more divided about the morality of abortion.

Views on abortion vary a great deal between different regions, reflecting the influence of the various Buddhist traditions, as well as the influence of other religious and philosophical traditions and contact with Western thought.

- Northern Buddhism -- Abortion is generally regarded very negatively among ethnic Tibetan Buddhists. Prior to the emergence of the Tibetan diaspora in the 1950s, Tibetans do not seem to have been familiar with abortion for reasons of medical necessity, and, facing little population pressure, saw little reason to engage in what they saw as the destruction of innocent life.
- Southern Buddhism --Laws and views on abortion vary greatly in Theravada Buddhist nations. Attitudes and laws in Thailand are generally more liberal than in Sri Lanka. While abortion is still viewed as negative in Burma (Myanmar), it is allegedly also employed with some frequency to prevent out-of-wedlock births.
- East Asia --Buddhists in Japan are said to be more tolerant of abortion than those who live elsewhere. In Japan, women sometimes participate in the Shinto-Buddhist ritual of Mizuko kuyo after an induced abortion or an abortion as the result of a miscarriage.

#### **Slide 9 Current Global "Protection" of Life**

Briefly discuss initial thoughts on the map and information in this slide.

#### **Slide 10 North America**

As of July 1, 2007, the USA and Canada had a total population of 338,844,000 people in a land area of 18,387,481 square kilometers, for an average density of 18 people per square kilometer, about one-third of the world average. The average weighted total fertility rates (TFRs) of the USA and Canada have decreased from 3.60 children per woman in 1965 to 1.72 in 2007, a 52 percent decrease. The impact of population growth deceleration in North America has been softened by two factors: (1) the "baby boom echo," and (2) the high childbearing rates of immigrant families.

Neither the USA nor Canada give any protection to their preborn citizens. In fact, Canada has absolutely no restrictions on abortion whatsoever in its law; the only other countries in the world where preborn babies have no protection at all are the People's Republic of China (PRC) and South Africa. Of course, the situation is the same in the United States, despite the Supreme Court decision allowing the banning of the gruesome partial-birth abortion procedure.

#### **Slide 11 United States**

Before the Roe v. Wade decision making abortion legal in the United States, the pro-life movement in the United States consisted of lawyers, politicians, and doctors, almost all of whom were Catholic. The only coordinated opposition to abortion during the early 1970s came from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Family Life Bureau, also a Catholic organization. Mobilization of a wide-scale pro-life movement among Catholics began quickly after the Roe v. Wade decision with the creation of the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC). The NRLC also organized non-Catholics, eventually becoming the largest pro-life organization in the United States.

Before 1980, the Southern Baptist Convention officially advocated for loosening of abortion restrictions. During the 1971 and 1974 Southern Baptist Conventions, Southern Baptists were called upon "to work for legislation that will allow the possibility of abortion under such conditions as rape, incest, clear evidence of severe fetal deformity, and carefully ascertained evidence of the likelihood of damage to the emotional, mental, and physical health of the mother." W. Barry Garrett wrote in the *Baptist Press*, "Religious liberty, human equality and justice are advanced by the [Roe v. Wade] Supreme Court Decision." By 1980, conservative protestant leaders became vocal in their opposition to legalized abortion, and by the early 1990s Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition of America became a significant pro-life organization. In 2005, Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, said that making abortion illegal is more important than any other issue.

## Slide 12 Europe

As of July 1, 2007, the 47 nations of Europe have a total population of 727,597,000 people in a land area of 11,344,828 square kilometers, for an average density of 64 people per square kilometer, a little more than the world average.

The direct cause of abortion is the separation of sex from procreation. Nowhere is this more obvious than in Europe, which has been in the grip of the anti-life mentality since just after World War. The average total fertility rates (TFRs) of the nations of Europe have dropped disastrously from 2.58 children per woman in 1965 to an incredible 1.20 in 2007, a total decline of 53 percent from an already-low figure. The highest 2007 TFR for Europe is Albania's 1.81 children per woman, followed by Ireland's 1.71.

*Every one of Europe's 47 nations are currently under replacement fertility levels. Nine European nations have remained continuously below replacement level since 1965. The greatest decrease in TFR during the time period 1965-2007 is Tunisia's 77 percent, fifth highest decline in the world; not one European nation has increased its TFR from 1965 to 2007. Thirty-four of the fifty lowest TFRs in the world belong to European countries. Four nations — Belarus, Ukraine, Poland and Bosnia and Herzegovina — have sunk below one child per family. There are currently 29 countries in the world whose population is actually declining. 25 of these are in Europe!*

The most populous countries in Europe are the Russian Federation with 141,436,000 people (ninth in the world, but rapidly declining), Germany with 82 million, and France, Italy and the United Kingdom, all with about 60 million.

The only European country with laws that fully protect preborn children or allow for only a "life of the mother" exception is tiny Malta, home to just 0.05 percent of Europe's population. Ireland's traditional protection of preborn children is eroding rapidly, with thousands of Irish women and girls travelling legally into England for abortions each year. Almost all of the other European nations have actual or practical abortion on demand. These nations represent 94 percent of the total population of Europe.

The nations of Europe are already feeling the profound demographic effects of their longtime anti-life policies. These include:

- Significant imbalances in population segments, leading to increased aging of the work force and the population. This, in turn, results in fewer workers supporting more retired people (creating great pressure on social security systems and retirement plans) and greatly increased health care costs, leading to a strong push for euthanasia.
- A great increase in the number of divorces (from 125,000 in 1960 to about 750,000 in 2004); illegitimacy (4.5 percent of all births in 1960 to about 25 percent in 2004); unemployment (from five million in 1977 to more than 15 million in 2004); and a huge increase in abortions, from about 250,000 in 1960 to more than a million today among the EC12 countries alone.
- An influx of up to 50 million Muslims by 2025, mainly from North Africa. Because they are a very religious people, Muslims tend to integrate poorly with secular European society, a situation causing great tension and conflict that will only worsen in the future. This state of affairs is a direct result of falling Europe birthrates; the last year "native" Europeans replaced themselves was 1973, and since then, there has been a shortfall of tens of millions of births required to replace the population.
- The economic future of Europe is in grave doubt. The dreaded "Demographic Cross" feared by racists and advocates of the principle of "differential fertility" is finally coming to pass.
- In the year 1950, Europe was still relatively young, and comprised more than a fifth of the world's population. Meanwhile, Africa was home to less than ten percent of the world's people. But while Africans continued to have large families, Europeans began to abort, sterilize and contracept themselves out of existence. The continents "crossed over" in about 1995, with each possessing about

one out of every eight of the world's people. By 2050, their sizes will have reversed: Africa will have more than one out of every five people, and Europe will have only one out of fourteen. Even more importantly, the average African will be barely 30 years old, while the average European will 53 yrs old!

Some European countries are trying to reverse their plunging birthrates, but with little success. History shows us that once the people of a nation are conditioned to believe they should live for themselves and that children are a burden, it is virtually impossible to persuade them otherwise. The only answer is for pro-life activists to convert the hearts and minds of the people, one by one. This will take as long to do as the population controllers took to destroy the European's love of children.

### **Slide 13 South America**

As of July 1, 2007, the 14 nations of continental South America have a total population of 383,787,000 people in a land area of 17,522,287 square kilometers, for an average density of 22 people per square kilometer, less than half of the world average.

The average total fertility rates (TFRs) of the nations of South America have dropped from 5.77 children per woman in 1965 to 2.07 in 2007, a total decline of 64 percent to just under replacement. The highest 2007 TFR for South America is Bolivia's 3.25 children per woman. Chile has the lowest TFR at 1.69. The greatest drop in TFR among South America's nations over the time period 1965-2007 was Colombia's 71 percent. The most populous countries in South America are Brazil with 191,930,000 people (fifth in the world), with Colombia and Argentina a distant second and third at 46 million and 39 million respectively.

Reflecting its strong Catholic heritage, South America is relatively friendly towards preborn children. The only countries with abortion on demand laws are the small nations French Guiana, Guyana and the Netherlands Antilles. Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Suriname and Venezuela all have laws that fully protect preborn children or allow for only a "life of the mother" exception — although massive numbers of illegal abortions occur, often supported by international population control organizations.

However, this situation is changing, for several reasons. Anti-population groups have targeted the South American countries with the highest TFR for special attention. Subversive groups such as 'Catholics' for a Free Choice (CFFC) hold huge conferences and peddle vast quantities of propaganda undermining Church teachings on abortion, contraception and sterilization. And numerous Protestant sects, which generally hold permissive or "neutral" positions on divorce, fornication, adultery, contraception and abortion, are growing rapidly in predominantly Catholic countries.

### **Slide 14 Central America**

As of July 1, 2007, the eight nations of Central America have a total population of 147,944,000 people in a land area of 2,433,773 square kilometers, for an average density of 61 people per square kilometer, slightly above the world average.

The average total fertility rates (TFRs) of the Central American nations have plunged from 6.77 children per woman in 1965 to 3.01 in 2007, a total decline of 56 percent. The highest 2007 TFR for Central America is Guatemala's 3.90 children per woman, and the lowest is Panama's 2.31. Mexico suffered a tremendous 71% reduction in TFR during the time period 1965-2007, plunging to below replacement at 1.96, the greatest TFR reduction of any nation in Central America. El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua all have laws that fully protect preborn children or allow for only a "life of the mother" exception, although many illegal abortions occur.

#### Caribbean countries

As of July 1, 2007, the 25 nations of the Caribbean have a total population of 41,225,000 people in a land area of 227,300 square kilometers, for an average density of 181 people per square kilometer, about three and a half times the world average.

The average total fertility rates (TFRs) of the Caribbean nations have declined from 5.49 children per woman in 1965 to 2.15 in 2007, a total decline of 61 percent. The highest 2007 TFR for the Caribbean is Haiti's 3.30 children per woman, followed by the Dominican Republic at 2.56. Every one of the other twelve Caribbean nations with a population of more than 100,000 was under replacement as of July 1, 2007, with the lowest TFR belonging to Barbados at 1.25 children per woman, the lowest in the Americas. Cuba suffered a 74% reduction in TFR during the period 1965-2007, highest in the region and tied for seventh in the world.

Of all of the Caribbean nations, only the Dominican Republic and Haiti have laws that fully protect preborn children. Four nations — Barbados, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines — have abortion on demand.

## Slide 15 Asia

As of July 1, 2007, the 50 nations of Asia have a total population of 4,032,000,000 people in a land area of 31,041,967 square kilometers, for an average density of 130 people per square kilometer, about three times the world average. Asia has about 60 percent of the world's population, living on land with an average population density equal to that of Ohio, Pennsylvania or Florida.

The average total fertility rates (TFRs) of the nations of Asia have dropped from 5.65 children per woman in 1965 to 2.09 in 2007, a total decline of 63 percent. This steep decline is the highest of any continent in the world. The highest 2007 TFR for Asia is Timor-Leste's 6.28 children per woman, followed by Yemen's 5.25. Macau has the lowest TFR in the world at 0.66 children per family (or, in other words, two children for each *three* families), followed closely by the second lowest TFR in the world (Hong Kong's 0.72) and the fourth lowest (South Korea's 0.96). The four largest drops in TFR in the world during the time period 1965-2007 belonged to Asian countries: Macao at -87%; Hong Kong at -86%, South Korea at -83%, and Singapore at -80%.

The most populous countries in Asia are the People's Republic of China with 1,325,937,000 people (leading the world), followed by India with 1,171,656,000 (second in the world) and Indonesia with 231,618,000 (fourth in the world behind the USA).

Slightly less than half of Asia's nations (18) either provide full protection for their preborn citizens or have narrow exceptions. Sadly, these countries are home to only about one-fifth of the total population of Asia.

## Slide 16 China

Abortion in China has been an important means to enforce China's one child per family policy. In 2008 there were about 13 million abortions performed. In addition, about 10 million abortion pills were sold in 2008. Family planning statistics are normally considered state secrets but figures were released for 2008. Second-trimester abortions are more common in China and other developing countries than in developed countries.

It is suggested that sex-selective abortion might be partially responsible for the noticeable disparities between the birth rates of male and female children in some places. The preference for male children is reported in many areas of Asia, and abortion used to limit female births has been reported in Mainland China as well as other Asian countries.

In China, there is also a historic son preference. The implementation of the one-child policy in 1979, in response to population concerns, led to an increased disparity in the sex ratio as parents attempted to circumvent the law through sex-selective abortion or the abandonment of unwanted daughters. Sex-selective abortion might be an influence on the shift from the baseline male-to-female birth rate to an elevated national rate of 117:100 reported in 2002. The trend was more pronounced in rural regions: as high as 130:100 in Guangdong and 135:100 in Hainan

## Slide 17 Middle East

As of July 1, 2007, the sixteen nations and autonomous regions of the Middle East have a total population of 274,581,000 people in a land area of 5,991,345 square kilometers, for an average density of 46 people per square kilometer, a little more than half of the world's average.

The average total fertility rates (TFRs) of the nations of the Middle East have dropped from 6.77 children per woman in 1965 to 2.69 in 2007, a total decline of 60 percent. The highest 2007 TFR in the Middle East is Yemen's 5.40 children per woman. Five Middle Eastern nations are below replacement fertility: Iran at 1.79, Lebanon at 1.96, Bahrain and Kuwait at 2.01, and Turkey at 2.06. The largest drop in TFRs among Middle Eastern nations during the period 1965-2007 were Iran at 74%, Kuwait at 73%, and Bahrain at 72%.

The most populous countries in the Middle East are Turkey with 77,308,000 people and Iran with 73,422,000 people.

The only Middle Eastern countries that have abortion on demand laws are Turkey and Israel, while Saudi Arabia and Jordan have exceptions

## Slide 18 Israel

In Israel, abortion is allowed at the request of a termination committee in the cases of if the woman is unmarried, age (if the woman is under the age of 17 - the legal marriage age in Israel - or over the age 40), the pregnancy was conceived under illegal circumstances (rape, statutory rape, etc.) or an incestuous relationship, birth defects, risk of health to the mother, and life of the mother. According to the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics report from 2004, in 2003 most abortion requests were granted, with 19,500 legal abortions performed and 200 requests for abortion denied. Reasons for termination went as follows: the woman was unmarried (42%), because of illegal circumstances (11%), health risks to the woman (about 20%), age of the woman (11%) and fetal birth defects (about 17%).

In Israel, the major pro-life organization is Efrat. Efrat activists primarily raise funds to relieve the "financial and social pressures" on pregnant women so that they will not terminate their pregnancies. Efrat is not known to do any other kind of activism.

## Slide 19 Africa

July 1, 2007, the 56 nations of Africa have a total population of 972,761,000 people in a land area of 29,803,673 square kilometers, for an average density of 33 people per square kilometer, about half of the world's average.

The average total fertility rates (TFRs) of the nations of Africa have dropped from 6.87 children per woman in 1965 to 4.42 in 2007, a total decline of 36 percent, the lowest of any continent. This means Africa has by far the highest TFR of any region of the world, more than double that of Asia. This is why Africa is becoming the number one target of the 'developed' countries' population control efforts.

The highest 2007 TFR in the world is Niger's 6.94 children per woman. The only African nations below replacement fertility are Tunisia at 1.68 and Mauritius at 1.61 children per completed family. One African nation — The Democratic Republic of the Congo — actually *increased* its TFR from 6.20 to 6.45 during the period 1965-2007. The largest drop in TFR among African nations during the period 1965-2007 was Tunisia at 77 percent, the fifth most severe decline in the world.

The most populous countries in Africa are Nigeria with 149,232,000 people (eighth in the world), followed by Ethiopia with 84 million and Egypt with 76 million.

The only African countries that have abortion on demand laws are Cape Verde, Tunisia, South Africa and Zambia. In many nations such as Guinea-Bissau, the law states that abortion is only allowed to save the life of the mother. However, the law is not enforced and abortion is largely tolerated. The same law exists in Mozambique, but 'official interpretation' allows abortion on all grounds.

## Slide 20 South Africa

The strong-arm tactics of the African National Congress/South African Communist Party (ANC/SACP) were blatant even by pro-abortion standards when the South African parliament passed its Termination of Pregnancy Bill in 1996, giving South Africa the dubious distinction of having *the worst abortion law on earth*.

Every South African poll showed that every social and political group overwhelmingly opposed abortion on demand, by an average margin of two to one. In fact, the highest degree of opposition was among rank-and-file ANC supporters, at 77 percent. Yet Nelson Mandela's party, while calling itself "democratic," simply ignored the wishes of its own constituency.

South Africa's Freedom of Choice Bill specifies a fine of 100,000 Rand (\$22,000 US) and 10 years' imprisonment on the first offense for anyone obstructing abortion in any way. This includes doctors who refuse to refer for abortions. This means conscientious Catholic (and other) doctors face a brutal three-way choice: take part in procuring abortions (an excommunicable offense), give up practicing medicine, or go to jail for a decade. South African pro-abortionists have promised to use the new laws to prosecute every pro-life doctor in the land, and have vowed to demand long jail terms for any pro-lifers who take part in any kind of civil disobedience or even picketing in front of abortion mills.

## Slide 21 Oceania

As of July 1, 2007, the 14 nations of Oceania have a total population of 34,300,000 people in a land area of 8,423,218 square kilometers, for an average density of just four people per square kilometer, by far the lowest population density of any continent in the world.

The average total fertility rates (TFRs) of the nations of Oceania have dropped from 3.98 children per

woman in 1965 to 2.05 in 2007, a total decline of 48 percent. The highest 2007 TFR in Oceania is the nation of Micronesia's 3.46 children per woman. Australia has the lowest TFR at 1.54, and New Zealand is close behind at 1.74. The largest drop in TFR during the time period 1965-2007 was New Caledonia's 65 percent.

The most populous countries in Oceania are Australia with 20,747,000 people, followed by Papua New Guinea with 6,360,000 and New Zealand with 4,174,000.

Five of Oceania's nations protect their preborn citizens with laws banning abortion except for narrow exceptions. Four countries and protectorates (Australia, Fiji, Guam and New Zealand) have actual or practical abortion on demand

## Slide 22 World News & Current Affairs – United Nations

### Vatican Criticizes UN Report Demanding It Change Its Position on Abortion

by Steve Ertelt | The Vatican | LifeNews.com | 2/7/2014 12:36 PM

Vatican officials are not happy with the United Nations after a UN committee issued a blistering report demanding that it change its position on abortion. The Vatican says the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child overstepped its mandate in its pro-abortion attack on the Catholic Church. The report published this week by the panel attacked the Catholic Church's teachings on abortion under the guise of a critique of the Church's handling of child sex abuse cases.

An exterior view of the Vatican Embassy is seen in Washington. The UN report, among similar things, recommends that the Catholic Church identify "circumstances under which access to abortion services can be permitted" (section 55) and "overcome[s] all the barriers and taboos surrounding adolescent sexuality that hinder their access to sexual and reproductive information, including on family planning and contraceptives" (section 57a).

Today, in a statement released by the Vatican, Fr. Federico Lombardi criticized the U.N. Child Protection Committee.

"Finally, and this is perhaps the most serious observation: the Committee's comments in several directions seem to go beyond its powers and to interfere in the very moral and doctrinal positions of the Catholic Church," the Vatican spokesman observed in his Feb. 7 statement.

Fr. Lombardi acknowledged that the publication of the committee's findings "has aroused extensive reaction and response."

He then highlighted that the U.N. group goes "beyond its power" in asking the Church to change its doctrine on contraception, abortion, education in families, and the vision of human sexuality, "in light of (the Committee's) own ideological vision of sexuality itself."

It is for this reason, the spokesman explained, that the Vatican's Wednesday's communique on the report spoke of "an attempt to interfere in the teaching of the Catholic Church on the dignity of the human person and in the exercise of religious freedom."

While the document has created tension, Fr. Lombardi also emphasized that "it is not appropriate" to imply that there is a confrontation "between the U.N. and the Vatican," as some have reported.

A top British pro-life group exposed the UN report pressuring the Catholic Church to change its pro-life stance.

John Smeaton, SPUC's chief executive, commented: "The committee has overstepped its mandate by making demands well beyond the scope of the actual wording of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. There is nothing in the Convention which requires the Catholic Church or any other body to facilitate abortion..."

"There is a great deal of hypocrisy in the committee's report. Under the cover of seeking to protect children against sexual abuse, the report promotes damage to children – the destruction of unborn children through abortion and the destruction of born children's innocence through the promotion of contraception..." Smeaton added.

The British pro-life advocate concluded: "The Holy See's representatives made clear to the committee last month, Catholic leaders are facing up to the shocking child abuse scandals within the Church. Pro-life and pro-family groups throughout the world must – like SPUC – come to the UN to help the Holy See in its vital work of protecting unborn children and the marriage-based family. This work is under constant attack by the Catholic Church's enemies, as manifested in the committee's report today."

## Slide 23 World News & Current Affairs – UNICEF

UNICEF promotes abortion but "*works for children's rights, their survival, development and protection*"?

by Steven Ertelt | WASHINGTON, DC | LIFENEWS.COM | 5/13/09 9:00 AM

United Nations foreign aid groups enjoy what is perhaps some of the most unqualified public support of any organization. But we have found that not only do they promote abortion using tax money, but they even lie about it.

We have received a good deal of support since we revealed the intent of the Pan-American Health Organization UNICEF at the Pastoral Social Encounter of Children and Adolescents at Risk. We exposed them and their plans to form a "strategic alliance" with the Catholic Church. We now have additional details to share with you.

Does UNICEF support abortion? Consider the case of the Dominican Republic, whose Congress is debating an amendment to the constitution that would protect life from conception to natural death. This change would make abortion illegal.

UNICEF, however, opposes this change. According to the newspaper Diario Libre in Santo Domingo, in its March 25 issue, "the regional director of UNICEF for Latin America and the Caribbean, Nils Kastberg, today asked the Dominican people to come to a decision on the subject of abortion, which is banned in the country, and urged participation in any discussions on the subject could facilitate an amendment to the Constitution."

Kastberg goes on to attack the Catholic Church directly, expressing "horror" at the very idea of abstinence education. Kastberg called the Church "hypocritical" for promoting abstinence education in Dominican youth when "high levels of sexual abuse" had been "committed against [young people] by the same church."

Although many may be astonished to hear such attacks coming from a high-ranking UNICEF executive, we at PRI are not. We have heard such attacks before. UNICEF has a long history of supporting abortion, even in the face of local laws and precedents.

Of course, some UNICEF functionaries still try to deny this abortion link. Dr. Manuel Manrique, the UNICEF representative that Carlos Polo interviewed just a few weeks ago in Quito, told Carlos that UNICEF does not support abortion. Now we have Nils Kastberg, virtually simultaneously, publicly attacking the Catholic Church, in an effort to promote the legalization of abortion in the Dominican Republic.

Is it possible that Dr. Manrique, in his effort to "relaunch" the relationships of UNICEF and the Catholic Church in Latin America, is ignorant of these facts? I find this very hard to believe.

In any case, what is indisputable from Kastberg's statements is that UNICEF supports legal abortion. They also refute Manrique's claims. When Carlos mentioned UNICEF's support of the legalization of abortion in Mexico and Nicaragua, even showing him documents signed by UNICEF representative, Debora Comin, he persisted in his denials. Manrique tried to make Carlos believe that Comin, Kastberg, and others were only acting in their personal capacity, and not as representatives of UNICEF.

Abortion Machines:

First, a clarification. In our Weekly Briefing on April 13, we mentioned two items (0760640 Pump, Suction, foot-operated / EA 3750 Oct-07 units 0760605 Pump, Suction, portable, 220V, w / access 2100 Oct-07 units) that we said were suction abortion machines. They are not, and we apologize for the error.

At the same time, we continue to assert that UNICEF has officially approved the use of machines to do abortions and that, moreover, the organization promotes abortion. It does this both individually and in conjunction with other pro-abortion organizations. Let us explain:

A joint publication of WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Bank entitled "Managing Complications in Pregnancy and Childbirth" recommends the use of MVAs (Manual Vacuum Aspirators) to do abortions. The document, whose title contains the UNICEF logo, can be viewed online here. On page 61 it says:

The preferred method of evacuation of the uterus is by manual vacuum aspiration. Dilatation and curettage should be used only if manual vacuum aspiration is not available.

The 2007 catalog of Durbin Clinic Sales, a UK-based company, contains the MVA (Manual Vacuum Aspirator), in the section "Termination Equipment", which has the subtitle "IPAS Manual Vacuum Aspiration Instruments." Is on page 41 of 45. You can download the catalog in PDF: On page 42 these machines are described and documents signed by UNICEF are quoted.

"Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA) is a simple and effective method for uterine Evacuation. The procedure is 99% effective, with complication rates lower than D & C, to perform quick, gentle and patient-friendly. A joint publication by WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Bank and endorsed by the International Confederation of Midwives and FIGO recommends MVA as the procedure of choice: "The preferred method of Evacuation of the uterus is by manual vacuum aspiration. Dilatation and curettage should be used only if manual vacuum aspiration is not available."

MVAs can be used for incomplete spontaneous abortions, but UNICEF nowhere insists that this is the sole use to which they should be put. Quite the contrary. UNICEF's abortion agenda makes it clear that MVAs are to be used for elective abortions as well:

1. UNICEF is working in many countries to "decriminalize" abortion, which in reality means that abortion becomes legal. This is true not only in the Dominican Republic, but in other Latin American countries, like Mexico or Nicaragua, as well.

2. UNICEF also contributes to organizations like IPAS, which are openly in favor of abortion as a human right, and are also commercial distributors of suction abortion machines. In 2002, UNICEF was responsible for organizing the General Assembly on Children in New York, where IPAS was invited to promote its suction abortion machines.

The evidence is clear: as an institution, UNICEF promotes abortion in many different venues and in many different ways. Any partnership between the Catholic Church or any other pro-life organization and UNICEF is inherently problematic for this reason. UNICEF, as well as all other United Nations organizations, should come clean about its abortion agenda.

## Evangelization/Catechesis

Reflect on these familiar papal statements and scripture passages as they relate to abortion worldwide.

### Slide 24 Vitae – From our Holy Father

"Every child that isn't born, but is unjustly condemned to be aborted, has the face of Jesus Christ, has the face of the Lord,"

"The right to life is the first of human rights."

"To abort is to kill someone who cannot defend himself."

Pope Francis

### Slide 25 Vitae – From Holy Scripture

"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you." (Jeremiah 1:5)

"Surely I was sinful at birth...sinful from the time my mother conceived me."—David. (Psalm 51:5)

"All the days of his life have been planned out by God before any have come to be." (Psalm 139:16)

"See now that I myself am He! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no one can deliver out of my hand" (Deuteronomy 32:39)

## Outreach Planning

### Slide 26 Kissinger Report 2004: *A Retrospective on NSSM-200*"

For a better understanding of how U.S. foreign policy impacts abortion around the world, in the next week read this document entitled, "*Kissinger Report 2004: A Retrospective on NSSM-200*" from Human Life International. <http://www.hli.org/files/Kissinger%20Report%202004.pdf>

### **Slide 27 Summary**

- Learned about how abortion is viewed by some of the major world religions
- Reviewed current abortion legislation and trends from around the globe
- Discussed what our Holy Fathers have said regarding abortion
- Determined that we, as Catholic American pro-life leaders, are going to do need a global strategy

### **Closing Prayer**

#### **Slide 28 Prayer to End Abortion Globally**

Lord God, I thank You today for the gift of my life,  
and for the lives of all my brothers and sisters.  
I know there is nothing that destroys more lives than abortion,  
yet I rejoice that You have conquered death by the Resurrection of Your Son.  
I am ready to do my part in ending abortion.  
Today I commit myself never to be silent, never to be passive, never to be forgetful of the unborn.  
I commit myself to be active in the Pro-Life Movement worldwide,  
and never to stop defending life until all my brothers and sisters are protected,  
and our world respects life from conception to natural death  
not just for some, but for all, through Christ our Lord. Amen.