



PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

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

Issue No. 171 December 1, 2017

NORTH AMERICAN MARTYRS PARISH



Amazing Photo Shows Doctors Removing Womb With Unborn Baby to Repair Spina Bifida

The New York Times published an incredibly life-affirming article this week about a new fetal surgery that is helping unborn babies with spina bifida.

The report is accompanied by amazing photos showing a Texas surgical team working on a woman and her unborn baby while he still is inside the womb.

Surgeons at Baylor College of Medicine have developed a pioneer surgical procedure. In the new technique, Dr. Michael Belfort, a surgeon at Baylor in Houston, Texas, partially removes the womb with the unborn baby from the woman's body before operating on his/her spine. Then, Belfort and his team make small incisions in the womb to fix the gap in the unborn baby's spinal cord, caused by spina bifida.

Belfort explained that the fetal surgery helps decrease the damage to the spine while the baby still is in the womb. He said the amniotic fluid eats away at the nerve tissue in the gap of the spine, so closing the gap before birth is important.

Read the story here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/23/health/fetal-surgery-spina-bifida.html>



Stem Cells From Umbilical Cords of Newborn Babies Show Promise in Repairing Heart Damage

In a first-of-its-kind study published in *Circulation Research*, an American Heart Association journal, researchers from Universidad de los Andes in Chile found that stem cells derived from the umbilical cords of newborn babies may lead to repairs in damaged hearts and improvements in heart muscle.

"We are encouraged by our findings because they could pave the way to a non-invasive, promising new therapy for a group of patients who face grim odds," said Fernando Figueroa, one of the authors of the study and a medicine professor at the University de los Andes.

Dr. David Prentice, Vice President and Research Director of the Charlotte Lozier Institute, explained more about the research. "This is just the latest study that shows effectiveness of adult stem cells in treating damaged hearts," he said. "This controlled study divided 30 patients – aged between 18 and 75 – into two small groups: one received treatment, and the other received a placebo. Patients who received a single injection of mesenchymal stem cells, a type of adult stem cell, isolated from umbilical cords, showed significant and long-lasting improvement in the ability of their heart to pump blood and their overall health."

<http://www.lifenews.com/2017/10/12/stem-cells-from-umbilical-cords-of-newborn-babies-show-promise-in-repairing-heart-damage/>

Trump Administration Changes Obama Policy, Now Confirms Human Life Begins at Conception

President

Donald Trump's administration signaled

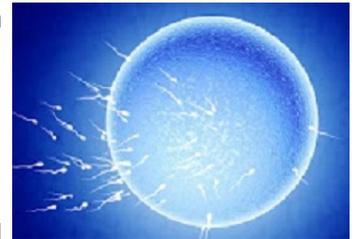
its commitment to protecting life again this week in a proposed Department of Health and Human Services strategic plan.

The plan states that HHS will serve Americans at "every stage of life, beginning at conception" and up through "natural death". While the new language will not affect abortion laws, it will help direct public policy under the Trump administration during the next four years.

It is well accepted in the scientific community that a unique, new human life begins at the moment of conception. When the sperm and egg join, they form a totally separate, living human being with his or her own unique DNA. Biology textbooks, medical experts and even some abortion advocates accept this as a basic fact.

And now so does the HHS. The draft of the HHS strategic plan refers to the full span of human life several times.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2017/10/13/trump-administration-changes-obama-policy-now-confirms-human-life-begins-at-conception/>



Vatican Summons Board of Pro-Euthanasia Belgian Catholic Hospitals to Rome

Vatican officials have summoned to Rome the board of directors overseeing a group of Belgian Catholic hospitals. Last spring, the board of directors decided to permit euthanasia, under certain conditions, in their facilities.

The religious order asked the board to reverse the decision, but the board refused. Because the Brothers of Charity had no legal options in Belgium, they appealed to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The response, backed by Pope Francis, directed that the board reverse the euthanasia policy, in conformity to Catholic doctrine.

Cardinal Jozef de Kesel of Malines-Brussels stressed to CNA that "the bishops spoke out clearly: euthanasia cannot become a right."

[National Catholic Register 10/6/17](http://www.nationalcatholicregister.org/2017/10/17/vatican-summons-board-of-pro-euthanasia-belgian-catholic-hospitals-to-rome/)





PROJECT MUSTARD SEED

The letter recipient for this month is:

WALT DISNEY

Operations: apparel, broadcasting, communications, energy, entertainment, home, insurance, internet, leisure/travel, lodging, nutrition, publishing, retail outlets, timepieces.

Please write to:
Mr. Robert Iger, CEO
The Walt Disney Company
500 S. Buena Vista St.
Burbank, CA 91521
www.disney.com

Tell him to
stop
funding
Planned
Parenthood

Walt Disney Co. has been on and off The Boycott List for numerous years. We last wrote them in November, 2014.

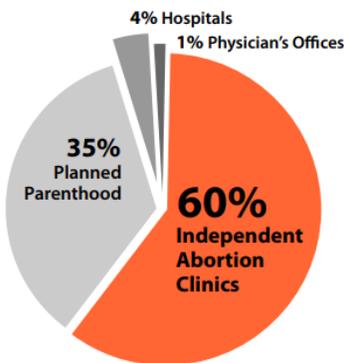
Planned Parenthood Does More Abortions Than Anyone Else, 35%, But Who Does the Rest?

When it comes to abortion clinics, the big name has always been Planned Parenthood, easily the nation's largest abortion chain, performing 35% of all abortions in the United States. But that still leaves about two thirds of abortions unaccounted for. Who are those other guys who snuff out the lives of hundreds of thousands of babies each year?

Tired of being in Planned Parenthood's long shadow and obviously not entirely happy that they don't have the slick marketing or the big budget of the abortion giant, several of the nation's self-identified "independent abortion clinics" (they call themselves "indies") have joined together as the "Abortion Care Network" to issue a report on their work titled "Communities Need Clinics: The Role of Independent Abortion Care Providers in Ensuring Meaningful Access to Abortion Care in the United States."

That report can be found here: www.abortioncarenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/

Percentage of abortions performed by provider type^{1,2}



UN Human Rights Committee Formally "excludes" Unborn Child from Right to Life

Despite pleas from more than 100 governments and Pro-Life organizations, including the United State and Poland, the UN Human Rights committee has excluded unborn children from the right to life in international laws. The committee added language that access to abortion is a right, must be affordable and "effective."

https://c-fam.org/friday_fax/un-human-rights-committee-formally-excludes-unborn-child-right-life/ 11/3/2017

New Report: Abortion Increases Risk of Women's Mental Health Problems

The abortion industry and its medical and media allies constantly repeat the refrain that abortion is safer than childbirth and that it is an overall health benefit for women. A new report from the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC), the British pro-life group, says that just isn't so.

The comprehensive, heavily footnoted 28-page report, titled "Abortion and Women's Health" looks at several of the physical risks and psychological consequences of abortion.

Key findings from the review include:

Women are more likely to die from any cause after abortion versus giving birth; suicide is around six times greater after abortion than after childbirth; abortion is associated with significantly higher death rates for women up to ten years after an abortion, compared with women who gave birth; women described significant grief three years after abortion; a 30% increased risk of depression and a 25% increased risk of anxiety following abortion; women who had abortions experienced mental health disorders 30% more often compared to women who had not had an abortion; depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder are also associated with the subsequent pregnancies of women who have had an abortion; women who have had an abortion are at a higher risk of psychiatric admission compared to women who keep their babies; women having medical abortions may experience hospital admission, blood transfusion, emergency room treatment, administration of IV antibiotics and infection.

The report is available to download at the SPUC website: <http://www.spuc.org.uk/news/news-stories/2017/october/abortion-and-womens-health-spuc-releases-new-review-on-50th-anniversary>

News Briefs

- PA Attorney General Josh Shapiro has joined AGs from CA, MA and WA in suing the Trump Administration over removing the birth control mandate in Obamacare allowing business owners with deeply held religious beliefs to not provide contraception coverage.
- US District Court has ruled the House of Representatives can continue **opening sessions in prayer** after being sued by the Freedom from Religion Foundation.

American Family Association of PA 10/14/17