

A person wearing a brown hat and a backpack is sitting on large grey rocks, looking out over a vibrant turquoise lake. The lake is surrounded by steep, green mountains with patches of snow. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds.

Additional *Life* Topics



Being For Life

Anglicans for Life addresses Abortion, Abstinence, Adoption, Assisted Suicide/Euthanasia, and Stem Cell Research/Cloning. Many of these topics have a myriad of sub-topics under them. Some of them are covered in today's program, while others are not, due to time constraints. We have put together this collection of additional topics, sub-topics, and issues we are commonly asked about but are not addressing today to help you see the width and breadth of life issues impacting people in your parish and community. Our prayer is that, with all the resources provided, you will embrace the vision and plan for the life ministry God is calling you to.

In addition to the links, books, and DVDs resourced here, some of our most often referred to websites for information about life, legislation and ministry are included below.

The Silent No More Awareness Campaign webpages:

SilentNoMore.com – main site for Campaign

AbortionTestimony.com – people's abortion healing testimonies

AbortionForgiveness.com – search engine for abortion recovery programs

AbortionShockwaves.com - information about abortion's impact on family and friends

Links

Americans United for Life provides legislation information - <http://www.aul.org/>

The Endowment for Human Development provides beautiful images of the development of life - <http://www.ehd.org/>

Live Action provides great information from a young adult perspective - <http://liveaction.org/>

Operation Rescue tracks the under-reported harmful or illegal actions of abortion providers <http://www.operationrescue.org/>

The pro-life movement has two new services, they both provide daily and weekly email subscriptions:

-LifeNews covers life issues - <http://www.lifenews.com/>

-LifeSiteNews covers family, life, marriage, sexuality & Church issues with an emphasis on Catholicism. <https://www.lifesitenews.com/>



Men & Abortion

While we typically think about abortion as a ‘woman’s issue,’ it is important to note that men are now also coming forward to express their grief and pain related to the death of their child through abortion. Whether they supported the mother’s choice, disagreed with it, or coerced her, they too benefit from acknowledging and grieving the child’s death.

A web-based survey of men conducted in 1999 had 65 responses by post-abortive men, 57 of them reported grief and sadness, 54 felt anger and had relationship problems, 52 had persistent thoughts about the baby, 49 had guilt, 40 felt confusion about the male role, were sad at certain times of the year, had sexual and sleeping problems, and 31 reported alcohol/drug abuse.

Programs to help them process their feelings exist, often alongside women’s programs. Rachel’s Vineyard actually includes men on their weekend retreats with women. Much healing for both sexes occurs as common painful experiences are shared. Weekly Bible study programs are also available, and there are numerous articles on the Healing the Shockwaves of Abortion website for men, listed under the month of June.

A 2015 study entitled Men’s Experience of Elective Abortion by Catherine T. Coyle, PhD & Vincent M. Rue, PhD found:

1. Abortion is not perceived to be a benign experience.
2. An expressed need for counseling is not unusual.
3. Ambivalent and painful emotions may be experienced after abortion.
4. The abortion decision is often deferred to female partners with concomitant repression of man’s own emotions. His containment of emotion is viewed as consistent with men’s perceived role as one of support.
5. Relationships may be stressed by abortion, even leading to an increase in anger.

AFL firmly believes helping men heal and reconcile the death of their aborted children will help restore them spiritually.

Links

Silent No More Awareness Campaign men’s page <http://www.fatherhoodforever.org/>

Shockwaves link <http://www.silentnomoreawareness.org/shockwaves/june/>

Men & Abortion Network: <http://www.menandabortion.net/>



Rape & Abortion

Nothing generates more empathy and angst than learning that a woman or young girl has been raped. When a pregnancy is the result of a rape, we instinctively see abortion as the answer, as we don't want the rape victim to suffer the anguish of being reminded of the rape through the pregnancy. This is why many believe abortion needs to be legal, to help the rape victim. Abortion for cases of pregnancy from rape accounts for approximately 1% of the 1.1 million abortions occurring annually.

Anglicans for Life does not endorse abortion in cases of rape for two key reasons:

1. The women who have experienced rape and abortion express that the abortion was as traumatizing as the rape and often felt like they had been raped a second time. Both rape and abortion violate a woman and, when we encourage rape victims to abort, we inadvertently re-traumatize them. There is a book entitled *Victim and Victors*, and it contains research and interviews of these women. The authors' advice is to encourage the woman to maintain the pregnancy and develop an adoption plan to place the child with a family.
2. Many children who were conceived through rape are now adults that are coming forward to ask why they and children conceived as they were should be aborted based on how their lives began. They also advocate for adoption as many were adopted into loving families.

Another concern is for states to have a law in place that allows the mother of any child that was conceived through rape to seek court-ordered termination of the parental rights of her rapist with regard to that child.

Links

<http://www.rebeccakiessling.com/>

<http://choices4life.org/>

Book

Victims & Victims:
Speaking Out About Their Pregnancies, Abortions,
and Children
Resulting from Sexual Assault
By Reardon, Makimaa, Sobie
Acorn Publishing, 2000, ISBN 978-0964895713



Breast Cancer & Abortion

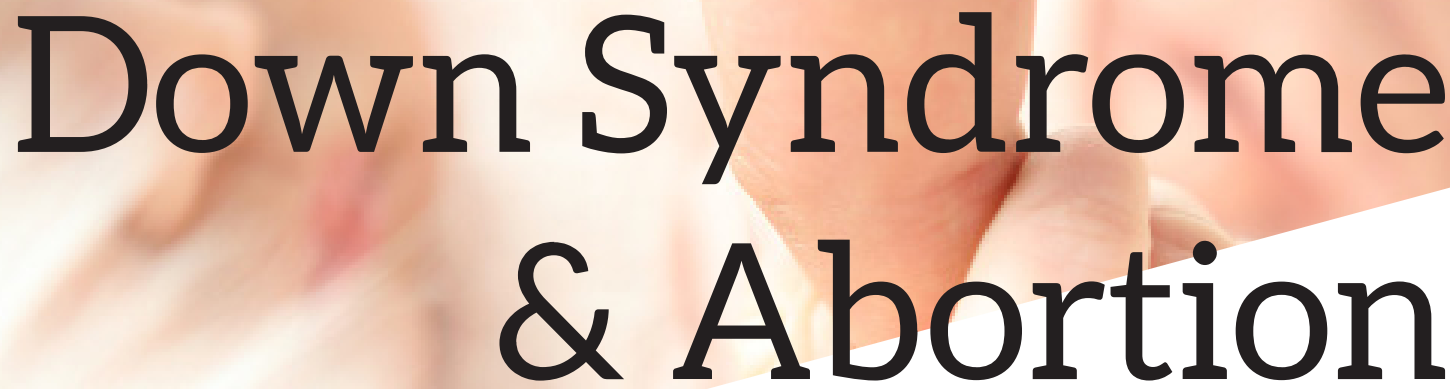
For anyone who has suffered with Breast Cancer - it is very awkward to hear about a connection between it and abortion. As such, AFL is very careful when addressing this issue, as we never want to contribute to another person's pain.

Research has found a correlation between some types of breast cancer and abortion, but it should not be assumed that anyone who has breast cancer has had an abortion. However, if a woman has had an abortion, the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute recommends getting mammograms in the 5-20 years' window following an abortion.

Breast Cancer Research Institute has a plethora of information, videos, and brochures to explain the science behind the research.

Links

<http://www.bcpinstitute.org/home.htm>



Down Syndrome & Abortion

What is Down syndrome? Trisomy 21, or Down syndrome, is a genetic disorder which is caused by a full or partial third copy of the 21st chromosome. There are three types of Down syndrome. Trisomy 21, or nondisjunction, is the most common kind, seen in 95% of Down syndrome cases. The extra chromosome is present in every cell in the body. Translocation Down syndrome occurs in about 4% of Down syndrome cases and is caused by a partial copy of the 21st chromosome breaking off and attaching to another chromosome (usually the 14th chromosome). Finally, Mosaic Down syndrome is the rarest case, seen in about 1% of Down syndrome cases. Mosaic Down syndrome happens when the nondisjunction of an extra chromosome is present in some, but not all, of the body's cells. Some cells will have 47 chromosomes, while the rest will have the typical 46 chromosomes.

People with Down syndrome usually have hypotonia, or low muscle tone, and developmental delays. Early intervention programs and therapies are able to help children with Down syndrome reach the same milestones as typical children, albeit at a slightly longer pace.

People with Down syndrome often work and contribute to society. They get married as well as have friendships and other meaningful relationships. Unfortunately, most men with Down syndrome cannot have children or have a lower fertility rate than typical men. About 50% of women with Down syndrome are able to have children. Thirty-five to fifty percent of children born to a mother with Down syndrome will also have Down syndrome or other developmental delays. Most importantly, people with Down syndrome do lead happy, fulfilling lives. Studies have consistently shown that people with Down syndrome overwhelmingly report being happy with themselves, their lives, and how they look.*

*Used with permission from Live Action News, written by Cassy Fiano

Sadly more and more unborn babies diagnosed with Down syndrome during pregnancy using in-utero genetic testing are being aborted.

- The CDC estimates that about one of every 691 babies born in the United States each year is born with Down syndrome
- There are over 400,000 people who have Down syndrome living in the United States
- In cases where there is a Down syndrome prenatal diagnosis, the abortion rate is over 90%.

Links

<http://lejeuneusa.org/>



Pre-Natal Problems

What does a pregnant woman do when her Obstetrician informs her that a pre-natal test indicates the unborn baby is diagnosed with a fatal condition such as Trisomy 13 or Hydrocephalus? Sadly, in many cases the doctor will also advise her to terminate the pregnancy or, in other words, have an abortion.

In the vast majority of these cases, this child is wanted and the family has already begun bonding with him or her as the mother's belly enlarges. This news can be devastating and for many pro-life parents, termination [abortion] is not an acceptable option. AFL has found a wonderful website that connects parents with others who share this experience.

BeNotAfraid.net is a helpful site that provides resources, testimonies, and ways to help the family navigate things like pre-natal hospice care, scheduling pictures to be taken at the birth, time for baptism after birth, and funeral preparation.

Links

BeNotAfraid.net

<http://www.perinatalhospice.org/>



Infertility

In 1978, scientists introduced Louise Joy Brown, the first test tube baby. Since then, In-Vitro Fertilization and Surrogacy and Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) have become part of our everyday vernacular.

With in-vitro fertilization, Selective Fetal Reduction is required by most fertility specialists, necessitating the abortion of multiple children to lower the risk of pregnancy complications. Excess embryos that are created but not used are left frozen for eternity or donated for stem cell research, which means destroying life to extract stem cells to be used in therapeutic experiments. Harvesting women's eggs for many ART procedures subjects them to large doses of hormones and invasive extraction procedures that may have long-term health consequences.

AFL advocates that couples 'create' only the number of embryos they are committed to parenting so that no embryo is abandoned or discarded.

While we must have empathy for those who struggle physically, emotionally, and spiritually with infertility, we must acknowledge that these couples need a hope that transcends science and will not fail. Such hope can only be found in Jesus Christ.

While ART is often successful, AFL encourages people to explore Naprotechnology and the Creighton Model, both of which are based on Dr. Hiliger's teachings and have very high success rates. He is a Catholic doctor that felt there had to be better ways to help couples dealing with infertility.

Also, due to the number of excess frozen embryos that have been created over the last twenty years, an unusual solution for infertility is to adopt a frozen embryo and have it implanted in the woman's womb. Links to these organizations are below.

Links

<http://www.fertilitycare.org/>

<http://www.creightonmodel.com/>

<http://www.naprotechnology.com/>

(specifically see this: <http://www.naprotechnology.com/infertility.htm>)

<http://www.embryooption.org/index.cfm>

<https://www.nightlight.org/>

Book

Bio-ethics, A Primer for Christians
By Gilbert Meilaender



Adoption

As children of God, we come into God's family through adoption. Therefore, it is safe to say that adoption is an important concept in God's plan for the world. In the Old Testament, there are over 40 references to orphans or 'fatherless,' and the importance of caring for them.

Unfortunately, society's view of adoption is that of "unwanted" children. Anglicans for Life believes there is no such thing as an unwanted child—God wants every child He creates. When an expectant mom recognizes her inability to provide for her child and makes the ultimate parental sacrifice by placing her child with a family who can care for the child, the Church must affirm and support her courageous choice. Do we do that? As beneficiaries of adoption in being able to call God, "Abba-Father" we need to celebrate and raise awareness of the value of adoption.

You can help by:

- Affirm young women and men who have had the courage to place their children with an adoptive family. If the adoption was open, ask to see pictures of their child, invite them to discuss their feelings and pray with them.
- Provide a forum for families with foster children and adopted children to come together and discuss the unique challenges they sometimes deal with as parents.
- Invite a speaker from a local adoption or foster care program to address your Adult Ed Sunday School class.

Stats:

- 51,000 American children are placed for adoption annually.
- 1% of women place their children for adoption. 30 to 40 couples are looking to adopt every newborn child placed for adoption.
- In the US today, there are over 400,000 children in foster care, including over 104,000 waiting for adoptive families. More than half are 8 years old or older and some have special emotional needs. Some are part of a sibling group who need to stay together.

Links

<http://adoption-share.com/>

<https://www.bethany.org/>

<http://anglicanchaplains.org/wp/chaplains-adoption-fund/>



Abstinence & Sexual Promiscuity

If we want to prevent abortion, we must start with preventing unplanned pregnancies. So how do you prevent pregnancy? Abstaining from sex prevents pregnancy 100% of the time and is the most effective form of birth control. Abstinence also prevents the transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STI's) and diseases (STD's) 100% of the time. Abstinence is most successful when people are diligent and committed, recognizing the need for planning within relationships such as, doing things with friends or in groups, going on double dates, minimizing physical affection, and avoiding situations where the couple is alone.

For teenagers who have lost their virginity, we must recognize their need for ministry, especially if their sexual activity has led to pregnancy or contracting an STI/STD. In both cases, they expect the Church to judge them and deem them unworthy of love. AFL wants to support church youth groups in reaching out to teens and young adults, helping them know Jesus' unconditional love. We also have helpful resources for teen pregnancy, both for parents and teens.

Young people need to understand the destructive emotional and spiritual effects that can come from temporary, uncommitted sexual relationships. The psychological consequences vary among individuals but include: lowered self-esteem, a sense of having been "used," self-contempt for being a "user," the pain of loss of reputation, compulsive sexual behavior to try to shore up one's damaged self-image, regret and self-recrimination, rage over rejection or betrayal, difficulty trusting in future relationships, and spiritual guilt if one has a faith tradition. Condoms provide zero protection against these emotional consequences.

Stats:

- 15 to 19 year old teenagers have 17% of the 1.1 million abortions in the US each year.
- Every year in America, approximately 465,600 teenage girls will give birth and choose to parent their children. Of those teen moms, 66% will not finish high school.
- The Centers for Disease Control reported in 2010 more than 65 million people in the United States are currently living with an incurable sexually transmitted disease. Each year an additional 19 million people become infected with an STI/STD, many of which will be lifelong infections. Imagine the guilt and shame these people experience as a consequence of contracting an STD.
- 1500 kids were surveyed about on-line sexual solicitation, 19% (300 kids) reported receiving unwanted solicitation, 48% of the solicitations came from other youths. 25% of the respondents reported viewing pornographic material they weren't looking for. Crimes Against Children Center, June 2000

Links

Theology of the Body <http://tobinstitute.org/>
<http://www.standupgirl.com/>
<http://www.teenbreaks.com/>



Contraception

The variety of contraceptive methods available almost equals the vast range of opinions people hold related to them and their use! While AFL does not have an official position on this topic, we do feel it is important that we point out three concerns relevant to the Church.

1. The impact contraception has had in dividing the act of intercourse from procreation in marriage has opened the door to sin beyond imagination! Sexual promiscuity promotes independence from responsibility in sexual relationships. While some married couples are beginning to recognize the negative impact contraception has had in undermining the beauty and power of sexual intimacy in marriage, many still depend on it while not recognizing the spiritual impact it has on building a Christ-centered marriage.
2. We must recognize the health consequences birth control pills can have on women's bodies as the synthetic hormones used in them are considered carcinogenic by the World Health Organization. Often referred to as steroids, these chemicals should not be used for sports enhancement nor to alter the biology of a woman's body.
3. Plan B, Morning After Pills, Birth Control Pills and inter-uterine devices are believed to act as abortifacients, making the lining of the uterine wall hostile to supporting a pregnancy and, therefore, causing the fertilized egg to be expelled resulting in its death. Opinions of some pro-life doctors believe this to be the case, but AFL has encountered others who disagree, therefore, we share this information recognizing various points of view exist.

Links

<http://onemoresoul.com/>




Disabled/ Vulnerable

It is said that we will be judged as a society by how we treat our most vulnerable members.

But as our society changes we need to reconsider who the weak and vulnerable really are. The elderly, the terminally ill, the disabled, addicts, human-trafficking victims, children, the unborn, the sick. In reality it is any person, at any age, who is being abused, exploited, or taken advantage of by another human being or organization.

All people should be able to live free from fear and harm and have their rights and choices respected. The Church should operate with a zero tolerance to all forms of abuse and be committed to preventing and responding promptly when abuse is suspected or confirmed.

Stats:

- According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, Bureau of Justice Statistics, there were 5.9 million cases of elderly abuse in 2010, 67% of the victims are female. The breakdown of Reported Elder Abuse by type of abuse; Neglect - 58.5%, Physical Abuse - 15.7%, Financial Exploitation - 12.3%, Emotional Abuse - 7.3% and Sexual Abuse - 0.04%, all other types – 5.1%. 66% of elder abuse is perpetrated by adult children or spouses.
 - More than five children die every day as a result of child abuse. Approximately 80% of children that die from abuse are under the age of 4. 14% of all men and 36% of all women in prison in the USA were abused as children.
 - One in four women (25%) has experienced domestic violence in her lifetime.
 - Human trafficking includes both sex trafficking and labor trafficking and is the second largest—and fastest growing—criminal industry in the world. In 2008, traffickers made \$31 Billion buying & selling humans. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that there are at least 12.3 million adults and children in forced labor, bonded labor, and commercial sexual servitude.
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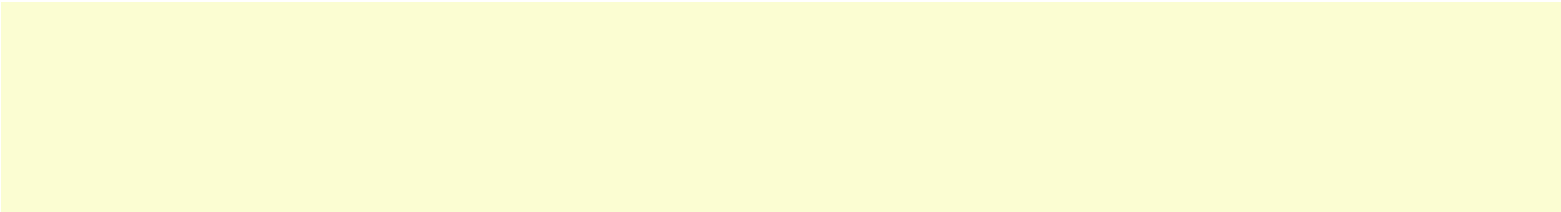


Bioethics

Cloning & Stem Cell Research

In 1996, Dr. Ian Wilmut introduced us to Dolly the Cloned Sheep, and somatic cell nuclear transfer, reproductive cloning, and embryonic stem cell research became common phrases heard in media reports. In the name of research to benefit mankind but without considering the moral and ethical implications, scientists have sought to be like God in creating life outside the natural process of procreation. As experimentation with life continues to unfold, we now learn more phrases like designer babies, nanotechnology, and Human-animal chimeras. Anglicans for Life recognizes the need for moral and ethical principles to be established to guide researchers and scientists, acknowledging that just because we can do something does not mean we should. Placing limits on how far mankind goes in creating life without God must be addressed, otherwise the Church may be asked to baptize a baby created as a clone.

There are no Biblically based bioethical organizations and ministries except the National Catholic Bioethics Center. Bioethical issues are addressed by some Christian non-profits such as Family Research Council, the Heritage Foundation, and BreakPoint.





Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood (PP) is the largest abortion business in the United States and currently receives over \$500 million dollars annually in federal and local tax dollars. The organization was founded by Margaret Sanger, a strong proponent of birth control as a means of population control, especially for people with 'less intelligence.'

The organization has grown into a powerful force in the political arena and gives millions to politicians' campaigns.

Anglicans for Life is concerned about them for a variety of reasons including:

- Their advice to teenagers is often counter to what parents would want for their teenagers. PP articles on their website encourage kids to withhold information from parents, and their services at some school based clinics include providing birth control pills for girls without parent's knowledge.
- In the summer of 2015, videos were released that feature PP medical directors callously discussing methods to harvest baby body parts during abortions as well as negotiating fees they would like to receive. The videos call into question both the legality of their actions as well as their integrity in caring for the abortion patient. A Congressional investigation is on-going and efforts to end taxpayer support for their organization is currently being addressed.
- Planned Parenthood affiliates have also been caught on video encouraging sex-selection abortions and helping sex-traffickers get abortions for their victims, as well as ignoring laws that require them to report statutory rape for underage victims.
- Former employees have also provided evidence to state officials documenting methods PP uses to overcharge Medicaid, often double-dipping by also charging the client for the same resource, such as birth control pills.

As I think about it, a whole book could be written about this organization's lack of integrity in policy and service provision! While they do provide some women's health care services, there are a myriad of public clinics located near PP clinics that offer similar services, except abortion. Also, PP does not do mammograms, they only get paid to refer women to the clinics noted above that provide actual services.

Links

<http://anglicansforlife.org/planned-parenthoods-broken-laws-and-your-life-affirming-response/>

<http://anglicansforlife.org/10-answers-for-anglicans-after-planned-parenthood-has-been-exposed/>

<http://www.stopp.org/>

Produced by Anglicans for Life
80 Leetsdale Industrial Dr, Suite 301
Leetsdale, PA 15056-1034
412-749-0455
www.AnglicansForLife.org