

NEWS NOTES & ACTION OPPORTUNITIES

*****Pro-life groups urged the Trump administration to take action last week after the chief of the National Institutes of Health defended taxpayer-funded research using aborted baby parts. Last week, FRANCIS COLLINS, director of the NIH, defended the grants with claims that fetal tissue research has “scientific benefits.” His statement contradicted other leading scientists, who said body parts from aborted babies are not necessary for scientific advances.

*****So depressing! The International Organization for the Family reports that GEORGE SOROS has just been named by the *Financial Times* newspaper as the "Person of the Year." IOF goes on to elaborate on some of Mr. Soros's "contributions" to society as, for example, his support for abortion on demand up to birth; physician assisted suicide for those deemed socially burdensome, such as the elderly, the depressed, the infirm, or the mentally ill; a redefining of marriage, parenthood, and family in law and in culture; replacing parents' proper role with state bureaucrats and government programs; promoting a dangerous ideology of gender, especially directed toward vulnerable young people; and on and on it goes. Sterling character, old George!!!!!!

*****Words of wisdom from FATHER PAUL SCALIA in *The Catholic Thing: In the fallen world, man's power to articulate the truth and praise the Creator becomes also a means of deceit and manipulation. We find it throughout scripture, from Cain's dodge – “Am I my brother's keeper?” (Gen 4:9) – to Judas's insincerity: “Hail, Rabbi!” (Mt 26:49) We see it all around us, in the constant distortion and twisting of words to serve greed and gain rather than truth and worship. Most sadly, we see it in ourselves, in our own use of words to manipulate, blame, and deceive. (Yes, he is son of the late Supreme Court Justice. You can read the entire article at https://www.thecatholicthing.org/2018/12/23/gracious-words/?utm_source=The+Catholic+Thing+Daily&utm_campaign=6837f53b68-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_12_07_01_02_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_769a14e16a-6837f53b68-206531049)*

*****Travel with CHRIS and JOAN BELL Bell of Good Counsel Homes this April on a pilgrimage this Lent to the Holy Land, the most sacred place on earth! Beginning on Mount Carmel and culminating in Jerusalem, the ancient City of David, walk in the footsteps of our King and Saviour, Jesus Christ, His holy parents, Joseph and Mary, the Patriarchs, Apostles and the Magi! To pray the Holy Mass in these sacred places is a privilege and joy that is unparalleled! For additional details go to <http://syversentouring.com/goodcounsel.html#T>

*****Good news from MOVIEGUIDE: Did you know that nearly EVERY one of the major studios is now making faith-based movies, and ALL of them now have movies with faith content! This is a miracle! In 1985, you could hardly find one movie in a whole year like this. Right now, compared to last year, PG rated movies are up 5% at the box-office and R-rated movies are down 7%.

*****To give you an idea of how some agencies at the Vatican have deteriorated, LifeSiteNews.com reports that Professor MARIE-JO THIEL, a new member of the revamped Pontifical Academy for Life, recently said that the Church's teaching on sexuality and family should be thoroughly reconsidered. She pointed to Pope Francis's exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* as having given Catholics more freedom. The Church's teachings on sexuality have been a “complete failure,” she said. Thiel rejects the Church's teaching that homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered and can never be approved. She also firmly rejects the Church's ban on contraception.

FORCED ABORTION CONTINUES IN CHINA

The fact that forced abortion continues under China's Two-Child Policy is further documented in the Population Control section of the 2018 Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC) Report, which states that regulations "include provisions that require couples to be married to have children and limit them to bearing two children . . . Officials reportedly continued to enforce compliance with family planning policies using methods including heavy fines, job termination, detention, and abortion."

Reggie Littlejohn, President of Women's Rights Without Frontiers, stated: "The forced abortion of this woman's third pregnancy is an outrage. It proves that the Chinese Communist Party still functions as womb police. When China instituted the Two-Child Policy, it announced that it had 'abandoned' the One-Child Policy, implying that the Chinese government had ceased all coercive population control. I immediately stated that single women and third pregnancies could still be aborted under the new rule."

"To avert demographic disaster," Littlejohn continued, "China has stated that it is considering letting all couples have as many children as they want. This would be a great step in the right direction, but it would still leave open the forcible abortion of single women. The new rule should state that all women can have as many children as they want."

Please sign a petition against forced abortion in China by going to <https://www.womensrightswithoutfrontiers.org/blog/sign-our-petition/>

FROM HILLAIRE BELLOC, 1936

What weapons are provided us with which to attack the spreading evil? What common ordering have we? What accepted tactic which can even doubtfully reassure us? We cannot but be starved by impoverishment, abandoned to neglect, left unheard: we must act isolated and alone without companions, and, as intelligence and instruction decline, our high message has a lesser and a lesser audience. How, against these odds, can we do anything at all?

Long ago such a war was waged and won. The heathen was thrust back and Christendom was established: the struggle was desperate and long but hopeful and united, and it was concluded – or seemed concluded – on our own terms. The Catholic Faith at last illuminated all Europe. But the settlement did not endure. Four hundred years ago it was menaced. Unity, by which alone a thing is what it is, suffered shipwreck and the fragments drifted apart into the welter before which, today, we stand appalled.

The old victory was won upon a rising curve. But a summit was passed, and now for long the curve has been falling. We have lost ground unceasingly for generations and are still losing ground. What prospect can there be of reversing such a tide?

To all of which questions, and many more (and worse) to come, the answer in the proclamation of this season: The Child is born.

First published in The Universe, Advent 1936. Read the entire essay at

<https://www.thecatholicthing.org/2018/12/30/the-child-is->

[born/?utm_source=The+Catholic+Thing+Daily&utm_campaign=b3a4faf2a4-](https://www.thecatholicthing.org/2018/12/30/the-child-is-born/?utm_source=The+Catholic+Thing+Daily&utm_campaign=b3a4faf2a4-)

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DATES TO REMEMBER

*****Not too early to begin thinking about attending the 1919 March for Life, scantily a month away. This coming year it will be held on Friday, January 18, 1919. Expect to hear more in the coming weeks from your parish, diocese, and the Knights of Columbus.

*****Every Sunday a weekly Solemn High Tridentine Mass is celebrated at St. John the Baptist Church, 1282 Yardville-Allentown Road, Allentown, NJ 08501, at 12:30 pm. Also, each Friday morning at 8:00 am there is a low Mass in the Tridentine tradition. If you are from the general area it may be a good idea to see what these Masses offer in beauty, solemnity and reverence for Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. There is usually a reception after the Sunday Mass.

PRAYER WITNESSES

Princeton (American) Women's Center at the Hamilton Professional Center- 1345 Kuser Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619. 365 Days for Life Hamilton has assumed sponsorship of this witness, and there are people praying there on Saturday mornings from 7:00 to 10:00. For more information go to 365daysforlifehamilton.org/ or email johnmuka@optonline.net and get added to their e-mail list.

Planned Parenthood at Clinton and State in Trenton - The witness hours for Saturday morning are from 8:30 to 10:30. Bob Pawson of Pro-Life Educators has requested support for this witness. The area is totally safe, and we should make our presence known. Also, a "LUNCH HOUR" pro-life outreach has recently been launched at this location on Tuesdays from 10:45 am to 1:00 pm. Thousands of government employees walk past and drive by from the government office buildings in the area. Free parking has been arranged for pro-lifers in the Salvation Army's fenced in parking lot one block away. If you prefer to park on the streets, be sure to bring quarters for the parking meters (one hour requires four quarters). Also, Kathy Elgrim does a solo witness at Trenton Planned Parenthood each weekday during her lunch hour from a little after 12:15 to a little before 12:45. So far she has not been successful in getting people to join her. Surely there must be some state workers or attendees at the 12:10 daily Mass at the Cathedral who'd be willing to help out. What a marvelous opportunity! Free parking is available at the Salvation Army facility nearby, and Kathy can be reached at prolife.ptea@gmail.com

Woodbridge abortion facility at 228 Main Street - Bill Draghi is usually there each day but Sunday at the following times: Monday, 2:00 - 5:30; Tuesday, 9:00 - 1:00; Wednesday, 10:00 - 1:00, Thursday, 1:00 - 5:00; Friday, 11:00 - 1:00 and 4:00 - 8:00; Saturday, 9:30 - 1:30. Sorry to advise this facility eventually did renew its lease.

Planned Parenthood in Elizabeth has relocated to a new facility at 1171 Elizabeth Avenue. We assume this witness is continuing, but we would appreciate confirmation from someone involved. Our most recent information indicates the witness is held every Saturday from 9:00 to 11:00 am. While most of our readership reside well south of Elizabeth, many have friends and relatives closer to that area who can spread the word.