

Abortion Advocates Pulling Away from Term “Pro-Choice”

The New York Times reported that abortion advocates are pulling away from the term “pro-choice” because it doesn’t mean anything. Why? Maybe because an actual pro-choice person would want women to see ultrasounds before they decide to have an abortion or to have access to all the information they could on what abortion is, how it affects the women on a physical, mental and spiritual level.

The abortion lobby wants to use terms like “women’s health” instead to promote abortion. But women’s health isn’t about abortion. Any woman is going to see through that façade.

Women’s health isn’t about abortion – it’s about **mammograms** (which Planned Parenthood doesn’t do), well visits, making sure women are eating healthy and taking care of themselves so they can take care of their families, mental well-being, **work-life balance**, and other things that yes, deal with reproduction, but also deal with the impressive body and inner workings of being a woman. The “right” to end the life of her child doesn’t encompass “women’s health.”

Planned Parenthood and their allies are losing. They are struggling to figure out how to articulate their position of wanting to perform as many abortions as possible in order to increase their bottom line. They are trying to message around the fact that they exploit women and their preborn babies every day for profit. No wonder they are on the losing end. [Source: Kristan Hawkins, “Losing the Abortion Debate, Planned Parenthood is Abandoning the Term ‘Pro-Choice’”, LifeNews.com, 7/29/14.]

*“A Christian father refrains from boasting when he has accomplished a goal. Instead he lifts his heart in thanksgiving to God Who has blessed the work of his hands. This father **refuses to grumble or complain** about his work, his children, his own failings, or those of others. He’d rather offer these sufferings and inconveniences to his heavenly Father as an act of love.”* Author Devin Schadt

COMING UP

October is Respect Life Month. Respect Life Sunday, October 5th, is just a few weeks away. As a practicing Catholic, what more can you do to promote respect for all human life? Whether you are a homemaker, a teacher, a lawyer, carpenter it doesn’t matter. Next month we will have ideas that you should take to heart. First, though, pray.

Surrogacy Has Church in Alliance with Abortion Supporters!

This is hard to believe, but the Catholic Church finds itself working hand in hand to protect both women and children from being exploited in the growing and largely unregulated fertility industry. The plight of “Baby Gammy”, one of two children rejected by the couple who had a Thai woman bear their twins shows that there is a reason for concern.

Catholic feminist Lucetta Scaraffia took to the pages of the Vatican’s official newspaper to describe that case as evidence of the “throwaway culture” that Pope Francis has decried. **“We should not be surprised,” she wrote, “if parents who have ordered a baby and rented a woman’s womb refuse it at birth if it is not healthy and perfect.”**

In 2012 the governor of New Jersey vetoed a surrogacy legalization bill, having been encouraged by Catholic groups and by feminists such as Kathy Sloan, NOW board member.

The odd alliance agrees that surrogacy appears exploitative. Women who serve as surrogates may not consider the health risks, not just of pregnancy, but also of undergoing egg implantation that requires hormones given to surrogates to foster egg production or implantation. Further, surrogacy severs the natural maternal bonding that takes place during pregnancy.

A prominent June 2013 study in the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* found that **children born through surrogacy** are at great risk of adjustment difficulties and psychological problems.

Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Liberty Commission wrote: “Surrogacy [treats] women and children essentially as objects of commerce. Ultimately, it exploits women’s bodies and children’s lives.” [Source: Christopher White, “Surrogacy Gives Birth to an Unusual Alliance,” *Wall Street Journal*, 9/5/2014.]

Paterson Diocese Resources

The Diocese maintains both a Respect Life Office and an Office for Family Life. Under Respect Life, coordinated by Dr. Mary Mazzarella, parishioners are offered a sample Advance Directive for Health Care; Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats (for those who have experienced abortion); and links to other services. More information may be obtained at www.patersondiocese.org/category.cfm?Category=61

Immodesty on Display

Magazines, advertisements, movies, music, TV and many stores promote immodest clothing as normal. Leah Darrow, former model and contestant on America's Next Top Model, says that modesty is a positive virtue, referencing the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"Modesty protects the mystery of persons and their love. It encourages patience & moderation in loving relationships.... Modesty is decency. It inspires one's choice of clothing. It keeps silence or reserve where there is evident risk of unhealthy curiosity." (2252)

Darrow said that modesty is not merely defined by a hemline; it should be a way of life. More important, modesty reduces unnecessary attention upon a woman's body parts: "Because a woman's body is beautiful and shapely and can draw attention to the eye, we want to **make sure we cloth our bodies in a way that shows our dignity as a person**, as a woman, rather than just parts of us. We are not a collection of body parts, but a whole person."

"Modesty frees beauty," she said. "Immodest fashions distort beauty and can diminish the dignity of the person," causing women to be looked upon as mere objects.

Other writers agree, taking their teachings from St. John Paul II's book, *Love and Responsibility*. Author Jason Evert says that by dressing modestly, a woman invites "a guy to value what's important about you", and not just your body. Further, **modesty is not merely defined by clothing, but by the actions, posture, and conversation of the individual.**

For the views of other writers regarding modesty, go to www.ncregister.com, and read the article by Jacqueline Burkepile, "Beauty Set Free," 9/7/2014.

Dr. Oz: Help Your Baby Before It's Born

According to Dr. Oz, a pre-born developing baby reacts to her mother's voice, tastes the food she ate for dinner, and feels her sway as she walks around the block. Further, research has found "that in the belly and after birth, some of a child's genes can be flipped on or off depending on what mom does while she's pregnant."

To protect your bundle of joy, says the doctor, start taking prenatal vitamins early. These help reduce children's risk for autism. Also, eat more fruit and lean protein before becoming pregnant. And eat more, but not for two!

Be careful of papers and other things you handle, says Dr. Oz. Wash your hands!. Don't microwave food in plastic containers. Eat 2 to 3 servings a week of fish like salmon, light canned tuna, and cod. They're low in contaminants that could affect your developing baby. [Source: "Ways to help Baby Before It's Born," *Star Ledger*, 7/31/14]

The Former Kate Middleton, the Duchess of Cambridge, Announces She's Pregnant

And like Dr. Oz in the preceding item, the world seems to understand that an unborn baby is a baby, and not something else. All over the Internet and on social media, people were again using the term "Royal Baby." **The terms "royal fetus" or "royal blob of tissue" haven't caught on.**

In other words, the battle over human dignity is carried out in our choice of words. The war on the sanctity of human life relies on bullets of deception and warheads of untruth—in short, on what George Orwell called "political language," which he said "is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind."

Those who support the legal killing of unborn human beings in the womb have used political language for decades, cloaking their morally indefensible position in terms such as "choice" and "women's health"—hoping the rest of us will forget about the status and rights of the other person directly affected in the abortion transaction—namely the fetus.

These political language manipulators are quick to deny the humanity or personhood of the fetus, calling it a "lump of tissue," a "product of conception," or even a "potential person"! By their choice of vocabulary, they attempt to subvert thought and the normal human compassion we would feel for the 50 million defenseless human beings legally aborted in their mothers' wombs since *Roe v. Wade* in 1973.

Word deception seems less and less effective nowadays, witness the celebration of the "Royal Baby." [Source: "Royal Baby: Once Again the Entire World Knows a Baby is a Baby", Steven Ertelt, *LifeNews.com*, 9/8/2014]

Two Groups to Google:

Culture of Life Foundation <http://www.cultureoflife.org>

Complex moral issues made simple

USCCB Human Life and Dignity web page

<http://usccb.org/issues-and-action/>

[human-life-and-dignity/index.cfm](http://usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/index.cfm)

from U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Law Firm Defends Life (www.BDFund.org/)

Bioethics Defense Fund (BDF) is a public-interest law firm that advocates for the human right to life via litigation, legislation and public education. BDF provides legal expertise and public education on the issues of healthcare rights of conscience, abortion and its impact on women, human cloning and destructive human embryo research.