



The Spark of Life ~ La Chispa de la Vida

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Pope Francis: 'Abortion is more than a problem. Abortion is homicide.'

A Church Courageous

A news article from Mexico reads...*After the legislature of the Mexican state of Sinaloa voted to legalize abortion up to 13 weeks, the Diocese of Culiacán announced that Catholic politicians who voted in favor of the law will not be able to receive the Eucharist or be godparents.*

In a statement, Father Miguel Ángel Soto Gaxiola, director of the Culiacán Commission for Life, Family, Youth and Laity, officially announced that Catholic lawmakers who voted in favor of abortion that the decision to deny them Communion is "the recognition of the objectively unworthy state of a person to receive the Body of Christ."

The Culiacán Diocese is in the state of Sinaloa and includes the capital city of Culiacán. Sinaloa became the seventh Mexican state to decriminalize abortion. In the letter addressed to Catholic politicians, Father Soto Gaxiola pointed out that "today we have many people scandalized by the public betrayal of the Church's teaching on faith and morals by those legislators who call themselves 'Catholic'."

Meanwhile, here in the United States, we read a tweet from President Joe Biden, a self-professed devout, practicing Catholic: "Last night, the Republican-controlled Florida legislature passed a dangerous bill that will severely restrict women's access to reproductive health care," Biden said in a tweet. "My Administration will not stand for the continued erosion of women's constitutional rights." And Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi described herself as both a "devout" and "practicing" Catholic as she defended abortion during remarks made at an event during Women's History Month on Tuesday where she discussed the importance of upholding *Roe v. Wade*.

What is wrong with this picture?

In 1968 Saint Pope Paul VI wrote his encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. In it he clearly explained the Church's teaching on contraception. Statistics show that most Catholics do not live by these teachings. Pope Paul wrote that the use of contraceptives would lead to infidelity and moral decline, a loss in the respect of women, and an abuse of power. He wrote "*Finally, careful consideration should be given to the danger of this power passing into the hands of those public authorities who care little for the precepts of the moral law. Who will prevent public authorities from favoring those contraceptive methods which they consider more effective? Should they regard this as necessary, they may even impose their use on everyone. It could well happen, therefore, that when people, either individually or in family or social life, experience the inherent difficulties of the divine law and are determined to avoid them, they may give into the hands of public authorities the power to intervene in the most personal and intimate responsibility of husband and wife.*"

We have a lot of work to do.



From the Capitol

WASHINGTON, D.C.—February 15, 2022- Pro-life leaders criticized the U.S. Senate's confirmation of Dr. Robert Califf as President Biden's commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration because of Califf's role in 2016 when the agency expanded the availability of the drug protocol RU-486 used for chemical abortions, permitting the use later in the pregnancy. (Catholic News Service)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Pro-life advocates and lawmakers are calling attention to a recent study at the University of Pittsburgh that raised questions about whether the university was taking organs from aborted babies that were delivered alive. These pro-life concerns are compounded by the reality that the National Institute of Health (NIH) has allotted \$88 million in funding for fetal-tissue research for the fiscal year 2022. In 2015, the University of Pittsburgh proposed to NIH to "develop a pipeline to the acquisition, quality control and distribution of human genitourinary samples obtained throughout development (6-42 weeks gestation)." In September 2021, more than 50 GOP lawmakers demanded a complete investigation of the University of Pittsburgh's abortion procedures and research...If the organs are harvested from a baby born after an induced abortion, it is possible that the baby was delivered alive and that the removal of the organs was the cause of the baby's death. (This is a brief portion of an article from the National Catholic Register, March 13, 2022. The article is well worth reading in its entirety.)

CALIFORNIA—Pro abortion bill AB 2223 could legalize infanticide for months after birth. Impossible??? That depends on the definition used for 'perinatal' which can be defined as from birth to 24 months. On February 2022, a bill was introduced in California, to make California a "sanctuary" for abortion. On March 22nd, Gov. Newsome, a Catholic, signed legislation that makes abortions free in California. California State Senator Nancy Skinner proposed a bill to create a fund for residents of pro-life states to have abortions in California.

NEW JERSEY—New Jersey passed a radical pro-abortion law Monday to legalize abortions up to birth and allowing non-doctors to kill babies in abortions. Gov. Phil Murphy is expected to sign the misnamed Reproductive Freedom Act, or the Freedom of Reproductive Choice Act, into law. (NJ has the highest abortion rate in the country.)

ON THE POSITIVE SIDE

Planned Parenthood complains that: *"Even though abortion is a basic health care service that is common, safe, and completely normal, 2021 was the most hostile legislative year ever when it comes to abortion access. State legislatures passed at least 90 laws restricting abortion access and nearly 600 anti-abortion laws were introduced in states this year, more than ever before."* That means that efforts at Right to Life activities are being noticed and acted upon.

In fact, our pro-life Senators successfully fought and voted to maintain all legacy pro-life riders including the Hyde Amendment in the \$1.5 trillion spending bill. This rider prohibits federal money from being used to pay for abortions.

ARIZONA AND FLORIDA Gov. Doug Ducey (R) signed a 15-week abortion ban into law Wednesday, making Arizona the first state to enact such a ban this year—with Florida set to soon follow—as the Supreme Court considers a similar law in Mississippi and appears poised to let it stand. Arizona's 15-week ban is one of two state efforts to mirror the law in contention in the case *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. The other state legislature to pass a similar 15-week ban recently is in Florida, whose governor, Ron DeSantis, is expected to sign it into law. If he does and the law is not successfully challenged in the courts, it is slated to go into effect on July 1

IDAHO—March 14- Gov. Brad Little, a Republican, signed a ban on abortion into law that has an enforcement mechanism similar to that of the high-profile Texas ban, allowing relatives of the unborn child to sue anyone found to be aiding and abetting the procedure. The new law bans the procedure once a fetal heartbeat is detected, usually around six weeks into gestation, and establishes a reward of at least \$20,000 plus legal fees. Providers who perform an abortion after that six-week mark are vulnerable to legal trouble from members of the patient's family. Any relative of "a preborn child" — such as the father, grandparents, aunt, uncle, or sibling — is entitled to sue the doctor who performs the procedure. "I stand in solidarity with all Idahoans who seek to protect the lives of preborn babies," said Little, who has urged the Supreme Court to overturn prior decisions legalizing abortion. "I firmly believe those decisions were incorrectly decided and that federalism mandates the regulation of abortion be returned to the states."

Pray ~ Pray ~ Pray

To be added to the mailing list for "The Spark of Life", contact Penny Watkins at pjwlmg@gmail.com