



The Spark of Life  
~  
La Chispa de la Vida



January 2022

Newsletter sponsored by the Right to Life Committee  
**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY COUNCIL #12266 ~ FOREST CITY, NC**

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

**Did you know that....  
"U.S. Abortion Law Is Among the World's Most Extreme"**

The above quote was the title of an article in the December 5-18, 2021 edition of the National Catholic Register. Including several additional sources, a few additional lesser-known facts lead us to think of a saying our parents often said to us when we were kids: **"You are known by the company you keep."**

... The United States is one of only 7 nations in the world that permits non-therapeutic or elective abortion-on-demand after the 20th week of gestation.

... The seven countries that allow elective abortion after 20 weeks are: Canada, China, Netherlands, North Korea, Singapore, United States, Vietnam.

... Fully 75% of all nations do not permit abortion after 12 weeks of gestation, except (in most instances) to save the life and to preserve the physical health of the mother?

... Of the 198 countries in a Charlotte Lozier Institute study, 59 countries permit elective abortions. Of these 59, 36 countries limit elective abortion at 12-weeks gestation; 6 countries limit elective abortion between 12-20 week-gestation; 7 countries permit elective abortion past 20 weeks, or have no gestational limit.

...The United Kingdom permits abortions for socio-economic reasons up to 24 weeks gestation , BUT up to birth if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped. The Netherlands has a similar law.

... The states with the most lenient abortion laws are Illinois, Maine, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia.

... Virginia has the most lenient abortion laws, banning abortion at the third trimester, which begins at 25 weeks.

... In New York, one out of every four pregnancies ends in abortion.

... In Illinois "a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent rights under the law, of this State." This new definition in the state's Reproductive Health Act really underscores the elimination of the human being in unborn form as any kind of rights-bearing entity.

*Pray ~ Pray ~ Pray*

As more states pass restrictions on abortions and the Supreme Court considers a possible overturn of *Roe v Wade*, *FiveThirtyEight* reporter *Amelia Thomason-DeVoe* wanted to “document the impact of these shifts... to include the voices of people who have had abortions in the U.S.”

The results were probably not what she expected. Within hours, the original Tweet thread received thousands of replies. It became an inspiring Christmas testimony to the beauty of life, the courage of parents who choose life, and the joy of children.

Hundreds of mothers and fathers replied to @FiveThirtyEight with stories of their brush with the abortion industry following a special needs diagnosis of their unborn child. Attaching a beautiful portrait of a smiling teenage girl, Sarah tweeted: “At the ultrasound for my 2nd pregnancy we were told our baby had Down Syndrome and her heart was incompatible with life. They encouraged us to end the pregnancy. She’s completely healthy.”

Women who chose to keep their baby in spite of family and cultural pressures to abort also shared photos and stories of their now-thriving children. Women like Lauren Bower raised voices of encouragement: “I got pregnant at 19 during the first semester of my sophomore year in college. I kept that baby and I now have a 6’3” 17 year old preparing to apply for West Point. He will change the world. Never kill your children.”

Roxanne wrote, “I was pregnant at 16 & was supposed to spend the summer in France as an exchange student. The baby’s dad’s family knew Dr.s who could ‘take care of it’. My dad said ‘we will help you if you want to have this baby’. That ‘baby’ turns 41 in Thursday. [sic]”

Their children also applauded mothers who kept them. Kenneth Landers knows he beat the odds: “Abortion was designed for ppl like me: low income, brown, fatherless. I’m 30 years old, helping my mother retire, thriving professionally and personally.”

Children whose mothers chose adoption over abortion praised the courage of their birth parents. April wrote: “My father wanted my mother to kill me. She gave me up for adoption instead. Her selfless act saved my life and I am forever grateful. Birthmothers who choose adoption over abortion are truly the most compassionate, unselfish, loving people.”

Steven P. Hammond replied with his own abortion story, “Yes. I wasn’t. Orphan who was then adopted. So yeah, I have skin in the game so to speak.”

Bethany Joy Barendregt tweeted: “I burst into tears at a routine appt when the dr casually said I was pregnant. I was just shocked but she assumed I was upset: “Don’t worry, it’s not like you have to HAVE a baby. We can deal with it.” I was horrified by the suggestion. This is my baby she wanted to “deal with.” An outpouring of expressions of love and prayer for these two hurting women followed, testifying to the pro-life movement’s care for post-abortive mothers and fathers.

FiveThirtyEight’s Christmas call for personal stories of abortions turned into one of the season’s most heartwarming and pro-life Twitter events.

**The March for Life bus** is almost full with just a few seats available and three weeks to go. The Knights of Columbus would like to thank the anonymous donors who so graciously and generously supported our efforts financially and, despite inflation and rising gas prices, prevented the costs from getting out of hand. May God bless you.

**9 DAYS FOR LIFE**

**PRAY TO PROTECT  
HUMAN LIFE!**

Look for the Parish Bulletin for January 9th for more information on the “9 Days for Life Novena. If anyone is interested in having the novena, contact the email address at the bottom of this page.

**JANUARY 19-27, 2022**

*9 Days for Life* is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day’s intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Join today at [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com)!



To be added to the mailing list for “The Spark of Life”, contact Penny Watkins at [pjwlmg@gmail.com](mailto:pjwlmg@gmail.com)