

Abortion Can Lead to Child Abuse, Has Increased Since Legalization

by Father Frank Pavone, National Director of Priests for Life

IN OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS, we promise to renounce Satan, all his works, "and all his empty promises."

One of his empty promises in unleashing abortion upon our nation was that somehow the availability of this procedure would decrease the incidence of child abuse. The reasoning went something like this: if unwanted children are aborted, then only wanted children will be born, and since wanted children are less likely to be abused, then child abuse will decrease in a land of abortion on demand.

Yet it was an empty promise. Exactly the opposite has happened. Since the legalization of abortion, child abuse has increased.

The promise had a fatal flaw in it, namely, the assumption that unwanted children are more likely to be abused. As E.F. Lenoski reported as early as 1976, the opposite is actually true. Abuse is more likely to occur among "wanted" children.

Canadian psychiatrist Philip Ney reports the same findings.

He writes, "When I investigated the relationship between child abuse and abortion and reported a direct correlation, people were angry and astonished. It appeared that the rate of child abuse did not decrease with freely available abortions. In fact, the opposite was true. In parts of Canada where there were low rates of abortion there were low rates of child abuse. As the rates of abortion increased, so did child abuse...Indeed, it is a vicious cycle. That is, parents who have been involved in abortion are more likely to abuse and neglect their children. Mothers and fathers who were abused as children are more likely to abort their child" (Deeply Damaged, p.91).

The first thing that has to be noted when examining the relationship between abortion and child abuse is that abortion is child abuse. Dismembering a born child would certainly be considered among the worst possible forms of abuse.

Medical textbooks and court testimonies use the very same word, "dismemberment," to describe what is done to an unborn child by abortion. How, then, is this not child abuse?

Allowing the abuse of an unborn child, then, creates an atmosphere in which — more quietly and secretly — we justify the abuse of born children. The child becomes the scapegoat for our unresolved conflicts. As the Israelites in the Old Testament placed their sins upon the goat, who was then led out into the desert, we allow the child, particularly when still in the womb, to suffer for our sins.

The two forms of child abuse — on the unborn (abortion) and on the born — reinforce each other by a mutual causality. Abortion results in more postpartum depression, which inhibits bonding with subsequent children. Conversely, the wounds of abuse are echoed in

the essentially self-destructive act of abortion later in life.

In subsequent columns we will examine these connections more fully. It should be noted that we are talking here about psychological dynamics and statistical correlation, and that does not mean that every woman who has had an abortion will be a poor mother.

There is a significant statistical association between child abuse and abortion - a mutual relationship, whereby having an abortion makes the abuse of subsequent children more likely, and being abused as a child makes having an abortion later in life more likely.

First of all, every pregnancy is a "crisis" in the best sense of the term. Pregnancy creates unique demands and challenges to the mother to mature; the body, the mind, and the spirit must grow in order to accommodate to the child. This "crisis of incorporation," as psychologists call it, puts the mother at a crossroads: either she accepts the changes required of her by the pregnancy, or she aborts the child, hence choosing to regress rather than mature.

The choice not to mature, but rather to remain selfish, makes it more likely that the mother will remain a less mature parent, and this immaturity is a key cause of abuse and neglect of other children.

A second problem is that fathers have no legal right to save their unborn child from an abortion. Not knowing if the child will live or die creates an ambivalence in the father, and a reluctance to bond to the child. Unattached to their baby, they show less support to their partner as well. After an abortion, the alienation worsens. Some studies show as high as an 80% rate of breakup of relationships after abortion. The mother's anger at the lack of support from the baby's father can be displaced to a born child.

A third reason why abortion can lead to child abuse is related to bonding. Having an abortion makes it more difficult to bond to a subsequent child, and babies who are not well bonded are more likely to be abused and neglected. A pregnancy following abortion creates more anxiety, caused in part by a fatalistic sense that the child will be abnormal (as a punishment for having aborted the previous one.) This anxiety can interfere with bonding.

Moreover, if the grief from the abortion is not adequately processed, it becomes a post-partum depression, which interferes with bonding. When one is still grieving a lost baby, one cannot attach to a new baby, because the attachment is still to the one who died. Failure to attach to the one who is alive can lead to abuse and neglect.

There can also be a sense of disappointment in the subsequent child, who is compared to the aborted baby who is often idealized in the mother's mind. Expectations of the new child, sometimes viewed as a "replacement baby," are not fulfilled, resulting in anger that can lead to abuse and neglect.



Fr. Pavone

Prospects for Pro-Life Legislation in Newly Elected Congress

By Douglas Johnson, Director of NRLC Federal Legislation

The increased pro-life strength in the new Senate will improve the prospects for some bills that in the past have been stymied by filibusters or anticipated filibusters. This could include the **Child Custody Protection Act**, which would make it a federal crime to take a minor across state lines for a secret abortion, in violation of the parents' right to be notified beforehand. This bill has been passed three times by the House of Representatives, but has remained blocked in the Senate. We believe that the policy incorporated in this bill has overwhelming public support. The latest evidence of this came in Florida, where an amendment to the state constitution to advance parental notification for abortion passed 65-35% on November 2.

An important new pro-life initiative, the **Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act**, was introduced last May. Under this bill, if a woman seeks an abortion after 20 weeks — which is in the fifth month — the abortionist would be required to provide her with certain accurate information about the capacity of the unborn child to experience great pain during the abortion. In addition, the abortionist would be required to provide the woman with a consent form by which she would accept or refuse administration of a pain-relieving drug to the unborn child.

The Wirthlin poll conducted after the election described this legislation and found 75% in support, including 51% strongly in favor. Only 18% of this national sample opposed the legislation. We hope to see this legislation move forward in the new Congress.

Embryo Destructive Research/Human Cloning: Support for research that requires the killing of human embryos was a centerpiece of Senator Kerry's campaign. In the second presidential debate on October 8, Kerry tried to justify such research on grounds that some embryos are discarded by in vitro fertilization laboratories. But in reality, Kerry also embraced the mass creation of human embryos by cloning, for use in research — even cosponsoring, in July, the Hatch-Feinstein bill (S. 303) to promote the creation of human embryos by cloning.

Polls have shown lopsided opposition to the creation of human embryos for research. For example, an International Communications Research poll (August 13-17 poll) asked, "Should scientists be allowed to use human cloning to create a supply of human embryos to be de-

stroyed in medical research," to which 80% of a national sample said "no." A Wilson Research Strategies poll (August 16-18) found that 69% believed that all human cloning should be banned, while only 24% believed that cloning should be allowed only to create human embryos for stem cell research.

The policy supported by 69% to 80% of the public in these polls would be enacted into law by the Brownback-Landrieu bill (S. 245), which would prohibit the creation of human embryos by cloning. The group of newly elected pro-life senators will increase the level of Senate support for this legislation. However, it will continue to face stiff resistance from the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) and others who wish to use cloning to create what President Bush has aptly called "human embryo farms."

Roe v. Wade and the Senate The four-seat gain for the Republicans has major implications with respect to future nominations to the federal judiciary, including the Supreme Court. For the first time in 52 years, a Senate party leader was defeated for re-election — and Senator Daschle's leadership in the obstruction of many of President Bush's key judicial nominations was a major issue in that race.

Senator John Kerry repeatedly vowed that if elected, he would nominate to the Supreme Court, and perhaps even to the lower courts, only those who were committed to Roe v. Wade. That position was rejected by the American people. In a Washington Post poll conducted October 23-26, 49% of likely voters said they had more confidence in President Bush to choose future Supreme Court justices, while 42% said John Kerry. Likewise, a Fox News / Opinion Dynamics poll conducted October 27-28 found that 48% of registered voters thought that President Bush "would do a better job on . . . appointing justices to the U.S. Supreme Court," while 40% thought that Kerry would do a better job. The margin of error on these two polls was plus or minus 3%.

Certainly, various liberal advocacy groups will continue to demand that senators attempt to obstruct any nominee who does not make a commitment to the pro-abortion side — but if senators follow that counsel, many of them may do so at great political peril to themselves.

The Debate Has Shifted....

By Dennis DiMauro, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

I am truly amazed at how drastically the abortion debate has shifted over the past ten years, to allow more and more voices from the pro-life side to be heard. Nowhere was this more clearly demonstrated than in the second Presidential debate held on Friday, October 8th, 2004. In that debate, young Sarah Degenhart of University City, MO asked the following question,

"DEGENHART: Senator Kerry, suppose you are speaking with a voter who believed abortion is murder and the voter asked for reassurance that his or her tax dollars would not go to support abortion, what would you say to that person?"

My first reaction to this question was surprise that it was even *allowed* to be asked in the first place. I honestly do not believe that a question where abortion is called "murder" would have been allowed in such a debate 10 years ago. But even more surprising, was the fact that the pro-abortion candidate in the debate, rather than accusing this young pro-lifer of attacking a "woman's rights," now "deeply respects" her pro-life convictions.

Now, don't get me wrong. I am not discounting the parts of his response that were opposed to "legislating for other people," the parts that advocated family planning [to include abortion] overseas, or the

parts that "afford[ed] people their constitutional rights [to abortion]," or advocated using tax dollars to pay for abortions.

But I do think that the days of shrugging of those "antiabortion extremists" are in the past.

What has brought about this change in posture? Well, first of all, the pro-choice candidates realize that public opinion has been changing on the abortion issue. What was once a politically beneficial stance is now, more often than not, a political liability. In fact, a recent poll has shown that now even among women, most Americans are pro-life. So what this debate has reaffirmed is what we have been trumpeting for the past few years, and that is, that we are winning the fight to end this unethical practice....

So I hope that everyone in the pro-life movement will see this as an encouragement and will redouble their efforts to support their local pregnancy centers, their church Respect Life groups, and National Right to Life. We are making progress in ending abortion on demand, and together we will save lives.



Dennis DiMauro

Associate Membership Application

Yes, I would like to become an Associate Member of the National Pro-Life Religious Council, Inc.

Enclosed is my fee of \$25.00 for membership as:
_____ an individual _____ a church _____ a group

I would like to make a tax deductible donation of \$_____ to help NPRC with its important work.

**Mail to: NPRC c/o Development Office,
PO Box 61838, Staten Island, NY 10306-9811**

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National Pro-Life Religious Council, Inc.
109 2nd St. N.E., Washington, DC 20002

Uniting For Life

Winter 2004



Fr. Frank Pavone

Priests for Life Increases Educational Activities on Culture of Life

Priests for Life continues to expand its educational activities promoting the culture of life - helping to help protect innocent human life from abortion and restoring respect for all human life.

Based on Pope John Paul II's call for a culture of life and the American Catholic Bishops 2003 statement,

Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility, Priests for Life has developed a variety of new educational materials to help protect innocent human life from abortion, infanticide, physician assisted suicide, embryonic stem cell research, and euthanasia.

Recently, Priests for Life has introduced a new video called **Defending Life Series 2004**, which contains 13 half-hour TV programs recorded for the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN). These programs feature a variety of pro-life leaders and focus on how Christians can help create a culture of life in their local community.

Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director of Priests for Life, also serves as President of the National Pro-Life Religious Council (NPRC) which is an association of pro-life groups working within a variety of different religious denominations. NPRC is a growing vibrant association which has recently added several new groups, including two groups that work within the African-American community.

In addition, Priests for Life helped found and is continuing to support the Silent No More group which is made up of women who have experienced the personal tragedy of abortion.

Another important addition to Fr. Pavone's activities is a pro-life outreach to the broader Christian community through a weekly pro-life program entitled the **Gospel of Life**, which is aired on the **Sky Angel television network**. This program, featuring a variety of guests, focuses on the full range of culture of life issues and is having a dramatic impact on American Christians.

For more information contact Priests for Life, P.O. Box 141172, Staten Island, NY 10314, (888) PFL-3448 or (718) 980-4400 or at www.priestsforlife.org

God's Word for Life Bible!!!

By Dennis DiMauro, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Over the years a demand has arisen for a study Bible which helps Christians understand and share the pro-life message within scripture. Lutherans for Life has taken up this task, and has answered this need by producing the God's Word for Life Bible. This Bible, developed in cooperation with God's Word to the Nations (a mission society in Cleveland, OH), provides a translation in clear natural English, and includes exegetical insights by many outstanding pro-life leaders. These leaders include Dr. Jean Garton, pro-life pioneer and author of *Who Broke the Baby*; Wesley Smith, bioethicist and author of *Forced Exit: the Slippery Slope from Assisted Suicide to Legalized Murder*; and Dr. David Adams, Professor of Biblical Studies at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO. The God's Word for Life provides a one-of-a-kind study Bible that is

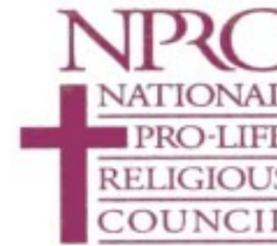
a must have for every church, pregnancy center, or Christian School. This outstanding Bible will be a powerful tool for the Holy Spirit to change thousands of minds to the truth of God's love for each and every human life.

To pre-order your God's Word for Life Bible for only \$14.95 go to: <http://www.lutheransforlife.org/gwfl.htm> or you can call LFL at 1-888-364-LIFE

Plan to Attend the National Memorial for the Pre-born and Their Mothers and Fathers

Pray for an end to abortion, for our national leaders, and the victims of abortion on **Monday, January 24, 2005 starting at 8:45 AM in the United States Senate, Washington, DC.** (Doors will open at 8AM). This year's service will be held in the **Russell Senate Building Room 325** (Senate Caucus Chamber). No reservations are needed.

Invite your pastors, youth ministers, Respect Life and pro-life groups, social justice committees, and everyone to come with you! Young people are especially needed and welcome.



Uniting For Life

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website: www.nprcouncil.org e-mail: mail@nprcouncil.org

National Pro-Life Religious Council

The National Pro-Life Religious Council (NPRC) is a Christian coalition which acknowledges Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and works to encourage every Christian denomination to affirm and witness to the biblical standard of the value, dignity and sanctity of human life, and to foster ministry to those vulnerable to the violence of abortion or euthanasia.

Member Organizations

- Alpha Omega Life
- Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC)
- International Communion of the Charismatic Episcopal Church (CEC for Life)
- Lutherans for Life (LFL)
- The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS)
- National Clergy Council (NCC)
- National Organization of Episcopalians for Life (NOEL)
- Presbyterians Pro-Life (PPL)
- Priests for Life (PFL)
- Religious Outreach, National Right to Life Committee
- Task Force of United Methodists on Abortion and Sexuality (TUMAS)
- United Friends for Life (UFL)

Polls Show Pro-Life Position Is a Winner for Candidates

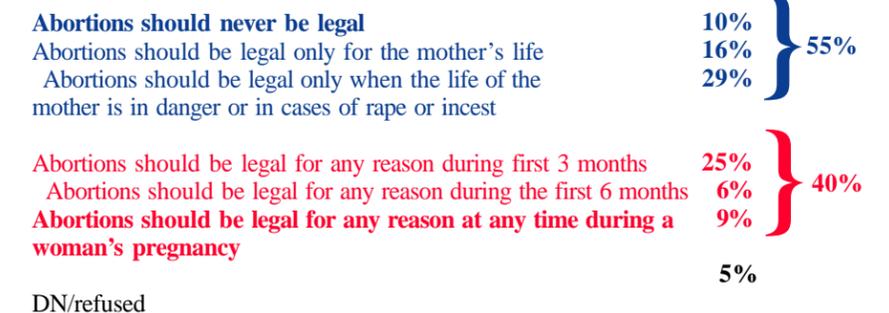
In the November 2004 elections, abortion was the issue many in the mainstream media ignored but which proved to be important to voters. A Wirthlin Worldwide post-election poll conducted the night of the election (11/2/04) revealed that abortion was a major issue:

42% of respondents said that abortion affected the way that they voted. Of these, 56% voted for President Bush, and 36% voted for Senator John Kerry.

Pro-life candidates generally benefitted from their pro-life position. When abortion affected their vote, 25% of the electorate voted for pro-life candidates and 13% voted for pro-abortion candidates. This indicates that pro-life candidates hold a 12% advantage over pro-abortion candidates.

Furthermore, the Wirthlin poll revealed that a mere 9% of respondents support the policy mandated by *Roe v. Wade* which allows abortion for any reason, even as a method of birth control, until "viability," and for mental "health" even after viability--effectively for all nine months of pregnancy.

Question: "Which one of the following statements most closely describes your personal position on the issue of abortion?"



On the issue of fetal pain which is currently before Congress in the pending bill, the *Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act*, an overwhelming majority support the bill's policy of providing information about fetal pain to women considering having an abortion.

Question: "There is a growing consensus among scientists that human fetuses can feel pain after 20 weeks in the womb. Do you favor or oppose laws requiring that women who are 20 weeks or more along in their pregnancies be given information about fetal pain before having an abortion?"

Favor: 75%

Oppose: 18%

42% of Voters Affected by Abortion Issue



■ Bush ■ Kerry ■ Other
Wirthlin Poll, 11/2/04