

# Family & ProLife News Briefs

A Service of Life Education Council, Inc.

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## Dangerous Abortion Drugs

Several years ago, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) removed the in-person requirement for prescribing dangerous abortion drugs, like mifepristone. This move was intended to extend the abortion industry's reach following the overturn of *Roe v Wade*. Tragically, these pills are frequently being used as tools of coercion. There are now multiple documented cases of abusive "partners" secretly drugging women to force abortions – acts of violence enabled by the FDA's removal of in-person dispensing requirements. In Louisiana, for example, there are numerous examples of women who have contacted pregnancy care centers, have seen OB/GYNs, or have been admitted to emergency rooms with incomplete abortions and/or heavy bleeding after taking abortion drugs received in the mail.

These incidents are symptoms of a dangerous system that allows life-ending drugs to be obtained anonymously and shipped without safeguards, creating opportunities for abuse that were previously impossible. And because pro-abortion states like California have enacted laws allowing anonymous prescriptions and dispensing of abortion pills, there is no way to track or hold these providers accountable. This isn't healthcare – it's a black-market drug trade, sanctioned by federal inaction and state-level radicalism. We urge the federal government to end mail-order abortion drugs. [Tony Perkins, Family Research Council, email letter, 10/10/25]

## 54,000 Injured From Abortion Pills

More than 54,000 women in England have been admitted to hospitals for treatment following complications linked to abortion pills since the government introduced pills-by-mail in 2020. Analysis of official data from NHS England and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities shows that one in 17 women who manage their abortion at home require hospital care for incomplete abortions or other serious side-effects. Manufacturers of the abortion drugs warn of a 4.5% to 7.8% chance of failure requiring surgical intervention. [Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, 10/16/25] NOTE: The Ethics & Public Policy Center (EPPC) earlier this year found 10.93% of women in the USA reported what researchers determined to be serious adverse events or complications after taking abortion pills.

## Infertility / Adoption

Adoption is a beautiful path of fruitfulness, and we're blessed that our sister ministry, Springs of Love (<https://springsoflove.org/>), has so many amazing resources for those discerning adoption and/or fostering, as well as assisting parish communities in supporting these families. But we know that adoption isn't a "fix" for infertility, and many complex emotions can surface along the way. Visit us at Springs in the Desert ([www.springsinthedesert.org](http://www.springsinthedesert.org)) for ways to navigate the challenges of infertility and to grapple with infertility grief that may unexpectedly resurface.

**To live out of love is to give one's self. – St. Therese.**

Make a conscious effort to give yourself to your family today, through your time, prayers, and acts of service.

#marriagetip

## Taylor Swift and Marriage

On her new album, the pop queen openly admits to lying about not believing in marriage, now dreams of having kids, and takes a few shots at Hollywood decadence. Swift's happiness with Kelce appears to have given her permission to embrace what she always wanted. Her confession on "Eldest Daughter" suggests the singer used progressive feminism as a shield to make up for finding herself with the wrong men. [Emily Jashinsky, Institute for Family Studies, [www.ifstudies.org](http://www.ifstudies.org), 10/7/25]



## Weeding Out Defective Embryos

Ross Douthat interviewed Noor Siddiqui in August on his podcast *Interesting Times*. Siddiqui is the CEO of Orchid, a company that performs comprehensive genetic screening of embryos used in IVF. Siddiqui makes much of her desire to provide parents with the tools to help their children avoid suffering. She cites her mother, who began to lose her vision as a young adult. Who would want her child to endure a genetic disease? But as Douthat points out, employing technology to weed out embryos with defects implies that it would have been better if Siddiqui's mother had not been born. Something like the Nazi category of "life unworthy of life" hovers uncomfortably in the background.

IVF produces more embryos than can be "used." The term itself introduces the unsettling notion that human life is something we make available to ourselves for our own purposes—or disposal. Douthat's entirely plausible speculation follows: "I think it very likely, in the future where the Orchid process becomes a kind of norm, that you get a whole set of medical pressures. Like, what are you, a bad parent? You are not going to test your [prospective] kids? You could imagine a kind of tipping point where you go from 'This is a choice that a certain number of parents do' to 'This is the expectation that the medical system imposes on expectant parents.'" In fact, today, tests are performed on pregnant women that often end with strong counsel in favor of abortion, if results show the possibility of genetic defects. The pressure will only increase as the technological means for eugenic selection become more effective.

Put simply, isn't a eugenic approach to childbearing dehumanizing? Siddiqui says: "I think that the vast majority of parents in the future are not going to roll the dice with their child's health." This eugenic project, advanced under the flag of choice, is sure to follow the pattern of earlier utopian dreams. God's created order is complex. Our eugenic efforts will disrupt the natural order in ways we cannot foresee, creating a genetic ecosystem clotted and broken. The greatest threat posed by eugenics practiced on a mass scale is not that we will be dehumanized by a brave new world—although that may come to pass. No, the more profound peril rests in its almost certain failure and the resulting mess we will make of the fundamental building blocks of life. [R. R. Reno, *Eugenics Under the Flag of Choice*, [www.FirstThings.com](http://www.FirstThings.com), Oct. 2025]

## The “Freedom to Choose”?

This year is the 30th anniversary of Pope St. John Paul II's great encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*) that provides a robust and comprehensive philosophical and theological defense of the pro-life worldview, and a clarion call to effective action. He warned of a “conspiracy against life” that manifests itself in abortion, euthanasia, artificial reproduction, and other assaults on human dignity, all of which are linked together and are all the fruit of the same rotten tree. Not content to single out abortion or euthanasia in isolation, he saw them as part of a larger mentality, a “culture of death” where human beings see themselves not as creatures with a dignity bestowed upon them by God, but as autonomous masters of life and death.

When autonomy is raised above the sanctity of life, pro-abortion activists proclaim a “freedom to choose.” Patients should have the “freedom to die,” say the euthanasia activists. Couples, including homosexual couples, should have the “freedom” to create human beings in a petri dish (*in vitro* fertilization), select the “best” ones, and then pay a surrogate to carry their child. Gender-confused individuals must have the “freedom” to mutilate their bodies, pretending to be the opposite gender. Yet freedom without limits becomes a cage that confines people within the claustrophobic prison of their worst passions and desires. Rather than a call to greatness, the culture of death promises ease, at the cost of human dignity, sacrificing the rights and dignity of the most vulnerable among us.

Pope St. John Paul II identified an excessive focus on “efficiency” that has seeped into every corner of bioethics, where the question too often is not whether a practice respects human dignity, but whether it is technologically possible & economically profitable. These practices all flow from a vision of human beings as disposable, malleable, and subject to the will of others. Once the principle of inherent dignity is abandoned, the logic of the market and of personal autonomy quickly fills the void. In the years since *Evangelium Vitae* we have seen euthanasia rapidly expand, inhuman reproductive technologies become lucrative, massive-scale industries, and pro-abortion activists make inroads into some of the last remaining pro-life jurisdictions in the world (e.g., Ireland, some South American nations, and in Africa).

Pro-life advocates must continue their efforts. Churches are on the front-line and can educate their parishioners and motivate them to make a real difference in the battle to defend life, to promote the culture of life as Pope St. John Paul II exhorted. [Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, Human Life International. [www.hli.org](http://www.hli.org), 10/6/25]

## All-Trimester Abortion Clinic to Open

New Jersey is one of just nine states with no limits on abortion thanks to our elected officials. Now plans are underway for a new all-trimester abortion clinic called the Luminosa Wellness Collective. Its website claims it is “A Light in the Dark.” But its certainly not a light for the full-term babies who are weeks, days or moments away from being born only to have their lives cruelly and painfully ripped away from them, nor for mothers who will learn too late of the physical and emotional torture they will go through to have a late-term abortion. 

National media sources note that NJ currently has no providers who perform abortions past 28 weeks, making this facility a first of its kind and a flashpoint for debate in this November's race for governor. As usual, the liberal side says it will push for a constitutional amendment to enshrine abortion in the state constitution, and continue to use taxpayer money to fund Planned Parenthood.

Although funding for this all-trimester clinic is expected to come from grants and donations, it is not hard to imagine that a pro-abortion administration will use taxpayer money to support its operation. Licensing of the clinic will require approval from the state Department of Health, an agency whose leadership answers directly to the governor. Yet, a recent Marist poll has shown that NJ voters overwhelmingly oppose late-term abortion. They believe there should be clear limits, especially when an unborn child can feel pain, survive outside the womb, and is mere weeks from birth. The current laws of the state, and now, this new clinic, defy that moral consensus. This November 4th, the choice is ours. The future of NJ, and the lives of countless moms and babies, hang in the balance. [Marie Tasy, Exec. Dir., NJ Right to Life, 10/23/25]

**Did You Know?** *What do the following California cities have in common: Anaheim, Costa Mesa, Gilroy, Madera, Mission Viejo, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Ana, Santa Cruz, and South San Francisco. Answer: so far in 2025, Planned Parenthood abortion mills have closed in each of these cities. But there are plenty more still operating. Prayer and faithful witness are our weapons to help close more. [Source: Stop Planned Parenthood International (STOPP)]*

## For Parents of Very Young Children

Using play, story and song to allow Scripture and tradition to unfold for the youngest of our flock is the foundation of children's faith walk. Laughter and lightheartedness can enrich our faith as well. So, get "caught" praying, and pray with your children -- over meals, at bedtime, anytime. In our house, we always start with prayers of gratitude, thanking God for our many blessings. Then, we ask for blessings for people we know & love, or for people who might need God's help. Then we ask for God's help in big and small ways. Play and prayer teach our kids that we're all in an ongoing relationship & conversation with God. And that the conversation requires them to talk as well as to listen. [Our Sunday Visitor email, O-23-25]

## Faith and College Life

A heartfelt statement by a college student regarding faith and life in a Charlie Kirk generation may be viewed at: <https://nrlc.org/nrlnewstoday/2025/09/the-impact-of-charlie-kirk-on-me-and-my-generation/>

## For All Parents

ScreenStrong.org empowers families to prevent screen addiction. Reclaim your kids from social media, video games, and pornography screen use. Our solutions are not screen-free; rather they replace toxic screen use with healthy activities, life skill development, and family connections.

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