



PROVITA

The University Faculty for Life Newsletter

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Table of Contents

UFFL Updates 1

Reminders..... 2

Letter from the President 2

Member News & Publications..... 3

Upcoming scholarly opportunities..... 5

On Campus 6

Book Reviews..... 6

Legal Realities 7

A Scholar’s Analysis 8

Web Resources for research and education 10

Masthead 15

UFFL Updates

➤ **The overarching theme for our 2021 Conference** is *Pro-life Feminism, the Law, and Women’s Health*. It is being planned as a Zoom conference due to Covid. If things change, pivoting to an in-person conference will be considered. Either way, there will be excellent keynote speakers and an opportunity to submit papers to our peer reviewed *Life and Learning*. Send submissions to Fr. Joseph Koterski at Koterski@Fordham.edu. Deadline for submitting a working title is June 1st; paper deadline is July 1st.

➤ **This year’s broad topic** concerns issues surrounding pill-induced abortions as well as the impact of abortion not only on society, the law, and families, but also on the biological, mental, and spiritual health of women and their partners. Also included is the quest for social policies and laws supportive of pregnancy, embryo rights, fetal well-being, fatherhood, and families. Other topics for this conference include the cultural and legal status of inalienable rights, especially the rights to conscientious objection and to protection from exploitation at the end of life both in the United States as well as around the world.

➤ **The 2021 Smith Award** recipients are the remarkable Canadians **Keith and Elizabeth Cassidy**. Keith’s doctorate is in history, Elizabeth’s in psychology. This couple has been a powerhouse of prolife scholarship and pedagogy, with Keith being the retired president of Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College. The title of their talks will be forthcoming in our spring edition.

➤ **The keynote speakers** are from three different disciplines: medicine, law, and theology:

Obstetrician **Kathleen Mary Raviele, M.D. F.A.C.O.G.** is a fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a USCCB Consultant as well as the Secretary of Georgia Right to Life. She has also been the president of the Catholic Medical Association. Her talk is entitled: “Unmasking the Truth about Chemical Abortions.”

Erika Bachiochi, J.D. will be speaking on “The Rights of Women: Toward a Dignitarian Feminism.” Erika is a Senior Fellow of the Abigail Adams Institute and a Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

Angela Franks, Ph.D. will provide a theological analysis of “Biopolitics, Sexuality, and Women.” She is Professor of Theology at St. John’s Seminary in Boston.

Reminders

- **Lifetime membership** UFFL offers Lifetime Membership. Five hundred dollars will enable you to support our mission more easily throughout your golden years. More details are posted on our [website](#).
- **2021 Dues Reminder** Be sure to pay your dues. Annual dues are \$40. On-line payment is possible through PayPal and our website, as well as by mailing them to **Fr. Joseph Koterski, S.J.**, University Faculty for Life, Dept. of Philosophy, Fordham University, Bronx, NY 10458. Dues are important for receiving the print copies of our peer reviewed *Life and Learning*.
- **Keep your email address updated** Updates can be made either by the online [membership renewal form](#) or by contacting Fr. Koterski at Koterski@Fordham.edu. Updated email addresses enable one to receive our *ProVita* electronic newsletter as well as important messages about UFFL.
- **Social Media** UFFL is on Facebook and LinkedIn. On Facebook, you can “like” the “University Faculty for Life” page. Our blog can be found at www.uffl.org/blog/. There is also an active “University Faculty for Life” subgroup of the “Pro-life Professionals” group on LinkedIn.

Letter from the President

Hello Everybody,

Given the rabid pro-abortion stance of the new administration, we need to steel ourselves for the elimination of former President Trump’s pro-life policies, the onslaught of aggressive new pro-abortion laws risking the lives of women and preterm babies along the lines of New York’s 2019 Reproductive Health Act, and the intensification of intolerance towards those respectful of human life from conception to natural death. In times such as these, we can be sustained by three truths.

First, we are not alone: God is pro-life as nature testifies and, most importantly, God assists all who ask. Plus, the scholarship of our UFFL fellowship is an invaluable resource, as can be seen in the peer reviewed essays published in *Life and Learning* as well as below in [Member News & Publications](#).

Second, as academics and as human beings, we are called to witness to the truth in our work and in our lives. We must persist in lighting and relighting truth’s candle rather than cursing the darkness as William L. Watkinson pointed out in 1907. Witnessing to truth makes a difference in our homes and with our students and colleagues. Moreover, progress is possible. For instance, on October 23, 2020, *Human Life Review* reported that Poland’s highest court has ruled unconstitutional a provision of a 1993 law that allowed for eugenic abortions.

Third, love is the ultimate source of courage, commitment, positive changes, and respectful caring. Love instills the great virtue of persistence in the cause of life and thereby enables proliferators to radiate a caring warmth that gives hope to the suffering and to all struggling with meaninglessness.

Thanks to ProVita’s insightful contributors **Richard Myers, J.D.** ([Legal Realities](#)), **Christopher Kaczor, Ph.D.** ([A Scholar’s Analysis](#)) and **Joseph Koterski, S.J., Ph.D.** ([Book Reviews](#)) as well as our perceptive editor, **Margaret Hughes, Ph.D.**, this edition of ProVita not only keeps you up-to-date with today’s pro-life challenges but also provides you with the necessary resources to facilitate your work.

Thank you for all that you do for life.

Sincerely,

Mary

R. Mary Hayden Lemmons, Ph.D., President of UFFL, Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN.

Member News & Publications

In which we highlight the activities of our organization, members, and chapters, including publications, talks, and consultations.

*Note: all names in **bold** are members of UFFL.*

- **Gerard V. Bradley, J.D.** (Law, University of Notre Dame) published, with Paul R. McHugh, “Therapeutic Jurisprudence,” *First Things*, no. 308 (December 2020).
- **Prof. Bradley** reviewed *Liberty in the Things of God: The Christian Origins of Religious Freedom* by Robert Louis Wilken in *Journal of Church and State*, 62.4 (Autumn 2020): 740 – 742.
- **Montague Brown, Ph.D.** (Philosophy, St. Anselm College) published *Reason, Revelation, and Metaphysics: The Transcendental Analogies*. Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2021.
- **Teresa Stanton Collett, J.D. (Law, University of St. Thomas)**, as a member of the legal team representing the *Women’s Alliance Against Violence*, has filed a class action lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of New York’s 2019 [Reproductive Health Act \(RHA\)](#).

Women’s Alliance argues that this law invites domestic violence against pregnant women, while also violating two hundred years of New York criminal law that considered near-term unborn children and

children who survive abortion as persons with unrecognized rights. Attorney Christen E. Civiletto explains that because RHA eliminates the ability to charge a criminal assailant separately “for the death of an unborn child, the RHA escalates the threat of harm to women and unborn children and incentivizes deadly violence against women.” According to the most recent data published by [New York State’s Division of Criminal Justice Services](#), domestic violence against women in New York has increased. News reports also reveal multiple lethal attacks against pregnant women in New York since the RHA’s passage, states the complaint, with the latest having been recorded on [surveillance video](#).

Moreover, Civiletto points out that “New York has stripped women and their families of their ability to pursue justice for those deaths . . . That’s outrageous. In fact, it is contrary to the stated policy of the RHA itself: to affirm the ‘fundamental right [of women] to choose to carry the pregnancy to term, to give birth to a child.’”

RHA also shows a callous disregard for the health and well-being of women seeking abortions insofar as it “allows almost ‘any healthcare practitioner’ to perform abortions, including surgical third trimester abortions,” says Attorney **Teresa Collett**, former president of University Faculty for Life. This is a serious violation of rights because “there are numerous cases where women have died or been injured during abortions performed by unqualified and untrained clinic staff,” states Attorney Catherine Glenn Foster. She adds that national [studies](#) report that many abortions are “performed by people with almost no medical training.”

Prof. Collett also explains that RHA is wrongly understood as an expansion of abortion rights: “The new law converted a woman’s *liberty interest in terminating her pre-viable pregnancy* into a novel right to kill near-term unborn children and inexplicably extended this right to criminal assailants.” RHA thereby also violates *Roe v Wade*’s parameters for a legal abortion as

conditioned on “a substantial threat to the mother’s health.”

- **Peter J. Colosi, Ph.D.** (Philosophy, Salve Regina University) published “Christian Personalism versus Utilitarianism: An Analysis of Their Approaches to Love and Suffering,” *The Linacre Quarterly*, 87.4 (November 2020): 425 – 37.
- **Dr. Colosi** also published “The Coronavirus and the Coming Fall Semester” in the *Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Quarterly*, 43.2 (Summer 2020): 183 – 91.
- **Richard Fehring, Ph.D., R.N.** (Nursing, Marquette University) made the following presentations: Fertility Awareness Collaborative to Teach the Science (FACTS), *Modern Fertility Awareness for Women’s Health and Family Planning, Use of Natural Family Planning During the Postpartum Breastfeeding Transition to Fertility*, Virtual, October 2, 2020; 89th Annual Educational Conference of the Catholic Medical Association, *Influence of Religiosity and Contraception on the Likelihood of Abortion among Reproductive Age Women*, Philadelphia and Virtual, September 25, 2020; United States Conference of Catholic Bishops NFP Department, *Space Age NFP: Quantitative Hormonal Monitoring*, Virtual, July 22, 2020; American Academy of Fertility Care Professionals, *The Breastfeeding Transition and Natural Family Planning*, Virtual, July 21, 2020; American Academy of Fertility Care Professionals, *The State of the Science of Natural Family Planning Fifty Years after Humanae Vitae*, Virtual, July 21, 2020; MIRS, Reproductive Hormonal Monitoring Podcast, *Achieving Pregnancy with the Marquette System of Natural Family Planning*, Virtual, April 30, 2020; Midwest Nursing Research 2020 Annual Research Conference, *Influence of Contraceptive Use on the Abortion and Sexually Transmitted Disease Rates among Adolescents and Young Adults in the United States*, Virtual, April 4, 2020; Dubuque Iowa, Archdiocesan Family Life and NFP Programs, *The Marquette*

System of NFP: The Method and the teacher training program, Virtual, April 2, 2020; North Carolina Reply Medical Clinic Professional Staff, *The Marquette System of NFP*, North Carolina, Virtual, May 8, 2020.

- **Prof. Fehring** contributed a chapter, “Natural Family Planning,” to *Catholic Health Care Ethics: A Manual for Practitioners*, ed. Ed Furton. Wauwatosa: The National Catholic Bioethics Center, 2020.
- **Prof. Fehring** wrote, with Michael Manhart, “Natural Family Planning and Marital Chastity: The Effects of Periodic Abstinence on Marital Relationships,” *The Linacre Quarterly*, 88.1 (February 2021): 42 – 55.
- **Prof. Fehring** also wrote, with Qiyang Mu and Thomas Bochard, “Multisite Effectiveness Study of the Marquette Method of Natural Family Planning Program,” *The Linacre Quarterly*, (online, September 2020).
- **John M. Grondelski, Ph.D.** (Theology, Independent Scholar) wrote “Extending the ERA and the Wages of Verbicide,” *Human Life Review*, 46.3 (Summer 2020): 47-56.
- **Prof. Grondelski** published “A Prophetic Editorial: Fifty Years Since “A New Ethic for Medicine and Society,”” (September 22, 2020) on the *Human Life Review* blog.
- **Prof. Grondelski** also published the following blogposts for the *National Catholic Register*: “Fathers as Specimens” (June 16, 2020); “Three Important Takeaways from the Little Sisters’ Victory” (July 9, 2020); “The Archbishop of Paris Is Right: Humanae Vitae Is Prophetic” (July 24, 2020); “More Contraception Means More Abortions, Not Fewer,” (September 10, 2020); “A Prophecy Buried in a 50 Year Old Medical Journal” (September 13, 2020); “Roe v. Wade: Can It Get Any Worse After 2020?” (September 18, 2020); “Women and Humanae Vitae” (September 25, 2020); “Abortion and COVID-19: Two Pandemics by the Numbers” (October 5, 2020).

- **Scott Hahn, Ph.D.** (Theology, Franciscan University of Steubenville) published, with Jeffrey Morrow, *Modern Biblical Criticism as a Tool of Statecraft (1700 – 1900)*. Steubenville, OH: Emmaus Road Publishing, 2020.
- **Prof. Hahn** also wrote the Forward to *The Quotable St. Jerome*, edited by Justin McClain. Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2020.
- **Christopher Kaczor, Ph.D.** (Philosophy, Loyola Marymount University) publishes a column, *Philosophy and Theology* in the *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*. The most recent column examines transgender issues, 20.3 (Autumn 2020): 607 – 618.
- **Jaro Kotalik, M.D.** (Medicine, Lakehead University) published “Medical Assistance in Dying: Challenges of Monitoring the Canadian Program” in *Canadian Journal of Bioethics*, 3.3 (2020): 202 – 209.
- **Fr. Joseph Koterski, S.J., Ph.D.** (Philosophy, Fordham) reviewed *Natural Law and Human Rights: Towards a Recovery of Practical Reason* by Pierre Manent in *International Philosophical Quarterly*, 60.3 (September 2020): 363 – 365.
- **R. Mary Hayden Lemmons, Ph.D.** (Philosophy, University of St Thomas, MN) published “Roadmap to Building the Culture of Life: Reflections on John Paul II’s Culture Wars & Thomistic Personalism” *Life and Learning* XXX (2020): 11 – 28.
- **Prof. Lemmons** also wrote “Power Dynamics, Chastity, and Enduring Spousal Love” in *Sexual Ethics in a Secular Age: Is There Still a Virtue of Chastity?*, edited by Eric J. Silverman. New York and London: Routledge, 2021: 78 – 94.
- **Melissa Moschella, Ph.D.** (Philosophy, Catholic University of America) contributed “A Natural Law Approach to Biomedical Ethics” to *Explorations in Ethics*, edited by David Kaspar. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020.
- **Richard Myers, J.D.** (Law, Ave Maria School of Law) published “Lower Court ‘Dissent’ from Roe and Casey,” *Ave Maria Law Review*, 18.1 (Spring 2020): 1 – 14.
- **Deborah Savage, Ph.D.** (Philosophy, St. Paul Seminary, University of St. Thomas, MN) wrote “Redeeming Woman: A Response to the ‘Second Sex’ Issue from within the Tradition of Catholic Scriptural Exegesis,” *Religions*, 11. 9 (2020): 474.
- **Prof. Savage** also published “When the Starting Place Is Lived Experience: The Pastoral and Therapeutic Implications of John Paul II’s Account of the Person” in *Christian Bioethics: Non-Ecumenical Studies in Medical Morality*, 26.3 (December 2020): 269–297.
- **Lucia Silechia, J.D.** (Law, Catholic University of America) writes a regular column for diocesan newspapers called “On Ordinary Times.”
- **Janet Smith, Ph.D.** (Theology, Sacred Heart Major Seminary) wrote “What Kind of Dignity?” *Linacre Quarterly*, 87.4 (November 2020): 484 – 485.

Upcoming scholarly opportunities

- The [Society of St. Sebastian](#) is accepting [submissions](#) to their *Journal of Bioethics in Law and Culture Quarterly* and their weekly column, *Sebastian’s Point*.
- The [2021 Educational Conference of the Catholic Medical Association](#), whose theme will be “The Joy of Medicine,” will take place in Orlando, FL from October 7 – 9, 2021.

- The Catholic Medical Association will also host its [Medical Resident and Student Boot Camp](#) from June 13 – 20, 2021, at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL.

On Campus

- The twenty-second annual [Cardinal O'Connor Conference on Life](#) will take place on Jan. 30, 2021 at Georgetown University and virtually. The keynote speaker will be Aimee Murphy, the Executive Director and founder of Rehumanize International.
- Applications for the [Rev. Thomas King, SJ Award](#), given to recognize and reward outstanding collegiate pro-life groups, are due by 11:59 pm, EST, on January 22, 2021.
- [Students for Life of America](#) will be [hosting a number of events](#), both in person across the country, and online, in connection with the March for Life in Washington, DC.
- On January 8, 2021, Chemeketa Community College agreed to settle a federal lawsuit brought against them by Chemeketa Students for Life. The College had forbidden the Students for Life from advertising a debate about physician-assisted suicide and from handing out information about resources at crisis pregnancy centers. The College agreed to eliminate free speech zones and to reimburse the Students for Life leaders for their legal fees. More information is available at [Lifesite News](#).

Book Reviews

UFFL Members are invited to submit book reviews for consideration for publication. Please email the editor at provita.editor@gmail.com for more information and to submit a review.

Disputes in Bioethics: Abortion, Euthanasia, and Other Controversies by Christopher Kaczor (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2020).

Christopher Kaczor's new volume shows how to make natural law arguments on a wide variety of bioethical problems. He treats not only such central issues as abortion and euthanasia but also newly emerging problems like the ethical permissibility of separating conjoined twins or of making children from the genetic material of three or more "parents," conscientious objections to the inclusion of abortion in insurance plans, and the claim that medical conscientious objections differ from military conscientious objections.

Crucial for a book that employs the natural moral law as the basis for its arguments is that the author show what is insufficient or actually mistaken about rival approaches. In each of the problems he treats, he provides an accurate account of the limits and the errors that come from confining one's perspective to utilitarianism or to Kantian deontology.

What is particularly helpful in this book is the way Kaczor uses topics like speciesism, the grounds of human dignity, and the very concept of reproductive rights as occasions for laying out the case for taking the natural moral law to be an indispensable foundation for adequate ethical analysis of the entire range of bioethical issues.

Reviewed by **Joseph Koterski, S.J., Ph.D.**
(Philosophy, Fordham University)

Legal Realities

Richard S. Myers, J.D. (Professor of Law at Ave Maria School of Law, UFFL Vice-President) provides a brief overview of significant legal developments since the last issue of ProVita.

The most important legal developments relating to abortion are the changes in the composition of the US Supreme Court and the election of President Biden.

Justice Ginsburg died on September 18, 2020. President Trump nominated Judge Amy Coney Barrett to replace Justice Ginsburg and, on October 26, 2020, Judge Barrett was confirmed by the Senate by a vote of 52-48. Justice Ginsburg was perhaps the leading supporter of the right to abortion on the Court. Justice Barrett adheres to the judicial philosophy of Justice Scalia who rejected the Court's decisions protecting the right to abortion. As a result, most observers believe that she will be far more willing to uphold state restrictions on abortion. There is now a 6-3 conservative supermajority on the Court. Justice Barrett's presence on the Court is likely to reduce the influence of Chief Justice Roberts. Roberts is generally a conservative but in recent years has sometimes sided with the Court's liberals. That was the case in [the June Medical decision in June 2020](#), when the Chief Justice joined with the Court's liberals to invalidate a Louisiana law requiring that doctors who perform abortions have admitting privileges at local hospitals.

The Court will have opportunities to address the right to abortion in the near future. I will briefly highlight the most significant cases that the Court might agree to review.

The state of Mississippi has asked the Court to hear a case involving the constitutionality of its ban on abortions after 15 weeks. More than a dozen states have supported Mississippi's effort to seek review of the Fifth Circuit's decision in [Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization](#).

Another issue that will likely be heading to the Supreme Court involves the constitutionality of state laws banning abortion for various discriminatory reasons such as the race, sex, or disability of the unborn child. In 2019, the Supreme Court refused to consider that issue in [Box v. Planned Parenthood](#). Justice Thomas concurred and wrote a

lengthy opinion exploring Indiana's "compelling interest in preventing abortion from becoming a tool of modern-day eugenics." Justice Thomas emphasized that the "decision to allow further percolation should not be interpreted as agreement with the decisions below. Enshrining a constitutional right to an abortion based solely on the race, sex, or disability of an unborn child, as Planned Parenthood advocates, would constitutionalize the views of the 20th-century eugenics movement. In other contexts, the Court has been zealous in vindicating the rights of people even potentially subjected to race, sex, and disability discrimination."

After the Box case, [the Sixth Circuit invalidated Ohio's ban on Down Syndrome abortions](#) over the dissent of Judge Batchelder who relied extensively on Justice Thomas's opinion in Box. The full Sixth Circuit reheard the case in March 2020 and a decision from the en banc court is still pending. Arkansas's law banning Down Syndrome abortions was struck down by the Eighth Circuit on January 5, 2021. Two judges (Judges Shepherd and Erickson) concurred but also wrote separately to indicate their dissatisfaction with the Supreme Court's viability standard. Judge Shepherd stated: "Today's opinion is another stark reminder that the viability standard fails to adequately consider the substantial interest of the state in protecting the lives of unborn children as well as the state's 'compelling interest in preventing abortion from becoming a tool of modern-day eugenics.'" The two judges called for the Supreme Court to re-examine Casey. These two concurring opinions continue a trend of lower court judges expressing disagreement with the Supreme Court's decisions in Roe and Casey. I have written about this trend in this [short article](#). It seems likely that one or both of those cases will be heading to the Supreme Court in the near future.

Another issue that could be headed to the Supreme Court involves the constitutionality of laws banning dismemberment abortions. On October 13, 2020, [the Fifth Circuit invalidated Texas's law](#) banning such abortions. Judge Willett wrote a passionate dissent. The dissent stated: "The State of Texas is not seeking to ban this grisly procedure. But Texas does seek to unbrutalize it, requiring that an abortion doctor not dismember a living unborn child. SB8 does not proscribe D&E; it prescribes more humane D&E, one that substitutes merciful

deaths for horrific ones. Few would disagree that tearing the limbs off a live fetus until it dies is more barbaric than tearing the limbs off a dead fetus, or injecting the fetus with a lethal substance first. Under SB8, developing human life must be extinguished before it is extracted, thus granting a measure of mercy and dignity to the unborn child's final moments. As explained below, there is nothing unconstitutional about that. Respectfully, I dissent."

[A case from Kentucky involving that state's ban on dismemberment abortions](#) is also pending before the US Supreme Court, although that case involves some complicated procedural issues that might make it less likely that the Court will review that decision.

Any of these cases would afford the US Supreme Court an opportunity to revisit Roe and Casey. Until that happens, the governing standard for reviewing restrictions on abortion is the undue burden standard from Casey. Importantly, as discussed in my column in the [Summer 2020 issue of Pro Vita](#), it is Chief Justice Roberts's view of the undue burden standard that now controls. His interpretation of the undue burden standard is more receptive to abortion restrictions than the approach the Court used in the Whole Woman's Health case from 2016. For additional evidence of that point, [see a recent Sixth Circuit decision](#) relying on Roberts's approach.

The other major development that will affect abortion is the election of President Biden. Biden is far more supportive of the right to abortion than was President Trump. President Biden will likely use executive orders and his control of the Department of Health and Human Services to support abortion rights both domestically and internationally. I will leave discussion of those issues to later blog posts and newsletter columns.

Another important recent development involves efforts to defund Planned Parenthood. On November 23, 2020, [the Fifth Circuit ruled that Texas and Louisiana can refuse to provide Medicaid funding to Planned Parenthood clinics](#). Because the ruling conflicts with rulings by other federal courts of appeals, the case is likely headed to the US Supreme Court.

A Scholar's Analysis

Christopher Kaczor, Ph.D. (Professor of Philosophy at Loyola Marymount University at Los Angeles, Consultant to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) engages recent scholarship on life issues. This article first appeared in [The Federalist](#).

In his recent New York Times op-ed "[Er, Can I Ask a Few Questions About Abortion?](#)" Nicholas Kristof makes a case against Christian pro-lifers. He writes that many Christians vote as if abortion were the be-all, end-all issue.

No Christian cares *only* about abortion as if other issues like religious liberty, taxes, and foreign policy don't matter. But many Christians hold that abortion can disqualify a candidate. I think most people have issues that are disqualifiers.

Imagine you could vote in the 1852 presidential election. Let's say you liked the Democratic presidential candidate Franklin Pierce's policies on trade, his civil service views, and his warm personality. Wouldn't Pierce's pro-choice position on slavery disqualify him for your vote?

Kristof asks, "Why do so many see fervent opposition to any abortion as a religious dictate when the Bible never directly discusses abortion?" One of the most fundamental messages of the Bible is this: God loves all human beings, and we are called to love all human beings.

Loving all human beings includes trying to secure basic human rights for them, including the most foundational right, the right to live. All available scientific evidence points to the fact that the abortion kills a living human being, something the "party of science" ignores.

Kristof writes, "The biblical passage most relevant to abortion is perhaps Exodus 21:22: 'When people who are fighting injure a pregnant woman so that there is a miscarriage, and yet no further harm follows, the one responsible shall be fined.' That suggests that the Bible treats a fetal life as less than a human life."

That suggests no such thing. Let's say Smith and Jones get into a gun fight, and Jones fires a bullet that misses Smith but kills an innocent third party, Flynn. According to U.S. law, we don't charge Jones with first-degree murder but with involuntary manslaughter, which has a lesser

penalty. It hardly follows that the law holds that Flynn's life has less value than the victim of a first-degree murder. The passage from Exodus describes a case of manslaughter, not murder.

Kristof asks, "In any case, why the obsessive focus on abortion today when Christian thought for most of the last two millennia was not deeply concerned with the topic?" The suppositions of this question are mistaken. As David Albert Jones makes clear in his book, *The Soul of the Embryo: An Enquiry into the Status of the Human Embryo in the Christian Tradition*, all Christians (until the late 20th century) held that abortion was seriously wrong.

Kristof is also mistaken that opposition to abortion is an obsessive focus. For example, the Catholic Church opposes abortion, but the church spends enormously more time and energy running hospitals, homeless shelters, schools, and immigrant services in addition to its primary focus on spiritual activities like the Mass and the other sacraments.

It is true that "Abortion was legal in the United States up to the point of quickening (the fetal movements felt in the second trimester) until the 19th century, when states began to ban abortion." The antiquated science of centuries past held that fetal life did not begin until quickening. Evidence now indicates that this view was scientifically mistaken.

For example, on May 4, 2016, Sarah Knapton, the science editor of *The Telegraph*, reported, "Human embryos have been kept alive in a petri dish for an unprecedented 13 days, allowing scientists to finally see what happens in the mysterious days after implantation in the womb." A human embryo cannot be kept alive unless the human embryo is alive.

Abortion of course happens weeks, if not months, after conception. As abortion defender [Judith Jarvis Thomson](#) notes, "By the tenth week, the fetus already has 'a face, arms and legs, fingers and toes; it has internal organs, and brain activity is detectable.'"

Kristof argues, "science also shows that up to half of zygotes never implant and establish a pregnancy, and we don't mourn those zygotes or establish national commissions to improve zygote survival." Some women who miscarry do mourn, but many don't in part because they may not have even realized they were pregnant. We don't establish national commissions to improve the survival of

centenarians, but that hardly shows the oldest among us don't have basic human rights.

Kristof questions, if the aim is to reduce abortions, why not push contraceptives? One answer is that pushing contraception can actually increase unwanted pregnancy. For example, in the [Journal of Health Economics](#), David Paton found "no evidence" that "the provision of family planning reduces either underage conception or abortion rates."

According to Paton, "It is clear that providing more family planning clinics, far from having the effect of reducing conception rates, has actually led to an increase.... The availability of the morning-after pill seems to be encouraging risky behaviour. It appears that if people have access to family planning advice they think they automatically have a lower risk of pregnancy."

Kristof asks, "is it really for outsiders to force the mom to continue with the pregnancy [of a disabled child]?" If you hold that disabled human beings (prenatal or postnatal) have equal basic human rights, then their basic rights should be protected as much as anyone else's. Moreover, this appeal is a red-herring, or a purposeful distraction from the major issue, because 99 percent of abortions are not about disabled prenatal human beings.

Kristof ends with another red-herring that is irrelevant for 99 percent of abortions: abortion to save the life of the mother. The Catholic view, often called double-effect reasoning, is that a doctor can do *any medical procedure necessary* to save the life of the mother, even if it takes the life of the unborn as a side effect, so long as the death of the unborn is not sought as a means or as an end.

For example, a doctor may remove a cancerous uterus of a pregnant woman, accepting as an unfortunate and unintended side-effect the death of the prenatal human being. There is no case in which the doctor needs to intentionally kill a prenatal human being to save the mother's life.

Finally, Kristof accuses pro-life voters of "abortion extremism." Abolitionists were accused of the same thing. Why not compromise? Let half the country have slaves, and the other half be free. If you don't want a slave, then don't own one.

But today, politically speaking, Kristof misidentifies the extremism. One major political party holds that abortion should be funded by the

government, permitted for any reason whatsoever, without any restriction whatsoever, through all nine months of pregnancy. The other major political party opposes most abortions, but makes exceptions for rape, incest, and the life of the mother, and holds that health-care professionals should not be forced to perform abortions against their consciences. Which party is extreme on abortion?

Please begin to think about items for next issue, which will come out over the spring. We need:

- Notices of member’s publications, presentations and other activities,
- Calls for papers and notices of upcoming conferences.
- Citations of relevant significant research in any discipline, whether from a pro-life perspective, neutral, or the opposing perspective.
- Useful online and print resources.
- Reviews of promising prolife publications.

Please submit all contributions for the Spring 2021 issue by April 1st. Any contributions should be sent to provita.editor@gmail.com.

Web Resources for research and education

<i>Life and Learning</i> The Journal of the University Faculty for Life	http://uffl.org/pastproceedings.html
UFFL Blog	http://www.uffl.org/blog/
Americans United for Life	Americans United for Life (aul.org)
Member web pages and blogs	
Please forward any other member’s web pages to provitanews@yahoo.com .	
Beckwith, Francis	http://www.patheos.com/blogs/returntorome/
Bachiochi, Erika	http://bachiochi.com/erika/
Colosi, Peter	http://peterjcolosi.com/
Lemmons, Rose Mary Hayden	http://courseweb.stthomas.edu/rmlemmons/
Smith, Janet E.	http://www.janetesmith.org/

Irving, Diane	Lifeissues.net: Irving Library	
Conferences		
Cardinal O'Connor Conference on Life	http://www.oconnorconference.com/home/	Held in conjunction with the annual March for Life in January.
Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture Fall Conference	http://ethicscenter.nd.edu/programs/fall-conference-videos	Held in November
Prolife World Congress	http://www.prolifeworldcongress.org/	The most recent Congress took place in Guatemala in October 2016. The site is in Spanish.
Online resources		
Academia.edu	https://www.academia.edu/	A place to share research.
Bad Cripple Blog: A Resource for Pro-lifers	http://www.badcripple.blogspot.com	A blog written by William Peace, Ph.D., who advocates for the rights of the disabled.
Before Roe v. Wade: Voices that Shaped the Abortion Debate Before the Supreme Court's Ruling (2d edition, 2012)	http://documents.law.yale.edu/before-roe	"In this ground-breaking book, Linda Greenhouse, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who covered the Supreme Court for 30 years for The New York Times, and Reva Siegel, a renowned professor at Yale Law School, collect documents illustrating cultural, political, and legal forces that helped shape the Supreme Court's decision and the meanings it would come to have over time."
Culture of Life Foundation	http://www.cultureoflife.org/	Complex moral issues made simple
Global Health and Human Rights Database	http://www.globalhealthrights.org/	"The Global Health and Human Rights Database is a free online database of law from around the world relating to health and human rights. Developed by Lawyers Collective and the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University, in collaboration with a worldwide

		network of civil society partners, the database offers an interactive, searchable, and fully indexed website of case law, national constitutions and international instruments.”
Human Life International Truth and Charity	http://www.truthandcharityforum.org/	“The <i>Truth and Charity Forum</i> is an online publication of Human Life International (HLI), dedicated exclusively to the sacredness and gift of all human life, the mission and vocation of the family, and the right to live in accord with our Catholic faith.”
LifeIssues	LifeIssues.net: Clear thinking about crucial issues.	Updated daily with articles to provide “clear thinking about crucial issues.”
Mirror of Justice	http://mirrorofjustice.blogs.com/	A blog dedicated to the development of Catholic legal theory.
Social Science Research Network (SSRN)	http://ssrn.com/en/	SSRN (the Social Science Research Network). “Our vision was (and still is) to enable scholars to share and distribute their research worldwide, long before their papers work their way through the multi-year journal refereeing and publication process.”
USCCB Human Life and Dignity web page	http://usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/index.cfm	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Witherspoon Institute Public Discourse	http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/	Public Discourse is an online publication of the Witherspoon Institute that seeks to enhance the public understanding of the moral foundations of free societies by making the scholarship of the fellows and affiliated scholars of the Institute available and accessible to a general audience.
World Expert Consortium for Abortion Research and Education	http://www.wecareexperts.org/	International research collaboration, Scientific information dissemination, Professional education, Consultation, Expert testimony, Program evaluation, Grant writing

Journals and online publications

Charlotte Lozier Institute (Susan B. Anthony List)	http://www.lozierinstitute.org/	The education and research arm of the Susan B. Anthony List
Ethika Politika	http://ethikapolitika.org/	Ethika Politika is a publication of the Center for Morality in Public Life. Its purpose is to put the search for wisdom at the service of good practical decisions, and to engage contemporary ethical and cultural issues from an elevated yet common sense perspective.
Human Life Review	http://www.humanlifereview.com/	
Linacre Quarterly	http://cathmed.org/issues_resources/linacre_quarterly/	Journal of the Catholic Medical Association.
Post-Abortion Review	http://www.theunchoice.com/pblresearch.htm	“Documents abortion's injustice and harm to women”

Organizations

Bioethics defense fund	http://www.bdfund.org/	<p>Bioethics Defense Fund (BDF) is a public-interest law firm whose mission is to advocate for the human right to life via litigation, legislation and public education.</p> <p>BDF provides legal expertise and public education on the issues of healthcare rights of conscience, abortion and its impact on women, human cloning/destructive human embryo research, and end of life issues including physician-assisted suicide and healthcare rationing.</p>
Catholic Medical Association	http://cathmed.org/	
Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity	http://cbhd.org/	“The Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity explores the nexus of biomedicine, biotechnology, and our common humanity. Within a Judeo-Christian Hippocratic framework, we

		anticipate, interpret, and engage the pressing bioethical issues of our day. As a center of rigorous research, theological and conceptual analysis, charitable critique, and thoughtful engagement, we bring clarity to the complex issues of our day.”
Feminists for Life	http://www.feministsforlife.org/	
Healing the Culture	http://healingtheculture.com/	Promotes the Life Principles of UFFL co-founder Robert J. Spitzer, SJ.
The International Center on Law, Life, Faith and Family (ICOLF)	http://icolf.org/	“The International Center on Law, Life, Faith and Family (ICOLF) was established with a view to producing, compiling and providing a broad range of resources and materials for a number of interested parties working on “Law, life, faith and family” issues on the national, regional and international levels.”
National Catholic Bioethics Center	http://www.ncbcenter.org/	Publishes the <i>National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly</i>
Prolife Center at the University of St. Thomas	http://www.stthomas.edu/law/academics/prolifecenter/	Founded and headed by UFFL member Teresa Collett to defend the sanctity of human life by training law students and lawyers, by assisting government officials in drafting, passing and defending prolife laws, and developing the necessary legal scholarship necessary to create a culture of life.
Society of Catholic Social Scientists	http://catholicsocialscientists.org/Content/Organization/	
Women Deserve Better	http://www.womendeservebetter.com/	
News		
Bioedge	http://www.bioedge.org/	Bioethics News around the world

National Right to Life News	http://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/news/#.Sp5dWSo	
LifeNews.com	http://www.lifenews.com/	
LifeSiteNews	http://www.lifesitenews.com/	
Anti-life resources		
Guttmacher Institute	http://www.guttmacher.org/	Research arm of Planned Parenthood Federation. Guttmacher Policy Review Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health . International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health
RH Reality Check	http://rhrealitycheck.org/	Reproductive and Sexual Health and Justice News, Analysis and Commentary

Masthead

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