

Since 1973, approximately

50,000,000

abortions have been reported in the
United States

**Taking Away a Man's Role in the Abortion Decision:
Planned Parenthood of Missouri vs Danforth (1976)**

In 1976, two Missouri abortion physicians filed a court case challenging the Missouri statutes which required a married woman to have the written consent of her husband in order to have an abortion. The case went to the U.S. Supreme Court which ruled in favor of the abortion physicians and thus removed the ability of men to be involved in the legal decision making for their wives' or girlfriends' abortions. (www.law.cornell.edu)

What about a father's involvement in his daughter's decision to seek an abortion?

Only 22 states (Florida is not one of them) require minors to have parental consent before obtaining an abortion and only 2 of those states (Mississippi and North Dakota) require both parents' consent. (Guttmacher Institute, 2008)

**Review of Empirical Reports Concerning the
Impact of Abortion on Men**

Post-abortion emotions among men included:



sadness (85%)
depression (47%)
anger (33%)
fear (37%)
guilt (22%)
failure (26%)
isolation (20%)
withdrawn (32%)

Somatic symptoms such as crying (50%), irritability (38%), and loss of concentration (41%) were reported by men. Relationship difficulties were most likely to occur between 3 and 6 months post-abortion.

(Catherine T. Coyle RN, Ph.D. *Internet Journal of Medical Health*, 2007)

What can you do?

- ◆ **Join or Support the Respect Life/Social Concerns Committee in Your Parish**
- ◆ **Start or Support a Gabriel Project in Your Parish**
- ◆ **Meet With Your Legislators as a Constituent, Communicating the Catholic Church Position on Life Issues**
- ◆ **Support Local Pregnancy Centers by Donating Your Time, Talents, and Treasure**
- ◆ **Tell Others about Project Rachel, a Post-Abortion Reconciliation/Counseling Program (Toll Free 877-908-1212)**
- ◆ **Pray for Those Who Have Been Involved in an Abortion**
- ◆ **Pray for the Life of Every Unborn Child and Their Parents**

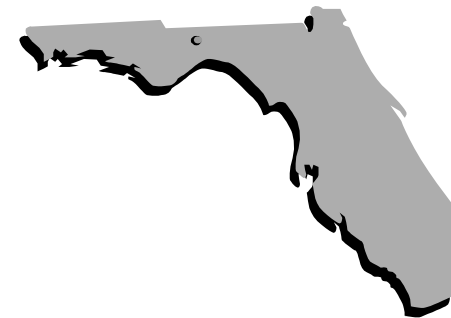
“From the first moment of existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person— among which is the inviolable right of every innocent human being to life.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition, 2270

Culture of Life Series

**Florida Catholic Conference
201 W. Park Avenue
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
Phone: 850-222-3803
Website: www.flacathconf.org**

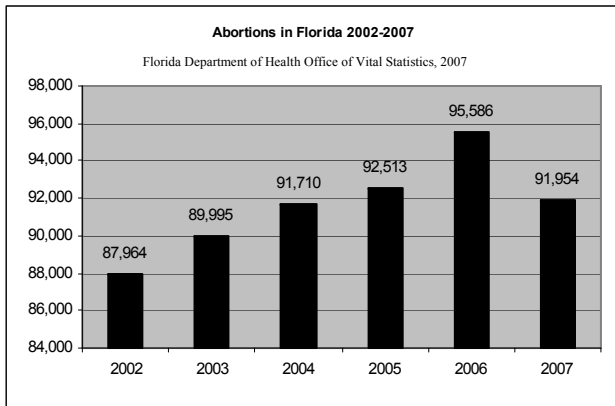
Abortion: A Devastating Choice for Both Sexes



Florida

October 2008

Abortion is linked to...



Is an Embryo a Whole and Complete Human Person?



The Scientific Viewpoint:

“Virtually every human embryologist and every major textbook of human embryology states that fertilization marks the beginning of the life of a new individual human being.” (C. Ward Kischer Ph.D. *American Bioethics Advisory Commission*)

“At the moment of conception, a unique genetic and personal constitution is spelled out for the specific human being created, whose personal constitution has not occurred before and will never occur again. The zygote is the most specialized cell under the sun in that no other cell will ever have the same instructions in the life of the individual being created...The new findings prove differentiation and from the very beginning there exists an embryo. As soon as he has been conceived, a man is a man.” (Jerome LeJeune, M.D., Ph.D., *Rene Descartes University of Paris Faculty of Medicine, died 1994*)

“Before a sperm penetrates an ovum, these two cells are clearly individual cells and are parts of the bodies of the man and woman respectively. They are not whole body cells as is the zygote cell which they crucially help to cause. The zygote is a single cell that is a whole body in itself. From within it, all the rest of the individual comes to exist.” (Robert E. Joyce Ph.D., *Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, St. John's University*)

Mental Health Problems

“42% of women with a history of abortion had experienced major depression in the last four years (nearly double the rate of women who had not been pregnant and 35% higher than those who carried to term.” (Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, 2006)

Substance Abuse

“Among women delivering their first pregnancy, women with a history of abortion are five times more likely to use illicit drugs and two times more likely to use alcohol during their pregnancies. This substance use places their unborn children at risk of birth defects, low birth weight, and death.”

(American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, December 2002)

Higher Rates of Child Abuse

“...the link between abortion and child abuse may be influenced by a number of key factors, including “unresolved grief” which “may negatively impact parental responsiveness to child needs, trigger anger, which is a component of grief, and/or increase parental anxiety regarding child well-being.” - Priscilla Coleman,

(Bowling Green State University Elliot Institute, March 2007)

Suicide

“Compared to women who give birth, women who abort have an elevated risk of death from all causes which persists for at least eight years. Higher risk of death from suicide and accidents were most prominent. Projected on the national population this effect may contribute to 2,000-5,000 more deaths among women each year.”

(Southern Medical Journal, 2002)

Fertility Complications

“Researchers in the U.K. surveyed women ages 18-55 about their reproductive histories, lifestyles, and relationships and found that women who had a previous abortion were at a 60% higher risk of miscarriage during a subsequent pregnancy”

(BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, 2006)

Divorce

“...The cumulative effect of these marriage failures is that, by their late thirties, only a minority (37%) of women who have had abortions remain in their first marriage, compared to over 56% of women who have not had abortions.” - Donald Paul Sullins

(Department of Sociology, Catholic U. of America, 2003)

Breast Cancer

“The later in pregnancy an abortion is done, the higher the risk of breast cancer... induced abortion leaves a woman with more places for breast cancer to start” and data shows “there is a 3% increase in breast cancer risk for each week of gestation before the abortion.”

(Breast Cancer Prevention Institute, February 2007)

“The Problem of “Choice”

Research has found that 64% of American women having abortions report they did so because of pressure to abort from others: boyfriends, husbands, parents, employers, or counselors. Most also reported that they were not given adequate counseling or time to make a decision, with many reporting that they received no counseling at all. Many women expressed a desire to keep their child if their circumstances were better or with meaningful support from those around them. (*Medical Science Monitor, 2004*)

What does the Church say about abortion?

“As far as abortion is concerned, it's part of the fifth, not the sixth, commandment: "Thou shalt not kill!" We have to presume this is obvious and always stress that the human person begins in the mother's womb and remains a human person until his or her last breath. The human person must always be respected as a human person.”

(Benedict XVI, German Television Interview, 8/5/06)

“Today, in many people's consciences, the perception of its (abortion) gravity has become progressively obscured. The acceptance of abortion in the popular mind, in behavior and even law itself, is a telling sign of an extremely dangerous crisis of the moral sense, which is becoming more and more incapable of distinguishing between good and evil... Given such a grave situation, we need now more than ever to have courage to look truth in the eye and call things by their proper name, without yielding to convenient compromises or to the temptation of self deception”

(John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae, March 1995)

The Alarming Medical Risks of Abortion for Women

- ◆ **Heavy Bleeding**-common effect from RU-486 (chemical) abortions as well as surgical abortion
- ◆ **Pelvic infection**-result of medical instruments being inserted in the uterus or fetal parts accidentally left in the uterus after abortion procedure
- ◆ **Perforation of Uterus**-result of abortion physicians using abortion instruments in the uterus “blind” (simply by tactile feel). Can necessitate hysterectomy and cause damage to other organs
- ◆ **Death**-a very rare but recurring abortion complication. Can be from infection and sepsis, internal bleeding, or even fatal reaction from anesthesia
(*Detrimental Effects of Abortion: An Annotated Bibliography with Commentary. 3rd Edition, 2001*)