India has joined China and several other Asian countries in having outrageous numbers of sex selection abortions. ABC News recently aired a story on the practice of sex-selective abortions in India. It is estimated that 50 thousand girls are aborted every month. And thousands more are killed after they are born. According to ABC News, “Since 1980 an estimated 40 million girls are missing though sex-selective abortion, neglect, or murder.”

These numbers caused reporter Elizabeth Vargas to travel to India to learn the details. Once there, she was greeted with the sight of a mostly male population. “Everywhere we looked, we saw boys, young men, old men, but very, very few women. It was unsettling, especially because we knew this was not some freak of nature, but a result of the deliberate extermination of girls.”

Though the use of ultrasound technology many women can learn the gender of their baby before birth. If the woman is carrying a boy there is cause for celebration, but if she is carrying a girl, she is often pressured to abort the baby. Even though it is illegal in India to use ultrasounds to determine gender, it is a law that is largely ignored. The same is true for the law against sex-selective abortions.

The main reason so many Indian families prefer sons to daughters is because of the cultural tradition of the dowry. The expense dowries required to marry off their daughters can put many Indian families in debt, whereas a son will bring money to his family. And paying too small of a dowry is not an option for a family that loves their daughter. If the dowry is not paid or is too small, it is often an excuse for mistreating of the girl after she is married.

This systematic elimination of Indian girls is creating an alarming gender gap. And although many Indian families are aware of the problem and see the need for girls, they all but rather it be another family that actually raises them.

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Summer 2012

More News

India’s Missing Girls

India has joined China and several other Asian countries in having outrageous numbers of sex selection abortions. In a landmark vote, a solid majority of the U.S. House of Representatives voted to reject the current abortion policy of the District of Columbia, which permits legal abortion for any reason until birth, and to replace it with a law that would generally prevent abortion after 20 weeks fetal age.

The legislation is the District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (H.R. 3803). The vote was 220-154 in favor of the bill – a strong majority (a 66 vote margin). The bill failed because it was short of the two-thirds vote required under the fast-track procedure utilized (“suspension of the rules”).

Today’s ground-breaking majority vote constitutes a giant step towards this bill ultimately becoming law – perhaps after the replacement of some of the lawmakers who today were unwilling to protect pain-capable unborn children in the sixth month of pregnancy and later,” said Douglas Johnson, legislative director for National Right to Life. “154 House members will have to explain to their constituents why they voted to endorse a policy of legal abortion for any reason, until the moment of birth, in their nation’s capital. H.R. 3803 contains findings that by 20 weeks after fertilization (if not earlier), the unborn child has the capacity to experience great pain. (This is equivalent to 22 weeks in the alternate “LMP” or “weeks of pregnancy” dating system used by gyns and abortion providers.) The bill prohibits abortion after that point, except when an acute physical condition endangers the life of the mother. Nine states have already enacted abortion limitations based on the pain suffered by unborn children; no court orders have blocked enforcement of any of those laws.

Supreme Court Upholds ObamaCare Decision Attacks Religious Freedom, Mandates Abortion and Health Care

On June 28th the U.S. Supreme Court upheld ObamaCare by a 5-4 vote. The decision will allow the HHS mandates to continue to attack religious freedom and individual consciences and will lead to pro-abortion regulations and health care rationing that will deny life saving medical treatment and prevent individuals from using their own money to pay for life saving services.

Under the enacted law, federal tax-based subsidies will begin in 2014 to subsidize millions of private insurance plans that will cover abortion-on-demand, including some plans (“multi-state plans”) that will be administered by the federal government. Under another provision of the law, the federal government could even order many plans that will receive federal subsidies to cover abortion as a “preventive” service. The law also created an array of other mechanisms and funding pipelines by which access to and subsidies for abortion can be expanded. Unless repealed, ObamaCare will give federal bureaucrats the power to impose so-called “quality” measures on health care providers, under which treatment that a doctor and patient deem needed to save that patient’s life or preserve the patient’s health but which runs afoul of the imposed standards will be denied, even if the patient is willing and able to pay for it. In 2015 and thereafter, an 18-member “Independent Payment Advisory Board” is directed to inform the federal Department of Health and Human Services how to use those imposed standards to limit what private citizens are permitted to spend on their own families’ health care to below the rate of medical inflation. This is the most serious threat the pro-life movement and faith based organizations have faced in our lifetime. Its anti-life threats are real and immediate.

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In direct response to ObamaCare’s HHS mandates requiring compliance with health care regulations that violate private consciences and religious principles, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops organized a two week prayer and educational project to activate the laity on this critical issue.

The Fortnight for Freedom began on June 21st and culminated with a mass at Washington’s Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception attended by almost 5,000 on July 4th. Most dioceses nationwide included local events to stress religious freedom during the two-week period, from special prayers and liturgies to processions, educational forums, and picnics.

The homily at the Shrine was delivered by Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia. Archbishop Chaput explained “Here’s what that means for each of us: We live in a time that calls for sentinels and public witness. Every Christian in every era faces the same task. But you and I are responsible for this moment. Today. We need to “speak out,” not only for religious liberty and the ideals of the nation we love, but for the sacredness of life and the dignity of the human person – in other words, for the truth of what it means to be made in the image and likeness of God.”

The Fortnight for Freedom did not end on July 4th. Promoters say it’s just the beginning of an effort that will go on until religious liberty is restored.
October 14 – A probing question for those on the sidelines of the pro-life struggle: Can the Christian, who declares that the human person is called to the very heights of heaven, stand idly by when those same human beings are thrown in the garbage by abortion, or disposed of by euthanasia? (Father Frank Pavone)

December 2 – The Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare) provides free genetic testing during pregnancy for conditions that cannot be treated or prevented. But this new policy will expose more unborn children to abortion as government-funded genetic testing provides an increasing number of parents the opportunity to abort children with disabilities. (Pro-Life Reporter, Spring, 2012)

December 9 – For a growing love of God’s little ones, in the womb, in the nursing home or at death’s door, we pray

October 18 – All those who hold public office that they may seek the wisdom of God in matters affecting human life, we pray

November 18 – Planned Parenthood Federation of America is the largest abortion provider in the country. It has an annual budget of more than $1 billion. Roughly 46% of that comes from the federal, state and local health service grants. The first company to prove to inject embryonic stem cells into a few patients gave up on their trial and shut down all their embryonic stem cell research. Adult stem cells remain the only type of stem cell used successfully to treat human patients. (David A. Prentice Ph.D in NRL News, 5/12)

November 25 – Most Americans assume that sex selection abortions are a problem only in Eastern cultures. Yet, recent Planned Parenthood statements and annual reports fail to mention the fact that 1 in 3 women who abort does so to avoid a child of the wrong sex. This is a major reason why women in America abort, and because of the belief that God created man and woman equally, it is a sin to choose one sex over the other.

October 17 – The late Rev. Richard J. Neuhaus wrote words appropriate for Respect Life Sunday: “We contend, and we contend relentlessly for the dignity of the human person, of every human person, no matter how weak or strong, no matter how young or old, no matter how productive or how burdensome, no matter who or what he or she is.” (First Things, Summer, 2008)

December 9 – As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, there are government depictions of Mary with her just born child resting in the manger. Contrast this with a widely circulated photo of a young Chinese woman and her dead unborn child beside her in the hospital. Contrast their depiction of a government-sanctioned, forced abortion. What a graphic photo of the reality of abortion, a desolate mother and a dead infant.

December 16 – A recent article in the Journal of Medical Ethics (March, 2012) argues for euthanasia for newborns with disabilities based on the Italian and Australian scientists’ belief that these children are “morally inferior” and “biologically fact is that human embryos are human beings in the embryonic stage of development. We were once an embryo, and so were you, the reader of this post. Destroying embryos, abortion thereby reduces the number of potentially greater risk than the general population and that the possibilities to do it earlier.” The test is known as MaterniT21, sadly ironic in that it allows women the option of terminating their pregnancy (as a majority of women do), it’s better

October 14 – As we go to the polls, we may choose candidates who respect religious liberty and all life, born and unborn, we pray.

November 25 – For women who have had abortions, that they may turn to a loving God for healing and forgiveness, we pray

September 23 – That those persecuted for their pro-life beliefs may always respect the right to life of those they serve, we pray

November 11 – Despite the fact that embryonic stem cells continue to receive the majority of news coverage, they remain the least likely stem cells to help patients despite the millions of dollars spent on genetic research. The test is known as MaterniT21, sadly ironic in that it allows women the option of terminating their pregnancy (as a majority of women do), it’s better

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October 28 – Young people, in particular, are now casting a critical eye on the nature of abortion, maybe asking themselves if they were once considered a choice rather than a person.” (Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, CT, 1/21/12)

August 19 – For all those who hold public office that they may seek the wisdom of God in matters affecting human life, we pray

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February 28 – That God may remove the blindness of those who support and promote abortion, we pray

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October 21 – Dr. Colleen Malloy, testifying before a House Subcommittee on the Unborn Child Protection Act for the District of Columbia, asserted that medical and scientific findings show that the unborn child at 20 weeks and beyond is capable of feeling pain, and may even be more sensitive to pain at that point than newborns are. The bill passed the House with 220 voting in favor and 154 against. In spite of having a 66 vote margin, a special House rule it needed a two thirds margin in order to pass.

September 23 – Oregon was the first state to legalize assisted suicide. An article analyzing the Oregon data, published in the Journal of Medical Ethics, explains that the elderly are at greater risk than the general population and that the possibilities to do it earlier.” The test is known as MaterniT21, sadly ironic in

September 9 – Responding to a reader who asked what she should do with extra embryos resulting from in vitro fertilization, “Dear Abby” provided this straightforward answer: “The biological fact is that embryos are human beings in the embryonic stage of development. We were once an embryo, and so were you, the reader of this post. Destroying embryos, abortion thereby reduces the number of potentially

September 16 – There is a new blood test that allows the mother to know earlier in her pregnancy (perhaps as soon as 10 weeks) that her child may have Down syndrome. The test is hailed as a breakthrough because “if a couple finds an abnormality and chooses to terminate the pregnancy (as a majority of women do), it’s better to do it earlier.”

December 16 – An article in Life Site News (1/11/12) contains the following observation by a British physician: “This year we have had several studies of selective reduction, an ethically dubious practice, are not ethical options. Those practices treat intrinsically valuable members of the human family as mere raw material to discard or disect in order to harvest useful parts.

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October 14 – For those who counsel pregnant women may always advise them to “choose life,” we pray

December 2 – That God may remove the blindness of those who support and promote abortion, we pray

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