

PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

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Companies That Sold Aborted Baby Parts Must Close

In what is the first successful prosecution in the scandal involving the sale of aborted baby parts, two companies that sold aborted baby parts for Planned Parenthood have been forced to close down. The two California-based companies reached a settlement of almost \$8 million dollars with the Orange County District Attorney's office. According to the settlement, DV Biologics LLC and sister company DaVinci Biosciences LLC, both based in Yorba Linda, must cease all operations in California within 60 to 120 days. The agreement also requires that the companies admit liability for violations of state and federal laws prohibiting the sale or purchase of fetal tissue for research purposes. According to the lawsuit, the companies almost tripled their sales revenue between 2009 and 2011 after they expanded to offer aborted babies' body parts and stem cells. The DA's office said the companies sold the human tissue to pharmaceutical companies and academic institutions across the world.

LifeNews.com, 12/9/17

Adult Stem Cells Cure Horrible Skin Condition

A young boy in Germany has literally had his skin—and his life—saved through the use of genetically engineered adult stem cells. The boy had been suffering from a severe and often lethal condition called junctional epidermolysis bullosa that leaves skin cells unable to interconnect and maintain epidermal integrity. The skin blisters and falls off, and the slightest touch or abrasion can leave a patch of skin gone and a painful, difficult-to-heal wound behind. But within six months of beginning the new therapy, the boy was back in school. His skin has remained healthy and completely blister-free. According to the published reports now 21 months after the boy's transplant, he loves to show off his "new skin" and is enjoying school, playing soccer, and being a normal kid. The research has also taught scientists much about the possibilities of using adult stem cells in combination with gene therapy for treatment of diseases.

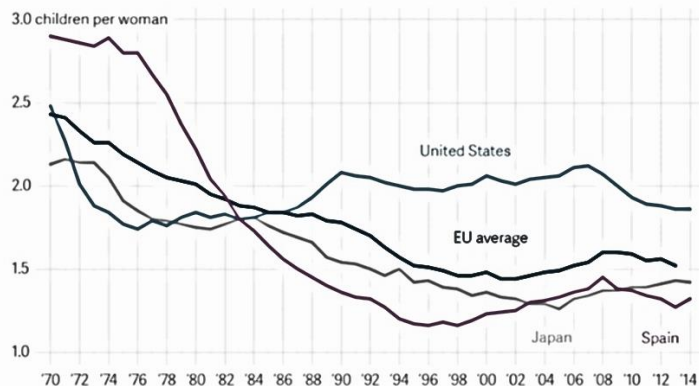
nature.com, 11/17/17

Pope Warns Of Deepening 'Demographic Winter'

In his homily during morning Mass at Casa Santa Marta, the pontiff drew sharp contrasts between *chosen* childlessness and openness to new life. Pointing to the Old Testament, Francis noted children were considered a blessing and childlessness a curse. But today, the pontiff observed, a corrosive mindset has taken hold of societies across the world: the notion that barrenness is a benefit—even virtuous. Many couples are choosing childlessness to maintain their own "economic well-being." The endpoint of this self-absorption, the pope said, is "countries empty of children." Having "chosen the path of sterility," they "suffer from that grave disease ... a demographic winter." Francis' warning comes at a time of imploding fertility rates around the world. A stable population—neither increasing nor decreasing—requires an average of 2.1 children per woman (the "replacement level"). Of the European Union's 28 member states, not one has a birthrate at the replacement level. Generally, the countries with the lowest fertility rates are predominately Catholic: Portugal, Spain, Italy, and Ireland. Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Iran and Russia are all at a sub-replacement level, while the world's lowest fertility rates are found in the developed areas of East and Southeast Asia: Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan. In 2016, the United States registered the lowest rate of population growth since the Great Depression. "[The devil](http://TheDevil.com) wants infertility," the pontiff declared. "He does not want us to give life, be it physical or spiritual, to others."

ChurchMilitant.com, 12/20/17

Average fertility rates



Free Speech Wins in California

Last spring, Students-for-Life president Bernadette Tasy at Fresno State University caught a college professor ON VIDEO personally (and angrily!) erasing her group's pro-life chalk displays, one of which read "you can be pregnant & successful," and instructing his students to help him! Even after stating she had permission from the university for her chalk display, Dr. Thatcher—a public health professor—proceeded to give her a stern lecture on "free speech zones" (which the university eliminated two years earlier) and then destroyed her group's hard work. As a result of a district court settlement with Alliance Defending Freedom, Dr. Thatcher has been ordered to undergo First Amendment training and pay \$17,000. While the public school professor's action was blatant and shocking, this incident is far from the first time pro-life groups have had to overcome this kind of outright censorship.

[Students for Life](#), 11/9/17

US Bishops Engage 'Transgender Moment' With Truth and Charity

Four prominent U.S. bishops joined leaders of other Christian traditions in publicly reaffirming the inherent beauty and reality of each person's God-given sexuality. In an open letter titled, [Created Male and Female](#), released 12/15/17 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Church leaders spelled out the harmful elements of gender ideology, which denies both the innateness of biological sex and the intrinsic link between gender and sex. The authors urged members of their faith communities to respond with compassion, mercy and honesty to those struggling with their sexual identity. "We hope for a renewed appreciation of the beauty of sexual difference in our culture and for authentic support of those who experience conflict with their God-given sexual identity," read the letter, whose authors included Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky; Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia; Bishop James Conley of Lincoln, Nebraska; and Bishop Joseph Bambera of Scranton, Pennsylvania—all USCCB committee chairmen.

NCR, 12/28/17

Breast Cancer Linked to Contraceptives

A study published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* confirmed that hormonal contraceptives, including birth control pills and IUDs containing hormones, increase women's risk for breast cancer. The study found that the risk factor increased 9 percent during the first year of use, 20 percent after five years, and 38 percent after 10 years of use. These are the pills Planned Parenthood distributes to our teens.

[nejm.org](#), 12/7/17



PROJECT MUSTARD SEED

The letter recipient for this month is:

BIKRAM YOGA

Operations: education (yoga), personal care (yoga).

Please write to:

Mr. Bikram Choudhury, Chairman & CEO
Bikram Yoga College of India, Inc.
11500 W. Olympic Blvd. Ste. 150
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Tell him to stop
funding
Planned
Parenthood

<https://www.bikramyoga.com/>

Bikram Yoga has been on the Boycott List since 2012 and we last wrote to them in September 2012.

PP Footprint Decreasing

This week, the American Life League released the [2017 Planned Parenthood Facilities Report](#). This report shows that Planned Parenthood (PP) now operates less than 600 abortion clinics in the U.S. after 32 clinics closed and only five opened in 2017. PP operates 597 facilities now compared to 700 facilities in 1973. The organization ran 938 clinics in 1995 when PP was at its peak, but has closed 36 percent (341) of its clinics since 1995. Today, PP has 356 facilities that commit surgical or medical abortions. All 597 PP facilities, however, distribute abortion-inducing drugs.

[Wednesday STOPP Report](#) 12/15/17

Pam Tebow to Headline 2018 March-for-Life

In less than a month, hundreds of thousands of Americans are set to travel from across the nation to D.C. for this year's March-for-Life, the world's largest annual pro-life demonstration promoting the dignity of every human life and taking a stand against the greatest human rights violation of our time—abortion-on-demand. This year's theme is 'Love Saves Lives.' Pam Tebow, mother of Christian sports star Tim Tebow, will headline the March-for-Life Rose Dinner. She is best known for courageously refusing an abortion when a doctor suggested she have one during her pregnancy with Tim. Both Pam and her son Tim eventually starred in a Super Bowl commercial for Focus-on-the-Family to accentuate the value and appreciation of human life.

[LifeNews.com](#), [MarchForLife.org](#), 12/20/17