PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIALS

Annotated List of Selected Primary Source Materials from an Anti-Choice Perspective

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This article, which became controversial in Catholic circles, includes a theological and sociological history of Judaism in highly condensed form. Clowes claims that the leadership of the American pro-choice movement is made up of Jews who have fallen away from their faith, since followers of traditional Jewish law would not in conscience support another holocaust. Supported by several Jewish organizations, such leaders as Betty Friedan, Alan Guttmacher, Gloria Steinem and Paul Ehrlich deserve to be criticized for renouncing their Jewish ethic. “Those ‘Jews’ who have led the charge for abortion in this country have no more claim to the Jewish faith than pro-abortion ‘Catholics’ like Ted Kennedy, Frances Kissling, and Mario Cuomo have any claim to the Catholic faith…. In opposing [pro-choice Jews], pro-lifers need not be afraid of opposing real Jews or Judaism.”


This profile of Guy Condon, the former head of Americans United for Life and current President of Care Net, a crisis pregnancy ministry, showcases his approach to pro-life activity. Condon believes that when women seek abortions, it’s because they are “hungering for something more. That’s probably why they got involved in a sexual relationship outside of marriage.” Condon has also focused on the hundreds of thousands of men involved in their partner’s abortions in an article called “Fatherhood Aborted” where he appeals to a Christian man’s sense of guilt in agreeing to an act that “cashed out the life of one of his children….He knows that—without the grace of God—killing a child requires the death penalty, a life for a life.” Care Net is a national network of over 500 member crisis pregnancy centers, but it encourages local churches and other pro-life groups to raise their own funds to place its billboard with its national 800 referral number in their area.
This entire issue of the Family Research Council’s magazine contains articles that illustrate the perspective on contraception of its parent organization, James Dobson’s Focus of the Family. Five authors examine such topics as “The Empty Promise of Contraception,” a book review on the history of the Pill, “The Medical Downside of Unfettered Sexuality,” an article about Martin Luther’s opposition to contraception and the backsliding of modern Christian denominations, and “The Deconstruction of Perversion: Paraphilias [people who practice “bizarre sexual acts”] Come Out of the Closet.” Together these articles convey the message that the sexual revolution is pervasive and that contraception has made the situation worse. Contraception has succeeded in separating the idea of sex from procreation in the minds of Americans. “[S]ex is now considered a constitutional right….Consequently, legal, religious, and social conventions that seek to maintain traditional sexual norms are perceived as limitations of that right…. Other analyses of the trends in sexual behavior include: “While illegitimacy, abortion, adultery, and divorce constitute the first wave of the contraceptive culture, homosexuality, pedophilia, ‘consensual’ incest, necrophilia, and bestiality may be the next.”


Directed at a female audience, this article chronicles Kelly’s own experience with abortion, including her conflicting feelings, a subsequent religious experience in a pizza parlor and the influence of Barnard Nathanson’s Aborting America on her decision to speak out on behalf of the unborn. She claims the lack of compassion she experienced during her abortion was the result of the abortion facility’s focus on profit, and she cautions readers to beware of the inevitable emotional toll of an abortion. “…[S]pare yourself the serious post-traumatic stress disorders that will eventually follow your abortion. You start rationalizing your abortion the minute the suction machine turns on; that’s the point of no return. It usually takes five to nine years before the regret really hits you.”
This refutation of arguments for abortion is presented as a conversation between two women, one pregnant (A), one anti-choice (B). In each image, the pregnant woman is crying, her visible fetus is crying, “Help,” while she voices a reason to have an abortion. Her companion presents a different response to each comment. The booklet was designed to be used as a training manual for students who want to be pro-life activists. Some of the interchanges are:

A: “A woman is the one most affected by abortion, so it should be her decision.”
B: “The mother is not the one most affected by abortion. The child loses her life!”
A: “Abortion should be legal so that women have the right to control their reproductive lives.”
B: “Women have the right to control their reproductive lives by avoiding pregnancy. You want the right to kill your unborn child.”
A: “Don’t try to impose your religious values on society.”
B: “Leave religion out of it—abortion should be a crime because it is the killing of human life.”


Vincent attacks the business of procuring fetal body parts from abortion facilities for fetal tissue research. She describes the results of an investigation by Mark Crutcher’s Life Dynamics, Inc. in 1998 as “grim, hard-copy evidence of the cross-country flow of baby body parts.” In fact the article begins with the warning, “This story contains some graphic detail.” She highlights the position of pro-life bioethicists, that such activity represents “the nadir-bound plummet of respect for human life—and the ascendancy of death for profit.” Her investigation includes a critical look at the Southern Baptist owners of one of the companies that provides fetal tissue to medical researchers, suggesting that their Christian faith should have prevented them from engaging in such activity, “the exploitation of pre-born children.”

In this issue of Focus on the Family’s magazine for teachers, veteran pro-life educator John Willke’s article is introduced with the blurb, “Do you think it’s ridiculous that teenagers must be sheltered from pro-life views? So does the Supreme Court.” According to Willke, the 1992 Supreme Court decision Planned Parenthood v. Casey opened the door to the possibility that pro-life ideas can be taught in school. Quoting James Bopp, the lawyer for National Right to Life, “Public schools can now offer strong pro-life curricula. Unfortunately leaders in education do not understand this…nor do pro-lifers.” Willke highlights a Florida group, Freedom to Learn, which runs a public education campaign on the Casey decision and an interpretation of its implications on public education. “If we use the Casey decision properly,” says Willke, “we can end this generation of censorship.”

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