

Morality Forum Update

Standing up for family values in society

Issue 78

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UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION HOSTS WORLDWIDE VIRTUAL ‘RALLY OF HOPE’

By John O’Neill

On August 8th, a virtual *Peace Rally of Hope* was held in South Korea. The event featured former heads of state, prime ministers, religious leaders, and representatives of all sectors of society throughout the world. Between 90 and 100 million people watched the event.

The following excerpts are from the keynote speech given by the co-founder of The Universal Peace Federation, *Rev. Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon: History has continuously been marked by wars because human beings fell away from God. How important it is to see a community of all people, one family of humankind. If Heavenly Parent is at the centre of a community of people united under the values of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values, all problems will be solved. Our earthly lives are limited. The urgent priority should be: how can I and my family live a life that aligns with our eternal life?* Dr Moon mentioned about the seriousness of the Covid-19 pandemic, and, *how does God our Creator feel as our parent as he watches his or her children die. The time has come for us all to kneel and offer prayers of repentance and compassion before Heaven. To become people of filial heart characterised by loyalty and devotion to Heaven, and to inspire the people and nations of the*

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GENERAL IMPORTANT NEWS

AMAZING: 40 Days for Life Spring 2020 campaign results in 484 babies saved



By Nancy Flanders - April 8, 2020

Update 4/23/2020: 40 Days for Life has announced the new total of preborn babies saved from abortion during the Spring 2020 campaign, along with other promising numbers. Overall, 484 babies were saved from abortion, 10 more abortion workers quit their jobs and became pro-life, and the total number of abortion facilities to

close following a 40 Days for Life vigil is now 107. It was “with a heavy heart” that Shawn Carney, President and CEO of 40 Days for Life, “decided to end the public vigil portion of the spring 40 Days for Life campaign” and asked volunteers to “unite in prayer, fasting, and spiritual union to pray for an end to abortion and this pandemic.” Even with this major decision to halt in-person prayer, volunteers were able to save precious lives.

On day two of the campaign, the first confirmed report of a baby saved was announced in El Paso, Texas. A young couple exited the Hill Top abortion business and spoke to two of the 40 Days for Life volunteers. That conversation helped the couple choose life for their child. Just a few days later, in Richmond, Virginia, a new 40 Days for Life vigil leader named Savannah spoke with a young woman who had just received a positive pregnancy test at Planned Parenthood. That

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Pastor Paula White speaking at the Peace Rally

world on the importance of attending our Heavenly Parent. Dr Moon also highlighted the seriousness of climate change, and the vital importance of God-centred marriages, and living for the sake of others.

Pastor Paula White the spiritual adviser to President Donald Trump was also one of the speakers. The

following excerpts are taken from Pastor White's speech. *There is one word that has great meaning for us all and that is the word family. Family is the root of everything we are. Family is what binds us together and is the cornerstone for world peace. God is the author of peace. True peace cannot exist without God. God's word promises that he will keep us in perfect peace if we keep our focus on him. We are the family of God, the church, we are called to bring healing to the nations, especially during difficult times. We are positioned to be used as we are walking in "his peace and confidence" as his leaders. Covid-19 is a great trial, but if we turn to God we will overcome and prosper. It is vital that we are respectful and cooperate among all nations. This is crucial. May we bear with one another and make allowances out of love, which comes from you God. Faith leaders are key to bring Heaven's wisdom and insights to the heads of state and elected officials. Jesus said blessed are the peacemakers for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. We are accountable to God and each other as members of his household. Chronicles 7:14 reminds us: "if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." For God, we can be certain in uncertain times because You, are Lord. All of the various speakers were inspired by UPF's vision and mission which consists of: **A global network of individuals and organisations dedicated to building a world of peace centred on universal spiritual and moral values. CORE VALUES: We are one human family created by God. The highest achievements of men and women are rooted in spiritual and moral development. The family is the 'school of love and peace.' Peace comes through dialogue and cooperation. Service is the foundation of reconciliation.***

The work of UPF is clearly of primary importance in helping to build the better world that we all long to see. The God-centred family is meant to be the building block for the kingdom of heaven on earth. The proverb is apt: *All is well if there is harmony in the family.* The core message at the heart of all the major religious teachings is to love and serve others. Jesus washed the disciples' feet and he said that he came not to be served but to serve. In the advanced nations in particular, but also world-wide there is a moral/spiritual war taking place between theism and atheism, exemplified by amoral, comprehensive sex and relationships education, extreme divorce and abortions laws, the LGBT agenda and other key issues such as immorality becoming rampant. A recent paper published in the UK by the Centre for Social

Justice mentions how the UK government treats married couples and cohabiting the same. The evidence shows that 70% of young offenders come from families where parents have separated, and that cohabiting couples are four times more likely to split up. Children whose parents are married are less likely to be excluded from school, less likely to become addicted to alcohol or drugs, less likely to end up in prison. Family breakdown costs the UK taxpayers more than £50 billion a year. Sadly, in the UK successive governments have pushed their secular, humanistic agendas, arrogantly ignoring clear evidence from reputable sources such as the Centre for Social Justice. They have tried to portray themselves as being progressive and self-reliant and the fact that we are living in a highly developed, scientific and technological age means that we don't need to adhere to old fashioned, out-dated religious and moral laws and principles anymore, which are restrictive and will cost them votes. Various studies by historians such as J D Unwin and Arnold Toynbee conclude that moral and spiritual values are the very bedrock for peace and prosperity and stability in our troubled world.

Keeping repentance going is especially important during these turbulent times, as well as holding our politicians to account. Isaiah 10:1 "Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees." "To put it in terms of St Thomas Aquinas: An unjust law is a human law that is not rooted in eternal and natural law. Just as it is the duty of all men to obey just laws, so it is the duty of all men to disobey unjust laws." Martin Luther King Junior. In the UK it is straightforward how to be in contact with our MPs via email. The vast majority of MP's have the same format regarding their email details: e.g. Jim.Smith.MP@parliament.uk May each one of us have the strength to be able to "stand in the gap" as expressed in Ezekiel 22:30. To keep in our prayers the need for religious revivals, especially in the advanced nations, and also to pray for the success of the work of The Universal Peace Federation, and all other like-minded organisations which share the vision of "One Family Under God."

Morality Forum Action

Newsletters and other items from SPUC continue to be widely distributed.

Emails concerning key moral/ family issues such as petitions etc., received from moral /family organisations are forwarded to numerous religious organisations and individual people.

If I live outside of spiritual principles and get into trouble, is that God punishing me? No. It is the consequence of wrong action. If really God gives us a hard time, then it is not to punish, but to get us on the right path. But normally God does not even need to give us a hard time, because we are creating the hard time ourselves, by way of deviating from God and thus drifting towards the devil. He is giving us the hard time. Bruno. *A Reply to an email Bruno Klotz received from Tradition, Family and Property*

John O'Neill phoned the Office of the Christian Institute to thank them for stopping Warwickshire County Council from implementing an extreme sexualised RSE programme in their schools. The Council backed down after the threat of a judicial review initiated by the Christian Institute.

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young woman told Savannah that she was struggling financially, had no insurance, and was being pressured by her boyfriend to abort the baby. “But in spite of all that, she decided to dump the boyfriend instead of her baby!” said Savannah, who was able to help the new mom access the resources she will need. A father in Louisville, Kentucky, reached out to 40 Days for Life via email to say that he and his partner had been at an abortion facility, but chose life because of the pro-life volunteers outside. They had been just moments from going through with the abortion when they changed their minds. “We walked out of the abortion clinic a few minutes before the final procedure,” he wrote. “Please tell the ladies outside the clinic that the ‘nice young man’ who talked to a few of them did not go through with the abortion. They deserve to know that their efforts were not in vain.” Outside of Planned Parenthood in Flossmoor, Illinois, 40 Days for Life vigil participants saw a 20-year-old woman head toward the abortion business. After speaking with her, they walked the young mother to the pregnancy centre next door and she was able to schedule an ultrasound and sign up for parenting classes. She chose life! In New York, New York, a woman was handed a pro-life pamphlet as she entered a dangerous Planned Parenthood location. One hour later she exited the abortion business and told the volunteers, “I didn’t go through with it. I’m 17 weeks pregnant and they told me it’s nothing! They put pressure on me in Planned Parenthood! Now, I can’t believe I even considered it.”

A woman already parenting one child went to the Planned Parenthood in St. Paul, Minnesota, and spoke with the 40 Days for Life volunteers – twice. The second time, she told them she believed she was strong enough to keep her second baby. Pro-life volunteers said, “She was going to a nearby pregnancy help clinic at the sidewalk counsellor’s recommendation.” A young woman in Grand Rapids, Michigan, sat in her car for a bit before approaching one of the pro-life activists to talk. Afterward, she got back in her car and told the woman that she changed her mind about abortion. These stories prove the power of prayer and persistence in helping to save babies from abortion. Having a pro-life presence outside abortion businesses can have an impact on women considering abortion, and that impact may not even be felt or even known. It is not unusual for 40 Days for Life to learn that its volunteers saved babies in years past whom they were unaware of at the time. The countless prayers said for babies, moms and dads, and an end to abortion in the last few weeks has likely led to countless others being saved.

HUGE VICTORY: Florida AG launches investigation due to LifePetition

You see troubling things happening all around you. You are likely frustrated by government overreach, threats to life and traditional marriage, and the slow erosion of parental rights and Religious freedom. You likely ask yourself the same question that many of our readers and supporters ask themselves as all this is happening around us: what can be done? As we continually remind our readers, and certainly you know all too well, the truth will prevail, and right now truthful news reporting is vital to the restoration of our culture and the values we hold most dear. Today, I have two victories to share with you.

Both of these victories demonstrate very clearly the power of truthful news reporting, and most importantly, the power you have to enact cultural change when you read our daily news and respond to our calls to action like signing a petition or supporting our efforts to reach more people with the truth. You may not feel that your signature on a petition or your donation can really do any good, but these 2 victories that I am going to share with you now are clear examples of how your voice, combined with the voice of tens of thousands of other like-minded readers can do incredible things.

Thanks to your support and the signatures of over 24,000 people who signed our petition, the Attorney General of the State of Florida has confirmed to LifeSiteNews that she has directed Florida law enforcement to investigate an abortion clinic for its role in the tragic sex-trafficking case of a 15-year-old girl. As LifeSiteNews reporters discovered, the young girl was trafficked and shockingly she was only rescued after her mother was alerted of the abuse after someone saw it broadcast on Pornhub.com, one of the world's biggest porn sites. But, had the abortion centre obeyed the mandatory reporting and parental notification laws on the books in Florida, this girl could have been rescued much sooner! Read the full story here: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/florida-attorney-general-calls-for-investigation-of-abortion-center-linked-to-pornhub-trafficking-case-of-minor>. LifeSiteNews reported on the U.S. Navy prohibiting service men and women from attending off-base religious services. Our petition to the Navy gained over 17,000 signatures and garnered some real attention. Just a few days ago, the Acting Undersecretary of the Navy just clarified that the original order should not "be construed to restrict attendance at places of worship where attendees are able to appropriately apply COVID-19 transmission mitigation measures, specifically social distancing and use of face covering." Read the full story here: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/victory-us-navy-reverses-unlawful-order-banning-troops-from-indoor-mass-religious-services> Our supporters and Petition signers made these two victories possible. This is clear evidence of the important role you play in helping us to restore the culture and stand up to the evils that are plaguing our society today. Will you help keep LifeSite operating at full capacity so we can grow our team of dedicated pro-life, pro-family warriors so more victims will have a chance at justice? With your chip-in gift of \$15, \$25, or \$35 or more, we can continue to achieve victories just like these. You can make a donation using this secure link: <https://give.lifesitenews.com>

Thank you for all you do for life, family, and our culture!
Gratefully, John-Henry Westen

Jason Evert: How Catholics should handle the transgender issue

Jason Evert is an expert on the Catholic teaching on chastity. He believes those who experience gender dysphoria deserve respect and compassion but must be called to live a life free of sin. March 10, 2020 (LifeSiteNews) — Over the last decade the radical left has taken increasingly extreme, and desperate, measures to normalize its perverted agenda. Drag queen story hours, boys competing in girls’ sports, and par-

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To uproot evil in this world, we need a spiritual revolution based on God and God's absolute values of true love. We need a revolution of heart, and all of us can participate in that. We all can be main players. We do not need a revolution with bullets and swords and rockets, but a revolution of character, a revolution of true love, that leads all of us into total oneness with the heart of God, that leads us all to become true sons and daughters of God, in the full image of God. That is the only thing that can liberate this world from darkness and suffering, once and for all. *Sent out by Bruno Klotz on June 21st to relevant people on his email list. Bruno sends out a weekly spiritually inspirational email.*

A letter has been sent to the Football Association, the Premier League, the EFL league, the Minister responsible for the Police, and to Mike Riley, the former referee who is general manager of the Professional Game Match Officials Limited. The letter is asking that urgent action is taken to stop the obscene chanting and singing which is prevalent at many football grounds. That such offensive behaviour is like a cancer on the game and sets an appalling example, especially to young people and to families attending football games with their children.

On July 21st at the conclusion of his Sunday service, via his mobile phone camera, Bishop Charles Levi asked John O'Neill to speak about his pro-life work. Bishop Charles is very supportive of John's pro-life work and he informed John that he was going to send the video to his more than 130 churches in different countries.

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ents being denied their right to raise their kids according to their biological sex are just a few of the deeply disturbing measures they've endorsed. Jason Evert, an expert on the Church's teaching on chastity and sexuality, joined me on my podcast The John-Henry Westen Show this week to discuss gender and share what he thinks the LGBT movement has in store for the years ahead. "I feel like the devil is making a run for it," he told me. "I think what's going on here is what Vatican II said, that when God has been forgotten, the creature itself grows unintelligible."

He's absolutely right. Jason is one of the most well-known pro-chastity, pro-life Catholic speakers in the United States. He has given hundreds of talks to teenagers, churches, and conferences across the world. At times, he's been cancelled because of his unflinching dedication to speak the truth about gender dysphoria and human sexuality. Jason told me that people who think they are in the wrong body should be treated not with contempt and mockery but with sympathy and accompaniment, but not the sort of "accompaniment" preached by the likes of Fr. James Martin, which fails to remind people of the truth about our bodies. Rather, they need the type of accompaniment that brings them closer to God. "People who experience gender dysphoria...deserve our respect, our compassion, and our love. But, in my opinion, if

you love someone, you can't lie to them. And it is not love to allow someone to believe a delusion...we need to take an interest in their entire life, not simply their gender dysphoria."

Jason and I agree that clergy, especially Pope Francis, needs to be clearer on and affirm the church's teachings on sexuality and gender. Previously, Francis shockingly welcomed a transgender couple to the Vatican in 2015, even using their preferred pronouns. "Unfortunately, for whatever reason... priests just aren't touching this from the pulpit," Jason told me. "Pastors really need to come out and give the truth even to the little ones...what we really need here is clear and consistent teaching." Jason has worked with persons who have suffered from gender dysphoria, including Walt Heyer, a man born in 1944 who underwent sex reassignment surgery but today speaks out against the practice, calling it "the greatest medical fraud in history." Jason helps Heyer and others get the truth out about gender while also reminding Christians to not brow-beat people who don't fall into typical male-female stereotypes. "We need to be bold, because what's going on in the world right now is almost for the first time ever, the whole institution is thoroughly collaborating with mental illness instead of treating it."

Mother Teresa: "Abortion is a Terrible Evil, a Destroyer of Peace, Love and Joy"

LIFENEWS - DAVE ANDRUSKO JUN 19, 2020



On Sunday, thirty-five years will have passed since Saint Teresa of Calcutta spoke at the 1985 National Right to Life Convention. Escorted by John Cardinal O'Connor, her appearance in front of a huge audience and a constellation of pro-life Members of Congress was a once in a

lifetime experience for everyone blessed to attend. Mother Teresa, as she was then known, spoke of the love that God has for each of us and for the unborn child: "And today, that little unborn child has become the target of destruction. Destroyed while destroying the beautiful image of God, the beautiful presence of God. For each one, every little unborn child is created in the image of God, is created for some greater things—to love and to be loved. That's why abortion is such a terrible evil—a terrible destroyer of peace, of love, of unity, of joy. Anything that is beautiful destroyed. Because the little one is not just a number, but somebody precious to God, somebody precious to you and to me."

Fittingly, as one of the co-founders of National Right to Life's oldest affiliate, the Virginia Society for Human Life, National Right to Life's then-chairman of the board Geline B. Williams, introduced Mother Teresa. Mrs. Williams said, "Mother Teresa of Calcutta is one of the best known and most respected defenders of life in the world." "Mother Teresa inspired millions around the world," said National Right to Life President Carol Tobias. "As she once said, 'Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.' That remains a powerful motivation to all of us in the pro-life movement even today."

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TRUE FAMILY VALUES MINISTRY

The Nobility of Three Generations

3. The nobility of children

- Children's authority
Parents and grandparents see their potential to fulfil great responsibility in the future. Therefore parents and grandparents are gratified and excited, and also are serious to educate the children well.
The children's opinions need to be respected in order to cultivate their proper sense of subjectivity.
The children's success brings joy and completion to the family.
- Children should be raised to be virtuous and honourable, with the qualities of nobility, courage, compassion, honour, etc.
- Likewise, they should conduct themselves with a sense of dignity and responsibility before their elders and before God. Dressing well at worship service, for example. Through filial piety, they can receive this tradition.
- Parents teach by example. The number one lesson is that of sexual purity.
- Jesus called the children to him, saying theirs is the kingdom of God. Children can surpass their parents, since they stand on their foundation. They have limitless faith, hope, imagination, creativity, enthusiasm, energy. Their growth represents the fruit of their parents' investment.

4. In summary, the true family encapsulates the basic forms of God's love and truth.

- The four ways of vertical ethics.
- The four realms of heart.
- The three stages of nobility of the family, comprising the nobility of the entire family ("realm of the royal family")

Nobility and authority is granted all members of the family of humankind. God is our Parent. All of humankind, as God's sons and daughters, are members of God's family, and thus inherit the authority and nobility of kings and queens.

The One Family of Humankind

A. The global village.

1. Philosophers from Plato to Marx have dreamed of a global commonwealth of humankind. But none of these visions has succeeded because they neglect the central role of the family. The family of true love is the key to establishing a global family of humankind.

2. Today the political, media and technological elite speak of our "global village" or "new world order," based upon the globalization of transportation, communication, economy, language and mutual awareness. Truly the physical tools necessary to build a world of peace are in place.

3. Yet our global village is full of ethnic, tribal, moral and ideological conflicts. There is no authority of love or justice through which the brothers of this world can resolve their differences short of violent struggle.

4. As explained above, this true authority can be called the "kingship" of God, and it is a form of parental love which can expand to embrace the brothers in natural bonds of kinship and mutual recognition.

5. The global village we are seeking is one in which peace, freedom, unification and happiness prevail. These qualities are those which the parents introduce and sustain within the family. The human family needs common parents.

- God is our vertical Parent. *Vertical Parent* means the omnipresent, internal, invisible origin of each person's life. But God has always existed, and war has continued. What has been missing is physical true parents, on earth.
- Humankind also needs *horizontal parents*. Horizontal parents means the first true parents on earth.
Let's just imagine that a true man and woman could fulfil the responsibility originally given Adam and Eve to create a true marriage. They would be the True Parents, the *horizontal parents* of all humankind. They would be the root of God's family line.
- Through the love of True Parents, genuine brotherly love and respect would be possible across the world. As siblings love each other following their parents' love, so too would we love our neighbour. This is the power of parental love.

6. Racism and nationalism are overcome by parental love.

- God is colour-blind; parents are too.
- Unbiased true love will naturally lead to more and more interracial, inter religious and international marriages, which will eliminate barriers of colour, language, culture and nation once and for all.
- Also there will be increasing travel and migration, which will help humankind to become one family and one culture, and connect the isolated communities of the past which resulted from family and clan level conflicts.
- Through interracial marriage, all the rough spots and elements of conflict embedded deep in the culture of each race can be smoothed out and the races harmonized, especially in the children.

7. The family of humankind embraces the physical world and spirit world.

- The spirit world embraces all of time: past, present and future. The material universe extends in all spatial directions.
- Heaven and earth includes all of nature.
The earth is our mother. All things are the extension of the human physical body (male and female). An American Indian expression expresses that all creatures are clans in the global family and God cares for winged people (birds), tall people (trees), and long people (rivers). We must restore the environment and bring peace and joy to the physical universe.

(to be continued...from the book "True Family Values" by Wilson & Pak <http://www.hsabooks.com/books>)

Letters and Emails Received

Many thanks John - great content! Regards, Jacob [Winter edition]

Thanks John - I agree with you and it would certainly help to have the Church leading the call to repentance, but they are too content to simply shut themselves down and worship the Government - or Mother Earth! Tom Rogers. SPUC.

Hello Elder John, Your letter [To MPs] is thought provoking and God inspired. God bless you. Sharon [Pastor]

Dear Brother John, This is incredible but makes a heart rending reading. Even in this crisis people's heart are hardened and they still want to terminate babies! So hard to comprehend. Well we will continue to ask God for mercy. Thanks for the amazing work you are doing Brother John. Kindest regards to your wife and family. Pastor Chika

Many thanks John, Your letter [To MPs] is very comprehensive and hopefully it will hit the mark. Best wishes. Ron

Well done John. That's a great reply. [From Sammy Wilson MP] Mike Balcomb.

Thank you. God bless you. Rebecca [Harris, MP. Letter to MPs regarding repentance etc.]

Excellent message, John! Thank you, Lynn Walsh. [Letter to MPs]

Dear John, Thank you very much for your email and for sharing this with me. Kind regards, Vicky Ford MP. [Letter regarding repentance etc.]

This is such a great news that makes my heart glad. It is such a positive letter and response. [Response from Sammy Wilson MP] I pray that God will touch the heart of all our remaining ministers and those in authority. It is well dear Rev. Thank you for carrying us along. Pastor Taiwo Oju

Dear Reverend John, Thank you for this Update. It's is great that you received a response from the MPs and it is also great to see that they understand the severity of this national crisis and understand the need to call on the Most High in this time. May the Northern Ireland MPs stand up and do the right thing as we down here try to do so also. God bless and stay safe. Aleen Alarice. Anchored in the Most High

Many thanks. I will certainly read your letter to Mr. Blackman [MP]. Kind regards. David Alton. Professor the Lord Alton of Liverpool, Independent Crossbench Member of the House of Lords.

Dear John, Thank you for being in touch and copying me in to your letter to Bob Blackman MP. I will indeed be able to access this. Best wishes, David. [Lord Blunkett Member of the House of Lords]

Thank you John for all the good work you are doing! God bless you. A lot to read and very interesting newsletter. Blessings, Françoise

Thank you very much for your hard work! Bless you All! Gesa

Dear John: Thanks for sharing Spring Edition of Morality Forum with us. I found it most informative and would use it and dissem-

inate it widely. DELE OLOWU, Regional Headquarter, RCCG Europe Mainland; Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Thank you Mr O'Neil; I am really blessed by this Update. [Spring] God bless and prosper your efforts in Jesus' Mighty Name. Pastor Saidu Daniel Bangura

Dear Mr & Mrs O'Neill, Thank you for contacting me about the Divorce, Dissolution and Separation reform. Marriage is one of the most important institutions we have. The principles of long-term commitment and responsibility which underpin it bind it together and make it stronger. It is with this in mind that I voted against the reform. I appreciate the motivation behind the Government's Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill. The intention is to make divorce less complicated, less acrimonious and less harmful. However, I believe that it actually creates more difficulties than it resolves. Marriage involves solemn binding vows and has for centuries been a significant building block for social cohesion. Its benefits are generally recognised, not least for the upbringing of any children resulting from the marriage. While in certain circumstances divorce may well be the least-worst option for some couples, the changes promote individual choice over and at the expense of the sort of commitment, self-giving and sacrifice that lie at the heart of the marriage covenant.

Reducing divorce to a statement made by one party that the marriage is over has broken down undermines the seriousness with which marriage and divorce are regarded and has the unfortunate effect of shifting any power in the process away from the respondent to the person initiating the divorce. What is more, studies suggest that making divorce quicker and easier will significantly increase the already high divorce rate, with all the implications that has both for human misery and financial cost. The Relationships Foundation estimates that family breakdown costs the UK as much as £51 billion every year. The people experiencing that human misery most acutely will be precisely those who are most vulnerable, in particular children, but also those partners who wish to contest a divorce but would no longer be able to do so. Thank you again for taking the time to contact me. Yours sincerely, Bob Blackman, MP Harrow East.

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SCHOOL GATE CAMPAIGN

Calling all parents! We are excited to announce the launch of our new Facebook [School Gate Campaign Support Group](#). You are not alone. This private group is to provide a forum for concerned parents to discuss and share information and support about safeguarding their children from inappropriate RSE teaching. If there are other people you know who are sympathetic to what we're doing, please invite them to join. Do keep in mind, however, the group is private in order to protect members. Even if you're not a great Facebook user, I hope everyone receiving this update will join the group. Whether you need support, are able to give support and share good practice, or are just showing solidarity with those who are struggling with this issue, everyone is a valued group member. Besides, there is strength in numbers! Please check out our new Facebook page [here](#). You will be able to access all campaign news from this page, albeit in a slightly different format from the email update (which we will continue to send out). Please like this page, share it with your contacts, and post a comment! Thank you for your support. Susan Mason School Gate Campaign www.schoolgatecampaign.org

Inventing Transgender Children and Young People

Edited by Michele Moore and Heather Brunskell-Evans, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2019, hb, 276pp, £61.99, ISBN 978-1527536388 Reviewed by Dr Julie Maxwell

This book is a collection of contributions from academics, psychiatrists, parents and young adults who transitioned as children but now question the process they underwent. An effective challenge to transgenderism as a biological reality, the book argues that it is an invented concept with no basis in neuroscience, psychology or psychiatry. It raises concerns that gender ideology is being pushed in schools and workplaces by transgender and LGBT groups including Mermaids, Stonewall, and the Gender Identity Research and Education Society (GIRES). It expresses increasing alarm around medical treatment of children and young people who are questioning their gender identity.

Gender Ideology in Schools: Stephanie Davies-Arai and Susan Matthews write about ‘gender identity’ and ‘queering the curriculum’. The organisations mentioned above are advising and providing training for the police, Home Office, Equality and Human Rights Commission, Crown Prosecution Service, Prison and Probation Service, Department for Education and NHS. The existence of biological sex is denied openly in schools where the youngest children are read books which say things like ‘we can’t always tell if you’re a boy or you’re a girl’ or ‘babies can’t talk so grown-ups make a guess by looking at their bodies’. Books and resources advocate adult validation of a child’s gender identity because only the child can truly know who they are and be happy when they are allowed to be their true self. Social transition is encouraged. In a book called *Can I Tell you About Gender Diversity?* 12-year old Kit explains that: ‘when I asked people to start calling me Kit, and using he/her pronouns, this is called a social transition’. Many of the books promoted by lobby groups associate any gender non-conformity with transgender. For example, liking ‘boy things’ means you really are a boy, regardless of biological reality. Those who are not ‘trans’ are labelled ‘cis’ and overwhelmingly portrayed as negative! Gender ideology requires the redefinition of everyone and a ‘cisgender’ identity is seen as conforming to sexist stereotypes, while being trans is portrayed as the only way to express nonconformity. The majority of pre-pubescent children who display gender dysphoria do not retain this into adolescence, yet books used in schools misrepresent this evidence by suggesting that gender identity is unalterable. *Jamie – A Transgender Cinderella Story* says: ‘Tonight Jamie had felt right for the first time and he knew this would be how things would stay’. A GIRES presentation asserts as scientific fact that gender identity is innate and shows pictures of blue brains and pink brains, encouraging children to believe that you can literally have a girl’s brain in a boy’s body or vice versa. Medical transition is portrayed as a simple process to prevent unhappiness. One book states: ‘Medical transition for people my age is usually hormone blockers. These stop me from going through female puberty and stop my body from developing in ways that make me unhappy’. Stonewall directs teachers to encourage and facilitate pupils’ transition without parental consent: ‘...not all young people will want

their parent/carers to know they are ... trans, and for staff to discuss this with parents/carers without the young persons consent would be a breach of confidentiality.’

Gender ideology in clinical practice: Academics Michael Biggs and Heather Brunskell-Evans, together with a number of clinicians, examine the treatment given to children and young people which is increasingly driven by ideology rather than evidence. The NHS’s only clinic for children and young people with gender dysphoria, the Gender Identity Development Service (GIDS), is under increasing scrutiny for its role in the invention of the transgender child. Brunskell-Evans states: ‘GIDS offers physically healthy... normal children... dangerous, off-label drug treatment with lifelong deleterious consequences on the basis of a child’s subjective feeling, for which there is no scientific test.’ While activist groups affect teaching in schools they also have a significant influence over clinicians, many of whom are afraid to question the ideology. Some speak out anonymously, but those who go public are silenced. A number of clinicians have raised the concern that only an ‘affirmative model’ is practiced at GIDS. Children’s feelings and beliefs are taken at face value rather than looking at all possible underlying issues, which should be the first step in the assessment and treatment of these children. Concern is also raised about the use of hormone blockers in children. A child cannot give informed consent to hormone therapy because ‘the medical consequences are extremely complex and a child will have little or no cognisance of a future in which he or she may come to regret lost fertility or the lack of organs for sexual pleasure’. The use of hormone blockers was supposedly being undertaken as a study by GIDS. However the results have never been published and some unpublished results report negative outcomes including greater self-harm and more emotional and behavioural problems. What we know about hormone blockers is that almost all children that start on them progress to cross-sex hormones; despite studies showing around 85% of children with gender dysphoria will not retain it past adolescence. This effectively destroys their ability to have children and impedes the development of sexual functioning.

Gender ideology and the “detransitioners”: There are increasing numbers of young adults coming forward who, having undergone varying degrees of transition, realise that it has not brought them happiness. Three such people contributed to this book. They give their perspectives on the ‘psychological roller-coaster’ they went through in becoming transgender and the process of transitioning and detransitioning. While expensive, this book is important for anyone who wants to understand the current debate around transgender children. Children deserve to be protected from destructive ideologies and unethical medical treatments. They deserve the guidance of responsible adults who make decisions based upon their long-term best interests not just on what they think will make them feel good now. *This article is published by permission of Family Education Trust*

To Mask, or not to mask? That is the question

‘One of the primary tasks of a free citizenry is to resist encroaching tyranny – even of the ‘soft’ variety – for once we’ve given up our rights, ‘tis very difficult to get them back’

By John Paul Meenan

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July 14, 2020 (LifeSiteNews) – Today, Tuesday, July, the 14th, the memorial of Saint Camillus de Lellis, patron of the sick, it will be mandatory in the county where I live to wear a mask covering one's nose and mouth in any indoor 'public' space – including churches and all places of worship. Such is already the law in Toronto, Ottawa, and across other large swathes of Canada and the United States. Some are going along compliantly with this, either in the name of charity, or self-protection, or both, while others are resisting, wondering whether we want a masked populace. This is not a screed for or against masks, but rather some thoughts on this matter, and let the chips, and your own conscience, fall where they may.

The Moral Side: Let us just prescind for a moment from the medical argument, and focus on what it means to wear a mask in general, and I will begin with aesthetics, which may seem odd, as the least of our concerns. To not wear a mask because it's unattractive and off-putting? Yet, in science, when an equation or solution is ugly, complex and cumbersome, it usually means it's wrong, in accord with Ockham's razor: That the truth tends to be simple and, we may add, beautiful. Transferring this to the moral realm, when an action or practice seems aesthetically unappealing, it often means there is something wrong with it. But what? Well, for one thing, masks hide our identity as persons made in God's image. In Greek, the word for 'person', *prosopon*, is also the term for 'face', and is also the word adopted by the Church for the 'Persons' in the Trinity. It literally means what 'sounds through', or speaks as God the Father speaks His own Word through His Son, Who is the very 'face' of the Father, of God Himself. And we too speak through our faces, by which we communicate, dialogue and build up friendships and community. Hence, we should think and reflect before we cover our faces. After all, masking is often done for nefarious purposes. Ponder your reaction – outside of the present context - if someone were to walk into your house wearing a mask. People hide their own face when they want to do evil, and they hide the faces of those to whom they may wish to do evil. And whatever one thinks of the death penalty – whether justified in some cases – we cover the faces of the condemned. The reason for this is that hiding the face 'de-personalizes' us, makes us anonymous, in some sense less 'human', and, hence, to some extent at least, breaks down the social and communitarian bond between us, even if done apparently for good. Besides this, masks engender, prolong, and exacerbate fear – even the protocols in the county where I live, admit that masks may not be effective – more on that in a moment - but they will at least remind us to 'social distance'. Hmm. We should especially think twice or three times before we mask little children – as the protocols for my own county require, any toddler above two years of age – just try putting something on their face for longer than a few seconds. Even if we could, should we engender such fear in their developing minds and souls, of themselves, of others, of society, which they will be unable to contextualize?

The Medical Side: Perhaps, you might be saying, we could and should tolerate all this for the sake of the 'common good', for charity's sake, to prevent the spread of infection. Even if you're not sick, you don't want to make others sick! How selfish of you not to wear a mask! Save a life! Such principles have embedded themselves firmly in the minds and hearts of many, making this even more difficult to discuss rationally, as the flood of emotions muddies the waters. But beware of compassion unhinged from reason, and keep our wits about us. We could retread the tired ar-

guments that this illness poses a minimal risk to almost the entire population, and almost all those who are at greatest risk are already in nursing homes and hospitals. Eliding this with the moral question, how far should we go to reduce risk to a zero level? Should we not then forbid the driving of cars – or, gasp, motorcycles – cycling, walking down the street, kissing someone, having a child, mountain climbing, jumping off cliffs into water, going for a brisk hike, getting out of bed in the morning, or even staying in bed? Everything we do has some potential for harm, or even death. 'Staying safe' is not a motto which should govern our life. Life, rather, is something we engage in, as the saying goes, at our own risk. We should recall that these masking and distancing protocols are formulated by a small coterie of 'medical personnel' who advise the governmental apparatchiks, with both seeming to be almost entirely ignorant of the rights written into the very fabric and constitution of a free society. We may wonder if they have ever heard of the term 'subsidiarity'. Any risk appears to be too much for them to bear, especially if it's a risk for others. They all seem to be trying to cover their respective rear ends, their lawyer codices and insurance policies, to the last jot and tittle. As one author – a physician - wrote recently, the new queen of the sciences is epidemiology, and, unlike the now-dethroned theology, a rather uncertain queen it – she? - is. Given the principle by which they are justifying these protocols – that we must minimize the potential of infection to asymptotic levels – why would they let up anytime soon? Even if a vaccine is developed, will all be coerced to take it, and will even that be safe enough for them? After all, the 'regular' flu (keeping in mind that coronaviruses have been around for millennia, and are not going away) kills hundreds of thousands each year. Why should we ever again be permitted to go mask-free, with faces unveiled? Do we want the world turned into some giant, inescapable ICU ward? Or, perhaps more aptly, a vast leper colony, our fellow humans, even relatives and friends, now seen as walking viral vectors, crying 'Unclean! Unclean!' At the same time, it's hypocritically ironic that the most zealous enforcers of 'safe' distancing, lockdown and mask policies are also generally the most vehement supporters of the real plagues upon our society, abortion and euthanasia – Trudeau, Cuomo, Northam, to name but a few. Yet, here they are, quite literally smothering us with ever new strictures, 'if it saves one life', while they aid and abet the murder of thousands of the most innocent and defenceless. Even if one were to accept that this is the Black Death redivivus – which it is not, for otherwise we would have voluntarily barred our doors and sheltered in place - there is evidence that the donning of masks is statistically ineffective. Peruse the compilation of peer-reviewed studies by Professor Rancourt here. People touch their masks, contaminate them, have bushy beards, take them off to breathe. And most people don't wear masks even as 'effective' as those in the studies, with the home-grown cloth or disposable variety being predominant. Speaking of disposable, does anyone wonder where these masks end up? I was speaking with an engineer who works for a car manufacturing plant in southern Ontario, with 8,000 employees, all of whom are now bound to mask up, and many go through three or more in a day. Even at a low estimate, that's about 20,000 saliva-and-mucous covered masks dumped in landfills per diem, 140,000 per week, which is 7,280,000 per annum. From one factory. And for those places that burn their garbage, what will those toxic clouds contain, as they drift over towns and cities? Not that I'm its greatest fan, but whatever happened to the message of *Laudato Si* to limit waste and protect the environment? And should we not take into consideration our own everyday health? Breathing in one's own carbon dioxide all day long –

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especially when working – and having what fresh air one can take in filtered through layers of plastic, fiber, paper and/or cloth, does not seem a recipe for maintaining a balanced immune system, nor even psychological well-being. I recently heard of a student nurse who has to wear one all day while sitting alone in an office – she comes home each evening with a headache, and goes to bed early to sleep it off – mask-free, one may presume - an hour after dinner. The time I wore a mask visiting a dying friend – I don't go much to 'indoor public places', and will even less in this milieu - I had to wait as the PSW finished her work, and so had a chat with her son, also masked; the conversation was, shall we say, stifling and awkward. I could never get used to it. The over-reaching Covidian policies – the global lockdown, (whose effectiveness is at least uncertain), the consequent fear of hospitals and infection - have had any number of deleterious consequences – from abuse, to depression, to untreated illnesses, to death – which make the prophylactic 'cure' worse than the disease. Will this be much different?

The Ecclesiastical Side: OK. So let's presume we have to mask up in hospitals, grocery stores, government offices, and libraries. But what of Mass and other forms of worship? We should make clear from the get-go that the State has no direct authority over the Church. This is a muted doctrine in today's world – even within the Church – but one that is true nonetheless, clarified in documents from the Concordat of Worms, to Pius IX's Syllabus of Errors, to Leo XIII's *Immortale Dei*, all the way to *Dignitatis Humanae* of Vatican II. The priority of the Church as a divinely-founded supernatural society provided the basis for claiming 'sanctuary' – immunity from civil prosecution - which still stands today for refugees living in churches across the land (whatever one thinks of that). 'Render to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God, what is God's', stands as true today as when Christ said it. As well does Saint Peter's exhortation that 'we must obey God rather than men'. The authority of the State stops at the threshold of the church. The Church is a 'public' institution only in a distant, analogical sense, in that anyone, in theory, may attend and join. But a public institution in the strict sense – in the Church's own teaching - is one that is governed by the State and its laws, whereas a private institution is ruled by its own members and its own rules. The Church in that sense is private; indeed, she is the most perfect of institutions, and her laws and teachings, divinely founded and inspired, should, *au contraire*, inspire and form the policies of the State, not the other way round. Hence, whatever we make of the mask-wearing and other decrees, it must be the Church, our hierarchy, the bishops and priests, who make that call, not the State. And not the hierarchy because the State told them to. Bishops should not be seen or even perceived to be kowtowing to bureaucrats, especially if this is against their own better judgement as shepherds of Christ's flock. After all, the primary role of the successors of the Apostles – see Saint Peter, above - is to ensure our spiritual health and get us to heaven, not our physical good, and the prolongation of our earthly lives. As I wrote recently, the creeping error of Erastianism – the Church being subservient to an all-powerful State – is well upon us, and must be resisted. If our bishops truly think that donning masks to worship God is a good idea, then so be it. We may agree, or demur (the reader may have gotten the gist that I am in the latter camp), but at least we can make up our minds and conscience in response to proper authority, and not to one usurping an authority beyond its God-given scope. And as you make up your mind, ponder these words of Saint Paul I quoted recently: And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree

of glory to another (2 Cor 3:18) Ah, yes. Unveiled faces.

Conclusion: To be clear: I'm not saying never wear a mask. There are cases where they may well be called for – surgery, of course, visiting the truly vulnerable, certain hospital settings, nursing homes, situations where one's prudence and good sense (remember those?) come into play. But for everyone to be forced to wear one, by the full power of the State, *semper et ubique*? Especially in our places of worship? To look out over a sea of masked and muted parishioners as I read at Mass is not a sight to which I look forward to. Whatever one thinks of various prophecies – Fatima and the errors of Communism spreading throughout the world – we should not simply discount them. After all, as Pius XI makes clear in his 1937 brilliant exposition of its sophistic errors, *Divini Redemptoris* (well worth a read), one of the goals of atheistic communism is to reduce us to anonymous individuals, to break down the family or any subsidiary community, and make us totally reliant upon the State and its 'experts'. It's the top-down nature of this whole thing that seems most troubling, akin to the lockdown amounting to universal house arrest, with little or no room for people to make up their own minds, according to the circumstances of each unique situation. If this is an experiment in social control, it's rather insidious, done under the cloak of goodness, which ironically brings out the worst in people – the abuse has already begun, generally from the masked to the unmasked. Is this an attempt to discover who will conform and, perhaps more to the point, who will not? We should have the freedom, and courage, to act as we see fit, to strive to see past the smoke, mirrors and media-manufactured-and-magnified fear, before we turn from an independent and free people with faces, to an enslaved and compliant sheeple without them - even if I fear we're already some ways down that road. This is not to label or judge anyone, for we must all make our decisions in good conscience in each situation we find ourselves. But what I am saying is that if we are forced to wear a mask when we know we shouldn't have to, and that it's just silly virtue-signalling, and if we fear being reported if we're without a mask, or even if we lower our mask to catch a breath (what's next, mandated masking in our own vehicles, or even homes? How unlikely is that, we may now wonder?), then the dawn of the coercive state is upon us. And if we tie even our necessary activities – work, groceries, hardware stores, schools – to undeviating compliance with such decrees as these, then we are traveling the road towards totalitarianism. As de Tocqueville wrote in his reflections on early America, one of the primary tasks of a free citizenry is to resist encroaching tyranny – even of the 'soft' variety - for once we've given up our rights, 'tis very difficult to get them back. Just after I completed a draft of these thoughts, I was listening to some semi-random music over dinner, as is my wont, and serendipitously the plaintive ballad *The Rose* rose up on my computer, these lines of which struck me: And the soul afraid of dying, that never learns to live. To wander through life in a state of perpetual and paralyzing fear, is, in some deep sense, not to live. But it's never too late to turn back, and regain what freedoms are rightfully ours, not least so we might choose, when we think it 'safe', to breathe easy and see each other smile. It's a lot more human. And healthy.

Coronavirus hysteria is needlessly traumatizing an entire generation of children

LifeSiteNews - July 20, 2020 (Romans One) — The North Carolina governor has issued a decree that all students returning to school in the fall must wear a mask and social distance. This, despite the fact that 99.9 percent of children who get COVID don't die from it and most don't even have symptoms. Comparably, more children K-12 die from various other forms of the flu than from COVID, yet we are perpetuating a culture of fear

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among children in a form of politicized mass hysteria that treats COVID as if it were the Black Plague, which had a 100 percent mortality rate in its respiratory form across ALL demographics. I have to ask, What are we doing to our children? Some would say we're protecting them. Others would add that we're protecting any vulnerable adults they might come in contact with — despite growing evidence that young children are not contagious because the virus does not hang onto them like it does older people. We are also getting more evidence that people are not as contagious when they're asymptomatic, as once believed, which means that standard protocol for any sickness would be sufficient — stay at home if you're sick or if you're immuno-compromised. Instead of using common sense, we're covering our young children and enshrouding them in an environment of fear, all the while calling it "kindness to others." This could have damaging long-term effects on our children that far outweigh any threat from COVID. Children are extremely vulnerable psychologically and emotionally, especially when their brains are still developing and behaviours imprint on neurological connections that can cause disruptions to normal development. They are also in the tender years of developing socially, when they learn how to be both strong individuals yet responsible within a group, when they learn to be independent and distinct from the collective, yet aware of social responsibilities and relationships that interplay with their personal responsibilities and healthy self-interest. Yet, this panic over COVID is disrupting these stages of development and can have dangerous consequences for them as adults and for society at large.

When you impose irrational fear on children, you are in a sense traumatizing them. You are creating an atmosphere in which they are reacting to events around them in which they don't feel any control. They can't escape from it, they have to do what fearful adults tell them, and they trust authorities in their lives to do what's best for them — when this doesn't happen, they're trapped and their normal development of relationships is laced with fear and panic. The long-term effects of childhood trauma are manifold. It creates an inability to trust, to properly regulate emotions, to productively handle conflict, and to develop healthy relationships, especially those having to do with authority. Fear drives them away from a normal ability to love. While it is certainly good to teach children to be thoughtful of others, this can take a dark turn when "being thoughtful to others" is based on a lie and isn't really being thoughtful at all, but is just a fear response to bad information and political propaganda. Telling children they might die of a disease they won't likely die from is cruel. It creates unhealthy fear and trauma. Protecting children from monsters that don't really exist generates insecurity instead of strength

The best way to raise children is to empower them to face their fears and to become strong. This is as much true for their spirits and their minds as their bodies. COVID is a perfect example. By exposing children to the virus, they are strengthened in their immunity to it. This doesn't mean there isn't risk. Every time a child walks out the door, he is at risk. He could die in a car accident. He could get the flu and die. He could fall out of a tree and die. He could dive into a pool and die. These realities of the fragility of life are why parents must help children look threats in the face in a realistic but safe way. This is why the fairy tales of old were so good in their horror. The Little Mermaid didn't become a princess and live happily ever after. She lived in pain and then turned into sea foam and then into a spirit in the wind. Little Red Riding Hood didn't escape the terrifying wolf who pretended to be her grand-

mother. She was eaten alive. Why tell these stories to children? Were our forefathers decadent and sadistic? No, they understood that by teaching children to face their fears in a safe context, they will be made strong. They aren't protected from life, but they aren't terrorized by it either. We live in a strange time in which we're both terrorizing and protecting them at the same time. We're making them afraid of things they don't need to be afraid of while shielding them from risks and realities that none of us can control. Even worse, we're doing this while exposing them to all other kinds of spiritual and emotional corruptions and abuses without a thought to protecting them. They watch all sorts of decadence, violence, and sexualized imagery on television without any "moral to the story." They're spoiled and raised with an attitude of entitlement. Their eternal souls are neglected as parents spend more time feeding their kids entertainment than the Word of God. The result is children who are afraid of the wrong things, spiritually vulnerable, and emotionally weak.

Even their social training is off-base. While we should certainly teach our children to love their neighbors, to think of others more highly than they think of themselves, and to be humble, we shouldn't put collective interests above their own self-interest because the majority says so. When I refer to self-interest, I'm not talking about selfishness. I'm referring to a healthy individuality that cultivates independent thinking and the ability to stand on one's own if necessary. If a child can't grow up to stand on his own two feet and be willing to be cast out from the group for all the right reasons, he has been raised to be a serf, to have a slave mindset, and to be unable to be salt and light in a world that demands assimilation and compliance. Christians must be particularly mindful of this because we are called to be in the world but not of it, to stand for Christ, not ourselves or the demands of others, to put Him above even our brothers, sisters, fathers, and mothers.

Teaching a child to be both sensitive to the feelings and needs of others and be separate from ungodly demands of compliance based on the needs and feelings of others is an exercise of wisdom that few grasp today. We tend to err on one side or the other. But it is exactly the balance we need to both maintain our liberty in this world while not making an idol of it. It's what children need to know, so they can understand how to be independent, critical thinkers without being selfish anarchists and hyper-individualists. Some might think forcing children to wear masks lies within that balance, but this is not the case given the context. Masks aren't necessary to protect children — not in the case of COVID. Again, one death in a million doesn't justify face coverings that generate false fear and trauma in children who should be learning to socialize properly, engage in a free educational environment, and enjoy the wonder of growing up while at the same time having a proper and healthy fear of what is REAL. If we are going to follow the logic of forced COVID face coverings for children, we can't deny the conclusion that they must be worn all the time, in every season, and forever. Again, more children die of the flu. You never know when a child might be exposed. If you're wanting to save "just one," then mandatory mask-wearing should be the state of existence from now on — for all time. The danger of deadly viruses is lurking around every corner. If your thought is that children are protecting adults who are vulnerable, this can be handled by quarantining the very small number of vulnerable elderly who are at risk. This is a much wiser solution than masking children, separating them from their peers, creating emotional trauma, and generating a collective mindset that's neither helpful nor healthy.

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The best thing we can do for our children is to let them live their lives with all the risk that entails, educating them about the threats of life while still properly protecting them, empowering them to face death as part of life, and to teaching them to be sensitive to the feelings of others without becoming their slaves. Otherwise, you're developing a fearful generation that does not depend on God to be their saviour, but on man. This doesn't bode well for them as they grow into adults or for our society whose liberty is dependent on free thinkers and strong, moral individuals who aren't afraid but have a proper respect for life's dangers. *Published with permission from Romans One.*

Pro-family advocate points to fatherlessness as 'a huge problem' By Martin Bürger

WÜRZBURG, Germany, June 29, 2020 (LifeSiteNews) – Well-known German pro-family advocate Gabriele Kuby spelled out this past weekend at a conference the numerous issues that many families, especially their children, are facing today, from divorce and fatherlessness to gender ideology and government policies that harm the traditional family. “It is indeed a huge problem in our society that fathers are absent,” she said. “It is proven that children who grow up without a father who has the task of setting boundaries, giving orientation, being firm, having courage, making the child brave – if all this is missing, which the father can do much better than the mother, if all this is missing, the chances that the child will become delinquent, have mental disorders, behavioural problems, etc., take drugs, drop out of school, are much higher.” “We need the men,” Kuby stressed. “We need the fathers.” The trained sociologist repeatedly referred to scientific research, which, Kuby said, proves “what everyone knows in their hearts.” American sociology professor Mark Regnerus, for instance, studied whether situations in which children grow up with two men or two women as “parents” are as healthy as the traditional family. “It has disadvantages for children if they don't experience this triangulation, as the word is called, this triangle of father, mother, child, but only two fathers or only two mothers,” Kuby pointed out.

Kuby made her remarks during a panel discussion last Sunday, which was streamed by pro-family organization “Familie geht vor!” (Family first!), uniting numerous other groups supporting the family. Originally, “Familie geht vor!” had planned to have an outdoor event with thousands of families in Würzburg in the heart of Germany. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the event was mainly held online. On the question of divorce, Kuby continued, “There is no doubt at all that divorces are a great burden on children and that they are basically a lifelong burden. “A divorce is for a child ... a constant drama, because there is no more stability,” she explained. “They have to go through new combinations again and again. The partner marries again, separates again, there is an unmanageable system of relationships, and the child has to go through it again and again, and approve of it.” Kuby said, “It is not acceptable for a society to say that the emotions and the desires and the passions and the suffering, which also exists in marriages, of course – that this is the only thing we are guided by. And the children have to submit without complaining.” According to Kuby, who supported her statements by referencing several studies, children and young people generally long to have a family, as well as faithfulness in their relationships. “This longing cannot be eradicated in the hearts of the people,” she commented. “This is the good news, and we can build upon it.”

Kuby also criticized the daycare system, where working parents

place their children, sometimes only at a few months old, as incredibly stressful. “The children get sick from it,” she pointed out. However, the system does not benefit parents, either, Kuby said. Parents are “exhausted from their jobs ... coming to the daycare, receive this poor little worm, and then they are supposed to spend quality time with the children.” The German government, the pro-family advocate explained, heavily supports parents who put their children in the daycare system early on. “I am in favour of freedom of choice,” Kuby said, “but we cannot choose if we don't have the material conditions among which we can choose at all. And if the daycare is supported, supported, supported, with 1,000 euros a month, and mothers receive 120 euros for retirement, then there is no freedom of choice.” The sociologist talked about the unseen consequences of the daycare system. According to studies, up to one-third of the young generation are ill in one way or another, with acute illnesses turning into chronic conditions. Even from an economic point of view, the cost of the daycare system, if everything is factored in, far exceeds the cost of not having mothers in the workforce a few weeks after their babies are born.

In the end, Kuby briefly talked about gender ideology, pointing out that it has been imposed on countries by the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and the European Union. To fix the system, she said, “We simply have to make the demands that correspond to the order of creation. And the order of creation says: The child as a small unfinished being belongs to his mother, and he needs a father to show him the world.”

Apart from Kuby, two representatives of parent organizations, Andrea Heck and Romy Richter, participated in the panel discussion, as well as Protestant preacher Alexander Bischoff. Richter lamented the loss of a parenting culture. “We hunger to experience: How does family work? How do we do it? We have already forgotten how to do it. Our instincts are already gone. I experience many parents simply on a hamster wheel, working through all these activities.” “We don't even have a feeling for it anymore, and we also lose this knowledge of what the children really need. They need to bond, and the way children bond in early childhood is not compatible with a professional activity of the woman who is absent, then.” Bischoff emphasized that after his move to a small town in Bavaria, the elderly living on their street are incredibly happy about having kids around. His neighbours said they even turned off the television to listen to the kids playing. For Andrea Heck, fighting against policies that harm the traditional family is difficult. “Us families hardly have any lobby,” she said. “Us mothers hardly have any lobby, either.” The organization “Familie geht vor!” consists of 15 different groups and several individuals advocating for the protection of marriage and the family, the right of parents to educate their children, the right of children to their one mother and their one father, and financial justice for families. The organization opposes any indoctrination by homosexuality and gender ideology. Hedwig von Beverfoerde, a speaker for “Familie geht vor!” and leader of “Demo für Alle,” another pro-family group, said, “Anti-family ideas continue to spread and are gradually being implemented politically – pushed by powerful lobby groups and the media. In contrast, we demand a political turnaround in favor of the family. To achieve this goal, we need to fly the flag effectively in the public eye.”

While it was not possible to have families from across Germany come to **Würzburg**, several activists were present in the city nonetheless, trying to get people to support the cause of the family. Andrea Heck, Daycare, Familie Geht Vor, Families First, Father-

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11: Pro-family activist points to fatherlessness as a...)

lessness, Gabriele Kuby, Germany, Hedwig Von Beverförde, Parents, Pro-Family

Commemorating the International Day of the Family ZOOM, Vienna, Austria, May 14, 2020

By Elisabeth Cook

On Thursday, May 14th, 2020 Universal Peace Federation Austria in cooperation with UPF Germany and the Family Federation organized a Zoom Online Conference commemorating the International Day of the Family, an official Day of the United Nations. Mr. Peter Haider, president of UPF Austria, explained in his opening statement the background of this UN Day: In 1993,

International Family Day was adopted by the UN General Assembly through document RES/47/237 and celebrated for the first time on 15 May 1994. Since 1996 there has been a different motto every year, determined by the UN Secretary-General and the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD). The respective motto always relates to current issues and events and represents a different facet of family life. The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic brings into sharp focus the importance of investing in social policies protecting the most vulnerable individuals and families. It is the families who bear the brunt of the crisis, sheltering their members from harm, caring for out-of-school children and, at the same time, continuing their work responsibilities. Families have become the hub of intergenerational interactions that support us in this crisis. Under economic duress poverty deepens. In times of uncertainty stress increases – often resulting in growing violence against women and children. That is why the support for vulnerable families – those who have lost their income, those in inadequate housing, those with young children, older persons and persons with disabilities – is imperative now more than ever. See also: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-of-families>

Mag. Wolfgang Engelmaier, Kolping International, explained the work that is done within the Vienna Family Committee at the United Nations, which he is chairing. In 1985 this NGO committee was founded. By now its membership consists of 60 NGOs which operate internationally and 40 NGOs on the national level. A big portion of the committee's work is done online by providing information about the family. A quarterly journal is being published, and once a year an international forum takes place with guest speakers. Another focal point is the information the committee provides for parents about the dangers of the internet for children. Dr. Dieter Schmidt, president of the Family Federation for World Peace in Germany, explained that just as the Corona virus can penetrate the walls of the cells and infect them, the family unit is endangered by destructive ideas and behaviour of our society. As a medical doctor he can verify that a healthy family is the best precondition for physical health as well. The family is the most decisive factor in shaping the life of the children. The importance of the family is still not recognized enough in today's society. We can say with certainty that the family is the only institution which has been founded by God, our creator. His will is fulfilled once the family can settle down and live in peace. The most important aspect in creating peace is love which manifests itself in loving relationships within the family and within society. If the family relationships don't reflect God's love, the family can be the birthplace of neuroses. Therefore, it is essential to build successful families. Harmonious families are also the building blocks for a well-functioning society and a peaceful world. Also the United Nations

goal of world peace can only be achieved by strengthening the families. Bi-national families play a special role in contributing to world peace, as they connect two nations by loving family ties. The recent Corona crisis is another example of how families can manage difficult societal situations.

Hedwig Freifrau von Beverförde, founder of the Family Protection Initiative and an organizer of the "Demo für Alle" rallies in Germany. "The Corona crisis brings to light what many politicians in particular have forgotten: Without the family our social system would collapse like a house of cards. The family is the most important factor in the system." This is one of Mrs. Beverförde's statements concerning the Corona crisis. She is the Chairwoman of the initiative "Family First". In June they wanted to have a big demonstration in favour of the families. In her speech she explained 5 points which they were going to present to the government. These points are: 1. They want to cause a change of policies concerning the family: Parents should be able to decide if they want to put their small children into a day care institution or if they want to care for them in their own homes. Politics should provide this possibility by an equal financial support. 2. Concerning children's rights: Parents are responsible for the caretaking of their children. Therefore, the parents' rights need to be strengthened. "Children's Rights" means practically that the state makes the decisions. 1. Parents should have a say in the sexual education of the children, which happens at school. Home schooling should become legal in Germany. 2. The parents' educational and caretaking work should be honoured by the state. The consumption taxes discriminate the families financially. 3. She is against a re-defining the family. The family should mean "Father-Mother-Children". Her initiative does not accept "Marriage for all" 4. The legislation should adjust its decisions to the well-being of the family. The ideological indoctrination of the children at school should be stopped. People can sign an online petition: www.familie-geht-vor.com Mag. Harald Janisch, sports scientist, life and social consultant and Chairman of the Section for Personal Counselling of the Austrian Federal Chamber of Commerce, explained in his statement: The Austrian government has created the job of the "life and social consultant", because they realized that positive psychology and sport science can support the mental and physical health of the people. It became a health care institution with special permission to provide psychological help as well. This institution exists in Austria since 30 years. 15 000 persons are working in this field. Apart from the life and social consulting, so-called care workers are supporting people, substituting many times the missing family members or looking after aged people living at home. We speak about 100 000 care workers being active in Austria. Many of them come from Eastern European countries. From his work experience Mr. Janisch can see that the best solution is always the strengthening of the original family of father, mother and children. But whatever state a family is in, his organisation strives to provide support in order to improve the situation of a particular family. They work according to plan "A" – the original family is being strengthened. Plan "B": A new partner replaces the original partner. Plan "C": trying to stabilize whatever is possible. By studying all possible sources and by observing the reality, we can state that if the quality of the family diminishes, it becomes the source of all kinds of social problems. Dr. Anneliese Fuchs wrote the book "Can the family still be saved?" Mr. Janisch's answer is "Yes", but we have to deal with its problems and make efforts to solve them. He recently started the initiative www.sos-corona.org, a platform of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce in order to assist people in these days of a pandemic. After the presentations there was time for discussion. Mr. Christian Hausmann, UPF president of Germany, stated that we must have the will to change reality. In order to do that, we need a clear vision of a well-functioning family. Although the Corona crisis didn't allow us to have a conference in the usual way, the organisers, the speakers and the participants appreciated this Zoom online conference, specially as it proved to be a fruitful cooperation between the Austrian and the German chapter. <https://vimeo.com/user72289245>