

March 2004

This month the emphasis is on the many resources that can be accessed in print or on web sites that deal comprehensively with life issues. What is meant by “life issues”? Basically it covers all issues of public policy that impact on the welfare of families and on the right to life of individuals no matter their size, stage of development, race or gender. There is nothing more basic and more precious than life. All other concerns, worries, hopes and rights derive from the truth and reality of this first principle.

Martin Luther King Jr. made a plea for honesty and the duty to act with an informed conscience:

Cowardice asks the question ‘Is it safe?’; expediency asks the question ‘Is it politic?’; vanity asks the question ‘Is it popular?’; but conscience asks the question ‘Is it right?’ and there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but because - conscience tells one it is right.

He may have been referring directly to the plight of black Americans and their lack of full civil rights in the decade of the Sixties, but the statement applies no less to the struggle to win respect and protection for the right to life of all human beings.

The demands of the school curricula offer many opportunities to teach about life issues. There may be a more obvious connection in high school courses, but there are opportunities at the elementary level as well.

A letter designation appears after each website description. This letter indicates the recommended grade level of the material to be found at that site: *E* = elementary, *S* = secondary, *C/U* = college/university.

The material has been divided as to topic: general sources for news and information on abortion and the culture of death, marriage & family, population issues, bioethics/stem cell research/cloning, women’s perspective.

Section 1 Reliable Sources for News and Information

www.lifesite.net

This is the premier site concerning pro-life daily news and commentary. It is exactly what it claims: “Your life,



Family and Culture Outpost”. It is noted for its incisiveness, superior quality of writing and reporting,

and a well-founded reputation for reliability and accuracy. The site offers much archived material on special topics related to life issues. It is particularly noteworthy for its reporting of the political dimensions of these vital issues. It also provides links to other pro-life websites. *S, C/U.*

zenit.org/english/

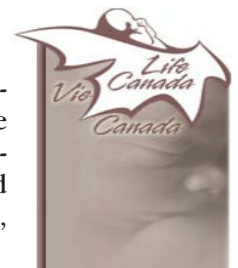
A Rome-based news agency whose purpose is to “provide objective coverage of events, documents and issues emanating from or concerning the Catholic Church”. One can get papal statements and also those of other Catholic church officials on topics in the news. *E, S, C/U.*

www.webhart.net/vandee/prolife.shtml

A treasure trove of Canadian and international pro-life resources on line. It offers links to groups, province by province, and also to the major international groups : *Birthright, Physicians for Life, Maternity, Population Research Institute*. It is an indispensable site for internet surfing on life issues. *E, S, C/U*

www.lifecanada.org/

Primarily interested in the educational component of the pro-life movement. It has accumulated valuable statistics on the abortion and euthanasia problems in Canada. *E, S, C/U*



www.catholicplanet.com/prolife.htm

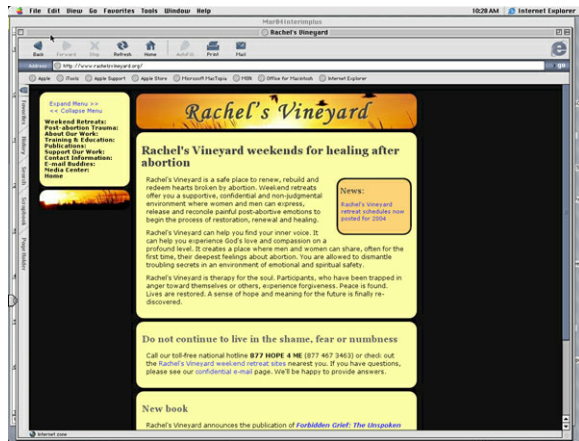
Contains valuable information and stories of witnessing, including stories “from women who have had an abortion and now regret it and true stories from women who were pressured to have an abortion and yet chose life”. The site also presents possible amendments to the American constitution that could protect pre-born human life. *S, C/U.*

www.afa.net/prolife/resources.asp

A rich site with links to many other groups and resources, including Birthright International, Care Net, Heartbeat International, LifeDynamics.com, Last Harvest Ministries. *E, S, C/U*

www.rachelsvineyard.org/

An American organization that offers post-abortion counselling and support. It is a Catholic ministry that provides hope and healing to those wounded by abortion. S, C/U



www.rightgrl.com/abortion.html

Contains detailed information on abortion related issues, for example - Abortion Mortality - Skeletons in the Pro-Choice Closet, Some Women's Quotes Regarding Abortion - Past and Present, The Reality of Post Abortion Syndrome plus a library of their own abortion related articles. S, C/U.

www.prolife.com/

The page is more than a typical pro-life resource. It also provides practical material on the kind of advice young people need in order to survive today's sex culture. *Important tips on dating, sex, love and life are provided by Fr. Frank Pavone and many celebrities including Lakitba Garth, Miss Black California.* S, C/U.



www.madprof.home.mindspring.com/ethic.html

Presents the principles of *Seamless Garment or Consistent Life Ethic* organization. The principles unite Christians and humanists in support of a pro-life ethic. The site makes arguments of non-traditional pro-lifers, people noted as progressives and on the left in the political spectrum and who believe that liberal philosophy

precludes discrimination against any member of the human family, including the youngest of us. S, C/U.

www.members.zdial.com/~MrData/books/9reasons.htm

9 Reasons Why Abortions should be Illegal. Rational arguments to refute Planned Parenthood Federation's philosophy and agenda. S, C/U.

www.uffl.org/vol11/koloze11.pdf

This is the personal site of a college teacher of English, and it is devoted to his paper on the theme of abortion in European and American novels. This is of particular value to teachers of English seeking resources on international literature. S, C/U.

www.nrlc.org/news/1999/NRL299/edit2.html

A good study of the changing trends regarding people's support for abortion rights in the United States, based on some of the polling done by pro-abortion organizations like NARAL and Planned Parenthood Association. The article is entitled "*Even Pro-Abortors Are Discovering Women Are Pro-Life*". S, C/U.

www.interlife.org/pro-life.html

Another very good source for links to other groups listed on their site. It offers an exhaustive list of pro-life organizations at the provincial, state, and international level. The extent of pro-life organizations is truly overwhelming. The range of groups is astounding and encouraging. E, S, C/U.

www.prolifetoolkit.com/

The links and resources available are faith-based and quite varied. One feature is its page on quotations from secular sources - Ronald Reagan, Margaret Sanger, Mother Teresa, Thomas Jefferson, Carl Sandburg, Rabindranth Tagore, Germaine Greer. Other good sections present sermons on abortion, essays on related topics, and the subtleties of language usage by pro-abortionists whether in print or broadcast media. S, C/U.



www.pregnantpause.org/people/

The site deals with individuals, arguments against pro-organization, charities that promote anti-life

choices and alternatives to them, an article that summarizes where churches stand on abortion, a link with a South African based pro-life group. One of their best links is called “Links for Life”. This latter link hooks up with pregnancy centers, political organizations, and purveyors of pro-life resources. S, C/U.

www.geocities.com/Heartland/Estates/4152/100plus.htm

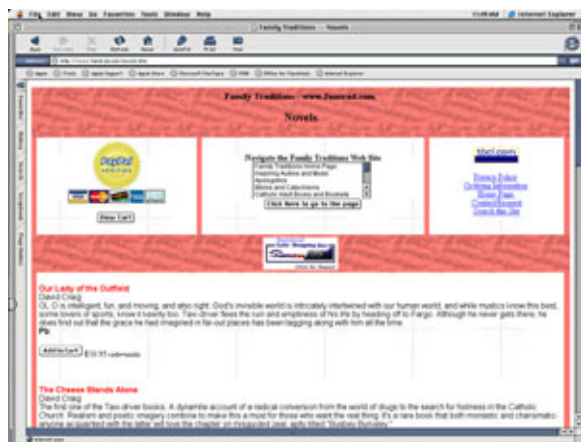
The site offers 100 things you can do to promote pro-life; for example, pray regularly for pro-life concerns; build a strong family and live by example; join a pro-life organization; visit the elderly, sick, or lonely; volunteer at a pregnancy care centre; serve as foster parents; subscribe to pro-life publications; etc. E, S, C/U

www.vanderbilt.edu/SFI/ethics.htm

A very good site with pro-life essays which refute the usual pro-abortion arguments including Judith Jarvis Thomson’s article “A Defense of Abortion” (which itself provides perhaps the most famous argument in favor of abortion in the medical ethics literature). S, C/U.

www.famtrad.com/novels.htm

The site offers titles of wholesome books with traditional values and themes. E, S, C/U.



www.findarticles.com/cf_dls/m1252/22_129/95953587/p2/article.jhtml?term=

Offers brief reviews and commentary on novels with a Catholic theme. These were letters to the editor of Commentary magazine. S, C/U.

www.booksunderreview.com/Society/Issues/Abortion/Pro-Life/Pro-Life_2.html

An American review of books on pro-life issues. Deals with the history of the pro-life movement in the United States. S, C/U

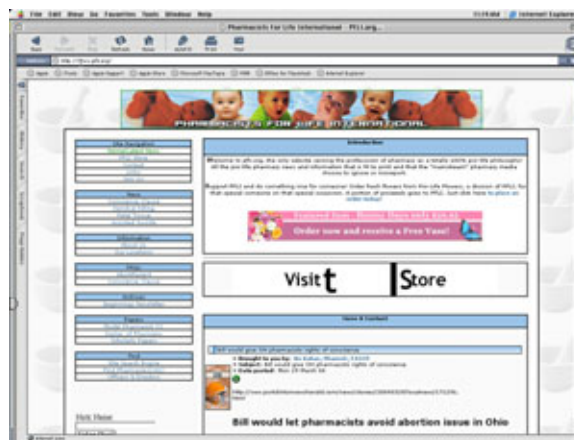
www.ewtn.com/library/PROLIFE/FR94401.TXT

An excellent essay on Simone de Beauvoir as the “mother” of the abortion movement. It puts into plain words the harm of her atheistic, existential, secular philosophy. There are other excellent articles on important 20th century writers like Simone de Beauvoir who had

anti-life views. S, C/U.

www.pfli.org/

This site hosted by Pharmacist for Life dispenses vital information on the ongoing efforts to combat anti-life forces operating in the pharmaceutical field. S, C/U.



http://lifeissues.net/writers/kol/kol_06prolifecharacter.html

Includes an article on how English teachers can use literature to teach about pro-life themes. Especially effective is Jeff Koloze’s article entitled “A Pro-life Character”. Another essay deals with Cultural Criticism. He makes a point about a pro-life poet Jean Blackwood: “one of those writers who have been marginalized by fellow feminists who, unlike her, are anti-life in philosophy. Blackwood’s understanding of the forces behind abortion makes us aware of who is oppressed — and who oppresses — within Western cultures.” S, C/U

www.uffl.org/vol10/zapatka10.pdf

An essay on the pro-life novels of Walker Percy, an American novelist, “Sentiment, Science and Thanatos in the Work of Walker Percy” by Francis Zapatka. S, C/U.

www.firstthings.com/ftissues/ft9601/reviews/briefly.html

This is the web site of the magazine *First Things*, foremost journal covering religion and the public square, published by Richard John Neuhaus. A feature of the magazine is its book review section. It inevitably offers some of the best, insightful reviews of important new books. A sample of what one can expect to find in its pages are the following excerpts from reviews:

One of the books reviewed in the magazine dealt with the Catholic novel: *The Modern Catholic Novel in Europe* by Theodore P. Fraser (Twayne Publisher). In his straightforward, surehanded account of the Catholic novel after the late 1800’s, Prof. Fraser analyzes the novels of the well-known British Catholics Evelyn Waugh and Graham Greene and the novels of the Continental Catholics like: Bernanos, Mauriac, Green, Chesbron. The study also contains a chapter on Scandinavian and German Catholic novelists Undset, Le Fort, and

Langgasser. The book remains what the Twayne World Authors Series is supposed to provide: a useful handbook and introduction for students and interested amateurs.

The Mad Among Us. By Gerald N. Grob. Harvard University Press. 386 pp. \$16.95 paper. An admirably comprehensive account of the history of the care of the mentally ill in the United States, more admirable for the modesty of its claims. The delusive pursuit of a “cure” for mental illness, says the author, led to the exaggerated claims for institutionalization in the last century and, since World War II, has contributed to the de-institutionalizing policies that have left innumerable “homeless” wandering the streets of America. Grob, professor of history at Rutgers, comes up with no solution, except perhaps for recognizing that there is no definitive solution for the problems of a population that continues to have a moral claim upon the rest of society. *S, C/U.*

www.firstthings.com/ftissues/ft9608/reviews/music.html

An essay appeared in a very recent edition of *First Things* tackling classical music and the abortion issue, and offering an interesting take on the difficulty of mixing music with this life theme. Might be useful for a discussion in music courses on what are appropriate topics for musical compositions. *S, C/U.*



www.standupgirl.com

One of the best sites on the web. Girls share the truth about unexpected pregnancies. *S, C/U.*

www.prolife students.org

Takes the courageous approach to motivate students to pursue the real splendour of truth. *S, C/U.*

www.sexrespect.com

Presents ideas and material on educating for abstinence. It offers a solid education program. *E, S, C/U*

www.heartbeatinternational.org

The site represents an interdenominational Christian association of life-affirming pregnancy resource centres, medical clinics, maternity homes and non-profit adop-

tion agencies. Their mission is to create an environment where every human heart is cherished and protected - within the womb and within strong families. *S, C/U.*



www.lifecall.org

A site for young people. Devoted to helping to educate teens about abortion. *E, S, C/U*

www.lifeteen.org

A youth oriented site offering a dynamic comprehensive program designed to minister to high school teens of all faiths. *S, C/U.*



www.lovematters.com

This is a sprightly site full of news, commentary, articles and interviews dealing with the topics of chastity and respect for life. *S, C/U*

www.ncln.ca

A network that exists to support, strengthen and expand Canada’s post-secondary campus pro-life groups. *S, C/U.*

www.geocities.com/Athens/Academy/6591/donum

The site presents well-reasoned Catholic philosophical explanations on why abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment and suicide are morally wrong. *S, C/U.*

www.peopleforlife.org/brochure.html

One can access the site as a source of brochures and pamphlets on abortion and a wide range of right to life topics. *S, C/U.*

www.cpforlife.org/

The site offers good material and a strong rationale for making pro-life education a must. Since the decision of *Roe v. Wade*, tens of millions of Christian school students could have received a Pro-Life education. This group would today constitute a huge voting block; and with them, the culture of death might have already been defeated. *S, C/U.*

“The Pro-Life movement has worked tirelessly, attempting to change the hearts and minds of adults in the voting booth and in government. However, this is addressing the problem *after* the damage has been done. Simultaneously, children’s hearts and minds are not being properly cultivated in the truth of the sanctity of life while in Christian school. The result is that Christian schools continue graduating more voters and

future government leaders whose record of defending life is no better than the national average. This sad reality is made evident with every election (see below) and with every legislative session. This self-defeating cycle must stop, as it is one of the main underlying reasons why we have not yet ended the scourge of abortion and the growing attacks against the sanctity of life. There is a strategy that can and should be followed. If a student graduates with perfect grades, but does not have a solid understanding of the sanctity of Life and his personal obligation to defend Life, we have failed him and our Lord miserably. There truly is no valid reason why teaching the sanctity of life should not be mandatory in all Christian schools, bible study, and CCD programs across the nation and around the globe. The Christian world has everything to gain. It is only the culture of death that has something to lose. Politics alone cannot succeed. Education of school students is the key.”

CHRISTIAN PATRIOTS FOR LIFE



ONE NATION UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE,
WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL?



www.catholic.net/RCC/Prolife/prolife2.html

On this site one will find a complete directory of pro-life organizations in the United States. S, C/U.

www.abortionaborted.org/prolifeoncampus.htm

Presents practical ideas on forming pro-life clubs on college and university campuses across all of North America. S, C/U.

http://lifeissues.net/writers/kol/kol_01abortionandrap-music1.html

Abortion and Rap Music : A Literary Study of the Lyrics of Representative Rap Songs by Jeff Koloze. S, C/U

www.townhall.com/phillysoc/bartlettpaper.htm

Not strictly speaking a pro-life site, but it presents some interesting angles on well-known pop songs with conservative and even pro-life themes. It is one individual's choice of songs. S, C/U.

www.museeks.com/images/music_bach.html

Takes a view of J.S. Bach as a pro-life music composer. It renders a judgment on the music of J.S Bach and the motivation behind it. S, C/U

www.priestsforlife.org/prayers/prayerbooklet

One will find many prayers to counter the evil, suffering and tragedy caused by abortion and other practices that harm innocent human life. E, S, C/U

Section 2

Canadian Pro-life Groups and Resources

Canada has many pro-life organizations serving the needs of families. For a comprehensive list of such organizations, their addresses, phone numbers, e-mail etc across the country refer to www.webhart.net/vandee/prolife.

There are national sites as well as provincial ones. Specific national pro-life groups accessible on line include the following:

Canadian Physicians for Life ...a charitable organization of Canadian doctors dedicated to the respect and ethical treatment of every human being, regardless of age or infirmity. www.physiciansforlife.ca



Campaign Life Coalition ...a political lobby group devoted to influencing the political process in favour of obtaining legislation which will respect and protect the right to life of all human beings. 1-800-730-5358, E-mail clc@lifesite.net

Campaign Life Coalition Youth ...the youth wing of the above organization, interested in mobilizing youth to learn more about the pro-life movement. 1-800-730-5358 E-mail youth@lifesite.net

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition ...exists to prepare a well-informed, broadly based network of groups and individuals who support measures that will create an effective social barrier to euthanasia and assisted suicide. tel 519-439-3348 E-mail info@epcc.ca

Matercare International ...is an association of health professionals dedicated to improving the lives and health of mothers and their unborn children throughout the world, through new initiatives of service, training, and research, in accordance with the contemporary teaching contained in the Encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (the Gospel of Life).



www.matercare.org/lifesaver

Pharmacists for Life International/Canada ...is an organization of Canadian pharmacists dedicated to serving the 'life issues' in the field of pharmacy.

www.geocities.com/pflifc/news.html

More Canadian Pro-life Organizations

Aid to Women 416-921-6016 www.aidforwomen.org

Alberta Life Issues www.albertalifeissues.org

British Columbia Parents and Teachers for Life
www.bcptl.org

Business for Life 1-800-245-2319

Catholic Medical Association www.cathmed.org

Centre for Bioethics and Human Dignity

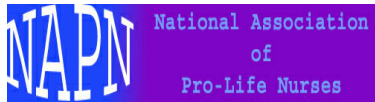
www.bioethix.org

Canadian Nurses for Life 613-728-8125

Christian Medical and Dental Society www.cmds.org

Citizens Impact Canada www.citizenimpact.ca

National Association of
Pro-life Nurses
www.nursesforlife.org



Not Dead Yet www.acils.com/NotDeadYet

Physicians Against Euthanasia

www.geocities.com/eureka/enterprise/9923/pae

Ontario Students for Life www.osfl.on.ca

Ottawa Youth for Life www.ottawayouthforlife.org

Toronto Right to Life www.rtl-toronto.org

www.pro-lifeinfo.org/ It contains the most comprehensive listing of right to life resources on the net. E, S, C/U.

Section 3 Denominational & International Pro-Life Sites

www.anglican-cathoic.net/acl/webdoc3 Anglican Catholics for Life

www.bfl.org Baptists for Life

www.cj4life.org Christians and Jews for Life

www.jewsforlife Jews for Life

www.lutheransforlife.org Lutherans for Life

www.ppl.org Presbyterians for Life

www.soul.org.nz

A New Zealand website explaining to students that infanticide, euthanasia, and non-therapeutic abortion are harmful to all of society. E, S, C/U.



www.studentlifenet.org.uk



This is the voice of a British national coalition of pro-life students, working together to protect and defend human life from conception to natural death. S, C/U.

www.stmichael.org/Zhizn/gazeta.html

Site for native pro-life forces in Russia. There is much work to be done to undo the pro-abortion, anti-life legacy left by the 70 year communist experiment. It was the communist government of the Soviet Union that was the first government to legalize abortion. S, C/U.

Section 4 Bioethics/Stem Cell Research/ Human Cloning

www.donoharm.org.uk

Terrific site on modern medical practices and its ethical issues. It takes its lead from the original Oath of Hippocrates. E, S, C/U.

www.bioethix.org

The web site of the *Centre for Bioethics and Human Dignity*. It contains material and articles on the ethical issues associated with medical and scientific practices and research. S, C/U.

www.utoronto.ca/strikes/bioethics

The site of the *Canadian Bioethics Institute*, an important center for the study of new research areas and their ethical implications in light of Catholic church teaching. S, C/U.

www.foet.org/anti-cloning.htm

The web site for the *Anti-cloning Initiative*, offering leftist/liberal views against cloning. Thus, at least on this issue the “left” is making common cause with “social conservatives”. It is a refreshing point of view, contrary to the usual alignment of political factions. S, C/U.

www.globalchange.com/davidw.html

This site deals with many issues and the “future”. Although rich in material, the site should be used only with guidance. There is no discernible pro-life stance to the anti-cloning arguments presented in the papers, articles and videos. For example, Dr. Patrick Dixon’s practical reasons against cloning includes: **Health risks** from mutation of genes - an abnormal baby would be a nightmare come true; **Emotional risks** - a child grows up knowing her mother is her sister, her grandmother is her mother; **Risk of abuse of the technology** - what would Hitler have done with cloning technology if available in the 1940s? There are powerful leaders in every generation who will seek to abuse this technology for their own purposes. S, C/U.

www.stemcellresearch.org/testimonies/hook

The site provides loads of information on the scientific arguments for opposing embryonic stem cell research. S, C/U.

www.americancatholic.org/features/learners

Offers study guides from various issues of *St. Anthony Messenger* online edition. The resources are prepared for high school students and cover a wide range of topics including science, social studies, arts education, language arts, and Christian ethics. In January 2002 it featured the ethics of stem cell research.

www.str.org

The site for *Stand to Reason* magazine, offering ethical perspectives on the biotech issues. *S, C/U.*

www.worldmag.com/world/issue/07-28-01

A good source. Offers an essay based on the original satire of Jonathan Swift, *A Modest Proposal*, regarding the destruction of human embryos. *S, C/U.*

www.ajobonline.com/hsbioethics

Site of the *American Journal of Biology*, containing a comprehensive essay giving an historical overview of the genetic revolution. The site provides links to other quality sites dealing with biology issues. *S, C/U.*

www.reproductivecloning.net/

The site for *The Reproductive Cloning Network*, primarily in favour of human cloning of all types. These folks take a very liberal, laissez-faire stance on the whole issue. There is nothing but good things to come from such scientific research according to them, and besides it is also inevitable! It is a strong site in favour of cloning. The only reason to use it is simply to become familiar with the philosophy and arguments used by those in favour of cloning. *S, C/U.*

www.catholiceducation.org/

A solid site with links to many other pages specializing in certain moral topics. It also offers a comprehensive presentation of core subjects and issues currently in the news (abortion, euthanasia, cloning, bioethics, pornography, parentin, family, media, etc.). It is frequently updated. *S, C/U.*

www.bioethics.net/

Another liberal site dealing with the whole area of bioethics and their application to a host of issues and topics. It argues for an openended approach to all type of research and application of biotechnological breakthroughs. Not a recommended site, but illustrates the way that a utilitarian philosophy works in this field. *S, C/U.*

Section 5

Marriage and the Family

www.cyberus.ca/~sjwflf

This site is that of St. Joseph Workers for Life and Family. The organization exists to help parents fulfill their obligations more effectively by providing them with good resource materials. *E, S, C/U.*

www.fotf.org

This is the site for *Focus on the Family*, an organization whose primary purpose is to defend, protect, and strengthen the structure of the family as the most important social institution. *E, S, C/U.*



www.catholiceducation.org/directory/Current_Issues/Marriage_and_Family/

There are numerous articles: on the reasons for keeping marriage as it has always been, the union of one man and one woman; the contraceptive mentality; life-giving mandate of families; love expressed in marriage and family; challenges of parenting; social change and their effects on families. *E, S, C/U.*

www.lifesite.net/ldn/2003/sep/030917a.html

This section includes a speech delivered by Stephen Harper in the House of Commons in September of 2003 on the need to protect traditional marriage. This is only a sample of what can be found on this web site in the way of political speeches on life issues, whether in the Canadian parliament or in the American Congress. *S, C/U.*

www.fri-wi.org/Research/Fact%20Sheets/January%202002.htm

A Wisconsin site of the Family Research Institute. It is devoted to family issues and to the protection of marriage and family. *S, C/U.*

www.fatherhood.org

An excellent source for information on the role of fatherhood in the well being of society. *E, S, C/U.*

www.familylifeinstitute.com

The site is associated with the Pontifical Council on the Family. It offers extensive resources on parenting, family life and the roles of mothers and fathers. The material and advice acknowledge the dignity, responsi-

bility and competency of parents. *E, S, C/U.*



www.trushare.com/AUG98BELL.HTM

This site has an essay by Anne Bell assessing the impact of the current cult of abortion on the concept of motherhood. *S, C/U.*

Section 6 Population Issues

www.perso.infonie.be/le.feu

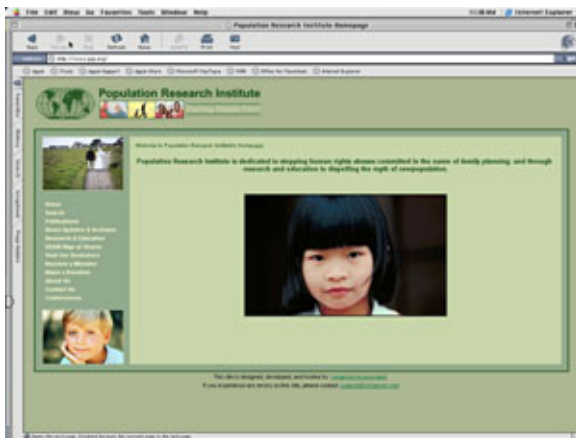
This is a multilingual pro-life site that publishes in English, French, Spanish, Italian, German and Portuguese. The site is excellent for its depth and statistical studies on demographics. *S, C/U.*

www.catholiceducation.org/directory/Current_Issues/Population_Control/index.html

Offers many articles on population controls, international organizations, demographics of larger issues, disease control, economics, poverty and development. *S, C/U.*

www.pop.org

Site of the Population Research Institute, the premier source for population related research all across the planet. *S, C/U.*



Section 7 Women's Perspective

www.realwomenca.com

This is the home site of REAL Women of Canada, a non-partisan, non-denominational organization of independent women drawn from all walks of life, occupations, social and economic backgrounds. The organization is dedicated to being a voice for Canadian women who did not have a public forum in which to express their pro-life views. *S, C/U.*



www.cwfa.org



Concerned Women of America runs this website to express a female perspective and a sense of responsibility in combatting the negative consequences of abortion. *S, C/U.*

www.feministsforlife.org

The site challenges the stereotype of feminists as abortion supporters. Not all women who claim to be feminists are pro-abortion. The spokeswomen of Feminists for Life argue for respect for all human life including the unborn. *S, C/U.*

