

LIFERS

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ABORTION IN AFRICA

(Fourth part of a six-part series on status of abortion throughout the world)

For much of recent history, Africa has had some of the most restrictive abortion laws in the world. Most countries outlawed it except in cases where the mother's life was endangered. However, in 1995, the African Union began work on drafting a document on women's rights, later to become known as the Maputo Protocol. Adopted 8 years later on July 11, 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique, this charter has effectively spread the legalization of abortion throughout much of the African continent.

In the African Union, enforcement of a protocol requires the ratification of 15 member states, which this document received by November 2005. Currently, 27 of the 53 countries in the AU have ratified the Maputo protocol, which guarantees the right to abortion "in cases of sexual assault, rape, incest,

and where continued pregnancy endangers the mental and physical health of the mother or the life of the mother or the fetus." Pope Benedict has referred to the Maputo Protocol as "an attempt to trivialize abortion surreptitiously."

At this time, many countries' governments are debating ratification of the protocol. Being that the current "standard" of international law is pro-abortion, the United Nations as well as the European Union have put pressure on African countries to promote and legalize women's "reproductive rights," particularly the Maputo Protocol. As is a usual tactic by such organizations, many times monetary aid has been made contingent on a country's ratification of the protocol.

Action is being taken, however, against abortion legalization in Africa, particularly by Catholics and Muslims. According to

Lifesitenews.com, a march and demonstration of 20,000 people was held recently on July 17 in Douala, Cameroon, led by Cardinal Christian Wiyghan Tumi, in opposition to Cameroon's ratification of the Maputo Protocol, which took place earlier this May. In addition, the heavily Catholic country of Uganda has successfully blocked ratification of the protocol since its adoption in 2003.

Currently, numbers on abortion throughout African countries are widely unavailable, particularly because most countries have only ratified the Maputo Protocol in the last 3-5 years. The most recent numbers, provided by the pro-abortion Alan Guttmacher institute, put estimates for Africa in 2003 at 5.6 million abortions, although with the widespread ratification of the Maputo Protocol, the numbers have likely increased.

*- Andy Mattingly,
Diocese of Kansas City- St. Joseph*

Facts on Induced Abortion in the United States

Report as of July 2008 Courtesy of Guttmacher Institute

INCIDENCE OF ABORTION

- Nearly half of pregnancies among American women are unintended, and four in 10 of these are terminated by abortion. Twenty-two percent of all pregnancies (excluding miscarriages) end in abortion.
- Forty percent of pregnancies among white women, 69% among blacks and 54% among Hispanics are unintended.
- In 2005, 1.21 million abortions were performed, down from 1.31 million in 2000. From 1973 through 2005, more than 45 million legal abortions occurred.
- Each year, about two percent of women aged 15-44 have an abortion; 47% of them have had at least one previous abortion.

Donate to LIFERS!

The Conception Seminary College Pro-Life Group continues to be a vocal and visible force both on and off of campus. Its newsletter distribution includes readers from several different dioceses, primarily in the Midwest, and the mailing list continues to grow. This year the group is planning to continue making monthly “prayer pilgrimages” to the Planned Parenthood clinic in Overland Park, KS, to pray rosaries with the intention of seeing an end to abortion and attacks on all human life in our world, and also plans to send most – if not all – of its members to the March For Life in Washington, D.C. next January. The group plans to actively promote the pro-life cause through distribution of literature and pro-life themed merchandise and will communicate with political leaders regarding the cause, encouraging them to be mindful and respectful in all of their decisions that the sanctity and dignity of all human life is protected.

The Pro-Life Group depends on contributions from its own members, as well as some financial help from the campus student council, to pay for newsletter printing costs, postage, and expenses related to fuel for their “prayer pilgrimages,” purchase of pro-life literature and merchandise to distribute, and various other expenses that come up for the group.

If you’d like to contribute financially to the Pro-Life Group’s efforts, please send donations (checks payable to Conception Abbey, Memo PRO LIFE GROUP), to the following address:

CSC Pro-Life Group
Attn: Andy Mattingly
P.O. Box 502
Conception, MO 64433

Thank you in advance for your generosity!



PRAYER PILGRIMAGE Students from Conception joined several other “prayer warriors” outside of the Planned Parenthood clinic in Overland Park, KS to pray the full rosary on Saturday morning, September 12.

It is from the blood of Christ that all draw *the strength to commit themselves to promoting life.*

- Pope John Paul II's Evangelium Vitae, #25

**“Hey, check out this website!”
National Right to Life: <http://www.nrlc.org/>**