

Family **LIFE**

WINTER 2025 | FREE

INSIDE

Welcoming New Mothers and Babies at St Gianna's Home

Marriage and the Family: the Cradle of Life and Hope

IMPORTANT: Details of Pro-Life Speaking Tour

**DEFENDING
LIFE, FAITH
& FAMILY**

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OUR MISSION

To build a culture of life and love by promoting and defending the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, and by promoting marriage between one man and one woman, and the natural family through prayer, education, and service.



FAMILY LIFE
INTERNATIONAL NZ

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Front Cover:

Jaxson & TK - residents of
St Gianna's Home for Mothers and Babies

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the family a sanctuary of life

We are living in an era where human life is increasingly devalued, viewed as a burden, or welcomed only on arbitrary terms. In such a despairing culture, the family must be rediscovered as what the Church calls the “sanctuary of life.”

A sanctuary is more than just a safe place. It is a sacred space, set apart, where life is received, cherished, and protected. When we say the family is the sanctuary of life, we affirm that every home is meant to be a dwelling place of love; a refuge where life is welcomed from conception to natural death, and where each person is valued because they are created in the image of God.

Saint John Paul II reminded us: *“The family is called to become the sanctuary of life, the place in which life—the gift of God—can be properly welcomed and protected against the many attacks to which it is exposed”* (EV §92). The family is where children learn that they are wanted, where the elderly are honoured, and where sacrifice and tenderness teach the true meaning of love.

Without strong families, we cannot restore a culture of life.

Even with so much brokenness in every family, we must continue to strive to uphold and promote the family as God intended it with compassion, charity, and truth.

That is why this September, our educational speaking tour with HLI President, Father Shenan Boquet, has the theme *“The Family is the Sanctuary of Life.”*

Father Boquet is an engaging and knowledgeable speaker, having travelled extensively, equipping people to restore a culture of life. Please join us if you are able, and spread the word far and wide about the events tabled on page 23.

Life is a precious gift from God. By promoting and defending the family, we set the stage for life to be welcomed, nurtured, and protected from its beginning to end.

Yours in the service of life,



Michelle Kaufman

National Director
Family Life International NZ

“Families are the
cradle of the future
of humanity.”

POPE LEO XIV
HOMILY 1 JUNE 2025





FROM THE FOUNDER'S DESK

Celebration of Life

DAME COLLEEN BAYER



On Sunday 30 March, a most joyous and very happy occasion was held at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre in Auckland. The event was hosted by Bishop Steve Lowe who gave everyone such a warm welcome and spoke so compellingly on the sanctity of life and challenges faced in our society today. In addition, we happily gathered together to celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation, which was just a few days earlier on 25 March.

The day was a chance for us to honour and thank all of our Friends for Life who make the work of Family Life International possible and something beautiful for God.

The afternoon began with a magnificent Maori welcome by Mrs Briar Cornwall, who later sang to the guests traditional Maori songs. Briar sung so beautifully, like a songbird. She truly embraces her Maori culture and her Catholic faith with such grace and dignity.



Our guest speaker for the afternoon was Mrs Peggy Hartshorne, Chair of Heartbeat International. Peggy had travelled from Columbus, Ohio, in the United States to speak compellingly on the cause for life, encouraging and exhorting all present to never ever give up seeing and nurturing the inherent dignity of every conceived baby in this world. Her encouragement was electric, and her knowledge profound.

Family Life International is richly blessed to be an affiliate of Heartbeat International, and the Board benefited from Peggy's wisdom. While in New Zealand, Peggy visited Whangarei for talks, which were especially well received at Pompallier College. There, she sowed seeds for a culture of life amongst the 500 students who were privileged to hear her speak. Peggy also visited *St Gianna's Home for Mothers and Babies* and was very impressed.



Top of Page: Mrs Peggy Hartshorne and Mrs Briar Cornwall.

Above: Bishop Steve Lowe blessing one of the babies saved through Gianna's Choice Pregnancy Options and Support.

Right: Guests at the Celebration of Life.

A MESSAGE TO THE MOTHERS AND BABIES WHO ATTENDED

To each of the brave and courageous mothers, babies and families who came along to share your stories and and join in we say: “the gifts of your babies lives are a huge asset and gift. A sign of beauty and above all hope in a world that has lost its way. Your decisions for life inspire us all as we continue to promote and defend human life from the first moment of conception to natural death. You are brave. You are strong!”

Represented at the celebration were adoptees and their families ranging from age 23 downwards, immigrants who desire and strive for a much better life, and Kiwi mothers who love and protect their precious babies that escaped the snares of the abortion industry in New Zealand.

“You are blessed! We honour each one of you and the thousands of women in New Zealand and beyond who say YES to the life of their unborn child, despite all the pressures in this anti-life and anti-family world.”



Cara and her daughter Maria.



MOTHER OF DIVINE MERCY

What Family Life International joyful event could ever happen without the amazing Mother of Divine Mercy Choir? They stole the hearts of everyone of the 100-plus guests of the day. They concluded the afternoon with such beautiful singing, leaving us all in sheer wonder. How blessed are we!



Top: Mother of Divine Mercy.

Above: Peggy's Visit to St Gianna's Home for Mothers and Babies with some FLI staff and residents of the Home, Cara and her daughter Maria.



Marriage and the family: the cradle of life and hope

MICHELLE KAUFMAN

Pope Leo has been quick to reaffirm the importance of marriage and family for humanity. Most notably, in a homily for the *Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly*, he declared, **“families are the cradle of the future of humanity.”**

He continued:

“I would remind married couples that marriage is not an ideal but the measure of true love between a man and a woman: a love that is total, faithful, and fruitful. This love makes you one flesh and enables you, in the image of God, to bestow the gift of life.”

This is no mere sentiment. Rather, it reflects the foundational truth that marriage – between one man and one woman, open to life – is the structure upon which a civilization of love and life must be built. This is a truth the Church has always proclaimed, and one that modern society, to its own peril, has rejected.

A LONGSTANDING TEACHING

The Church’s teaching on the sanctity of marriage and the family has been consistently proclaimed throughout her history. In *Gaudium et Spes*, the Second Vatican Council declared that *“The well-being of the individual person and of human and Christian society is intimately linked with the healthy condition of that community produced by marriage and family.”* (§47)

Pope St. John Paul II, the great defender of life and the family, stressed that *“the family is the sanctuary of life”* (*Evangelium Vitae*, §92). He warned that attacks on the family were at the heart of the culture of death. He insisted that if the dignity of human life is to be restored, we must begin by defending and renewing marriage and the family.

THE ROOT OF THE CULTURE OF DEATH

Practices such as abortion and euthanasia are not isolated issues. When the natural institution of the family is weakened, the most vulnerable—the preborn, the elderly, the disabled—are no longer protected.

In *Humanae Vitae*, Pope Paul VI prophetically warned that the acceptance of contraception would lead to a general lowering of morality and a loss of respect for women and human life (§17). That warning has proven tragically accurate.



THE FAMILY AS THE ANTIDOTE

Against this backdrop, Pope Leo recently held up newly canonised saints, including the parents of St Therese, Louis and Zélie Martin, who lived holy married lives as models for our time.

Marriage is where life is welcomed, children are nurtured, and future generations are formed in love, truth, and responsibility.



Sts Louis and Zélie Martin.

***“By pointing to them
as exemplary
witnesses of married
life ... the Church tells
us that today’s world
needs the marriage
covenant in order to
know and accept God’s
love and to defeat,
thanks to its unifying
and reconciling power,
the forces that break
down relationships
and societies.”***

A CALL TO WITNESS

In a world that is broken, proclaiming the truth about marriage and family is no easy task. All of us bear the wounds of imperfect and sometimes incredibly painful experiences. But this should not stop us from pointing the way to what leads to true human flourishing.

To conclude his homily, Pope Leo called each person to love with renewed generosity:

“I encourage you, then, to be examples of integrity to your children, acting as you want them to act, educating them in freedom through obedience, always seeing the good in them and finding ways to nurture it. And you, dear children, show gratitude to your parents. To say “thank you” each day for the gift of life and for all that comes with it is the first way to honour your father and your mother (cf. Ex 20:12). Finally, dear grandparents and elderly people, I recommend that you watch over your loved ones with wisdom and compassion, and with the humility and patience that come with age.”

REBUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE

Marriage and family, lived as God intended, provide the stable foundation that society needs to flourish and to protect its most vulnerable members. Without them, a culture of life cannot take root.

Therefore, let us pray and work tirelessly to restore marriage to its rightful place, to strengthen families, and to build a civilization in which every human life—no matter how small, weak, or old—is cherished, protected, and loved.

Natural Fertility Awareness

PAULINE LOUDEN



"Daughters' of Mary" at St Anne's Chapel in Te Atatu.

I was privileged to be invited by the "Daughters' of Mary" women's group at St Anne's Chapel in Te Atatu (FSSP), to give a presentation on Natural Fertility.

The morning started with a Low Latin Mass, followed by a light breakfast of home baked goods.

Father Sumich gave a blessing before the session began. I used the wonderful resource, from Heartbeat International, *Focus On Fertility*, which was received with enthusiasm by the twenty or so women who attended this day.

CONTACT US FOR

Natural Fertility Awareness

Confidential Advice and Education

*Celebrating marriage and
upholding the dignity of human life.*



- ✓ Understand your couple fertility
- ✓ 100% Natural
- ✓ Understand your cycle at any age
- ✓ Achieve pregnancy
- ✓ Postpone pregnancy

“Periodic continence as a method of regulating conception is permissible in so far as it does not conflict with a sincere disposition to procreate.”

- St Pope John Paul II

Applicable in all of these circumstances:

- When breastfeeding and returning to fertility
- Approaching menopause
- After pregnancy or miscarriage
- Regular or irregular cycles

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Email: nzgiannaschoice@gmail.com



Crusade for the Family Prayer

Father John A Hardon, SJ

Mary, Mother of God,

at your request, Jesus worked His first miracle. He changed water into wine for the wedding guests at Cana in Galilee. Over the centuries you have not ceased to obtain countless signs and wonders for the poor, exiled children of Eve. We therefore ask you to intercede with your Divine Son for the miraculous graces which the modern world so desperately needs:

- For the conversion and reconversion of whole nations to Jesus Christ and His teaching on marriage and the family.
- For the heroic preservation among Christians of their faith in the indissolubility of marriage, marital fidelity and the loving acceptance of children, as the bedrock of the Christian family.
- For the courage of martyrs in all of us followers of Christ, that we may witness to His power to overcome the powers of darkness that are bent on destroying the human family and the moral law.

Mary, Mother of the Holy Family, and Mother of our families, pray for us.

Amen.

For More Pro-Life Prayers
Visit FLI.ORG.NZ

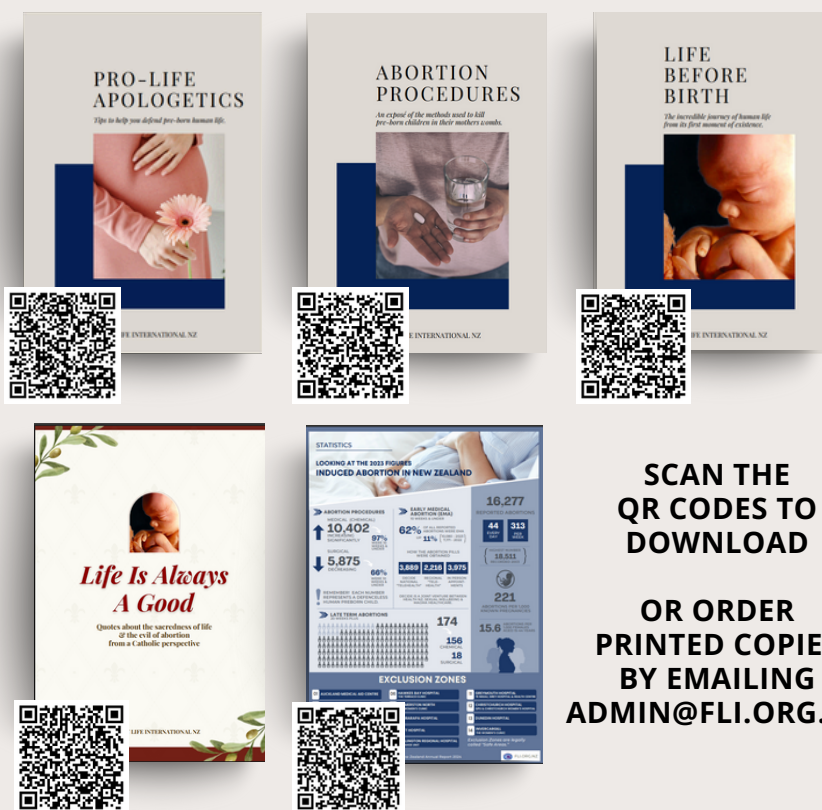


* LENT 2025 *

PRAYER FOR LIFE

Pray for an end to abortion.

All of these resources are available to you!



SCAN THE QR CODES TO DOWNLOAD

OR ORDER PRINTED COPIES BY EMAILING ADMIN@FLI.ORG.NZ

About the Prayer for Life

During Lent FLI's Friends for Life undertook a great "Prayer for Life" - 40 days of praying for an end to abortion.

Participants were able to sign up and receive:

- ✦ Prayer videos with focused prayer intentions.
- ✦ Scripture passages.
- ✦ Reflections.
- ✦ Prayers including: the Rosary, Chaplets, Litanies, and the Daily Prayer for Life.
- ✦ Educational resources.

Access all 40 Days of Prayer Videos



SCAN THE QR CODE

We encourage you to continue to use these beautiful prayer videos as they are not limited to use only during Lent. Please continue to pray for an end to abortion with us!



Life is a precious gift!

LEAVE A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING.

After you have provided for your family, you can do something special for countless pre-born children by giving them the gift of life.

By simply asking your lawyer to add a codicil to your will, you will be helping to ensure that the life-saving work of FLI continues for many years to come!

CONTACT COLLEEN BAYER
FOR MORE INFORMATION COL.FLI@XTRA.CO.NZ

STATISTICS

7 NOVEMBER 2021 - 30 JUNE 2025
EUTHANASIA & ASSISTED SUICIDE

On 7 November 2021, New Zealand crossed a tragic threshold as euthanasia and assisted suicide became legally available through the public health care system. Within the system, these practices are referred to euphemistically as “assisted dying.”

Since then, well over one thousand people have been killed by their doctor or assisted in suicide. The number of cases continues to rise each year.

- This is a profound tragedy—
- for the individuals whose lives were ended,
 - for families and friends left behind,
 - for the medical profession called to heal and not harm,
 - and for society as a whole, which is diminished when the most vulnerable are abandoned in their hour of need.

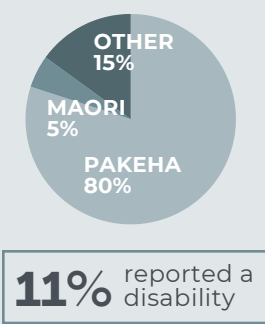
APPLICANT DEMOGRAPHICS

Individuals who applied between 1/04/24 and 31/03/25.

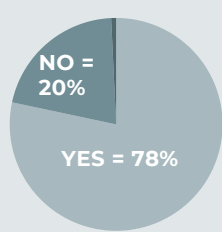
AGE OF APPLICANTS

18-44	21
45-64	198
65-84	639
85+	208

ETHNICITY



RECEIVING PALLIATIVE CARE



1137
ACTIVE APPLICATIONS

1027
ASSESSED

ONLY
19
reviewed by
a Psychiatrist

65%
had a cancer
diagnosis

FINANCIAL CLAIMS

\$4.776 MILLION

Claimed by Medical Practitioners for providing “services” under the End of Life Choice Act between 6/03/23 and 30/06/25

Source:
OIA Response
from Health NZ
31 July 2025

LOCATION OF DEATHS

From 7/11/21 to 31/12/24

837	HOME OR PRIVATE PROPERTY
94	PUBLIC HOSPITAL
134	AGED CARE
33	HOSPICE
8	FUNERAL HOME

1307

DEATHS
TO 30 JUNE 2025

1210 + 97

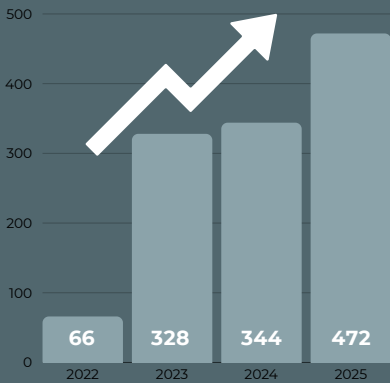
To 31/03/25 To 30/06/25

9

Deaths
per week
in 2024



DEATHS REPORTED
BY THE REGISTRAR BY YEAR



37%

Increase in
deaths in one year

METHODS USED
To 31/03/2025

1130
EUTHANASIA
INITIATED BY MEDICAL
OR NURSE PRACTITIONER

80 ASSISTED
SUICIDE
INITIATED BY SELF



St Gianna's Mothers & Children's Group

AMIE FRANSWAH

South Auckland



In May of this year, FLI *St Gianna's Mother's and Children's Group* begun. The purpose of the group is to give mothers of young children a sense of community and to support them in their faith journey. As a young mum myself, I know how important it is to have other mothers of faith around me. Together, we can support each other to live our vocation and grow to be the women God created us to be.

Each meeting starts with an element of formation and group discussions while children enjoy a safe area to play. There is Mass, followed by a time of fellowship over lunch. The group is held at *St Gianna's Home for Mothers and Babies* in Pukekohe.

I love this quote by Emily Jensen that expresses where the heart of motherhood comes from:

"If we want to enjoy motherhood more, we need to enjoy Christ more. There isn't life in motherhood. There's life in Christ and that overflows in our motherhood."

Our first few sessions have focused on:

- ▶ Mary: A role model for mothers,
- ▶ Pentecost: Inviting the Holy Spirit into our lives as mothers, and
- ▶ Motherhood is a joy, not a burden: A path to holiness.

The fruits of this group have already been immense!



I would be delighted if you could please add St Gianna's Mothers and Children's Group to your prayer intentions. Prayer is powerful and the Lord promises that he always hears our prayers. *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."* (Matthew 7:7-8)

I am so grateful for your ongoing prayerful support.

This initiative will most certainly leave a lasting impact on the lives of mothers in the South Auckland community. If you know any mothers with young children who might find this group beneficial, please let them know. For more information regarding this group please contact me.

Contact Amie for more details:
027 350 8227
werthenextgen@gmail.com

Mothers and their children at the first session.



Welcoming New Mothers and Babies

at St Gianna's Home for Mothers and Babies

BARBARA LEE & CHRISTINE BALLE

Earlier this year, we said goodbye to Cara and her little girl, Maria, after they had been with us for over a year. At *St Gianna's Home* we teach young mothers to care for their babies, to cook, to budget, and parent with the help of some community support. While it was sad to watch Cara and Maria leave, it was a positive step forward for them. It's been a real joy for us to see how they have blossomed at *St Gianna's Home*. Cara told us, ***"Your generosity knows no bounds, and we have learnt how to look after ourselves. You are amazing, keep up the good work."***

Over Cara's time with us, we became close to her family. They became regular visitors and expressed to us how grateful they were for our support. We were thrilled to receive a beautifully heartwarming card from her family:

"Thanks to all the lovely staff at St Gianna's, you always made us feel welcome. Thank you for your discussions and patience. You have all made a big impact on this family and we are sad to say goodbye."

-Cara & Maria's Family

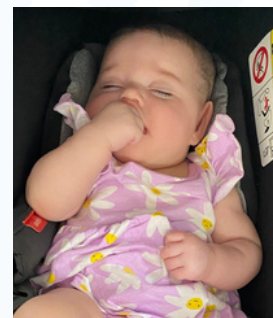


Jaxson & TK

We walk the long road, and supporting the mums and babies after they leave is vital. They need to know we are still here to support them and that we have not abandoned them.

The last few weeks have been an exciting time at *St Gianna's Home* with two healthy boys, Jaxson and TK, born ten days apart. It is such a blessing for the mothers to have each other to share these early experiences with. Grace, Jaxson's mum, says, ***"I think it's great that FLI is here to help single mums. It's great that our boys get to be best buds!"***

We are now welcoming a new pregnant mother into *St Gianna's Home* who is quite frightened and unsure. Please keep her and her baby in your prayers. Thank you to all of our Friends for Life for making all that we do at *St Gianna's Home for Mothers and Babies* possible!



Left: Cara's daughter Maria.
Right: Nora, a baby born at St Gianna's Home last year. Nora and her mother continue to stay in touch with us and visit often.

EVANGELIUM VITAE

The Gospel of Life
Saint Pope John Paul II



"YOUR CHILDREN WILL BE LIKE OLIVE SHOOTS AROUND YOUR TABLE" (PS 128:3): THE FAMILY AS THE "SANCTUARY OF LIFE"

92. Within the "people of life and the people for life", *the family has a decisive responsibility*. This responsibility flows from its very nature as a community of life and love, founded upon marriage, and from its mission to "guard, reveal and communicate love".¹¹⁷ Here it is a matter of God's own love, of which parents are co-workers and as it were interpreters when they transmit life and raise it according to his fatherly plan.¹¹⁸ This is the love that becomes selflessness, receptiveness and gift. Within the family each member is accepted, respected and honoured precisely because he or she is a person; and if any family member is in greater need, the care which he or she receives is all the more intense and attentive.

The family has a special role to play throughout the life of its members, from birth to death. It is truly "the *sanctuary of life*: the place in which life-the gift of God-can be properly welcomed and protected against the many attacks to which it is exposed, and can develop in accordance with what constitutes authentic human growth".¹¹⁹ Consequently the role of the family in building a culture of life is *decisive and irreplaceable*.

As the *domestic church*, the family is summoned to proclaim, celebrate and serve the *Gospel of life*. This is a responsibility which first concerns married couples, called to be givers of life, on the basis of an ever greater *awareness of the meaning of procreation* as a unique event which clearly reveals that *human life is a gift received in order then to be given as a gift*. In giving origin to a new life, parents recognize that the child, "as the fruit of their mutual gift of love, is, in turn, a gift for both of them, a gift which flows from them".¹²⁰

It is above all in *raising children* that the family fulfils its mission to proclaim the *Gospel of life*. By word and example, in the daily round of relations and choices, and through concrete actions and signs, parents lead their children to authentic freedom, actualized in the sincere gift of self, and they cultivate in them respect for others, a sense of justice, cordial openness, dialogue, generous service, solidarity and all the other values which help people to live life as a gift. In raising children Christian parents must be concerned about their children's faith and help them to fulfil the vocation God has given them. The parents' mission as educators also includes teaching and giving their children an example of the true meaning of suffering and death. They will be able to do this if they are sensitive to all kinds of suffering around them and, even more, if they succeed in fostering attitudes of closeness, assistance and sharing towards sick or elderly members of the family.

93. The family *celebrates the Gospel of life* through *daily prayer*, both individual prayer and family prayer. The family prays in order to glorify and give thanks to God for the gift of life, and implores his light and strength in order to face times of difficulty and suffering without losing hope. But the celebration which gives meaning to every other form of prayer and worship is found in *the family's actual daily life together*, if it is a life of love and self-giving.

This celebration thus becomes a *service to the Gospel of life*, expressed through *solidarity* as experienced within and around the family in the form of concerned, attentive and loving care shown in the humble, ordinary events of each day. A particularly significant expression of solidarity between families is a willingness to *adopt or take*

in children abandoned by their parents or in situations of serious hardship. True parental love is ready to go beyond the bonds of flesh and blood in order to accept children from other families, offering them whatever is necessary for their well-being and full development. Among the various forms of adoption, consideration should be given to *adoption-at-a-distance*, preferable in cases where the only reason for giving up the child is the extreme poverty of the child's family. Through this type of adoption, parents are given the help needed to support and raise their children, without their being uprooted from their natural environment.

As "a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good",¹²¹ solidarity also needs to be practised through *participation in social and political life*. Serving the *Gospel of life* thus means that the family, particularly through its membership of family associations, works to ensure that the laws and institutions of the State in no way violate the right to life, from conception to natural death, but rather protect and promote it.

94. Special attention must be given to the *elderly*. While in some cultures older people remain a part of the family with an important and active role, in others the elderly are regarded as a useless burden and are left to themselves. Here the temptation to resort to euthanasia can more easily arise.

Neglect of the elderly or their outright rejection are intolerable. Their presence in the family, or at least their closeness to the family in cases where limited living space or other reasons make this impossible, is of fundamental importance in creating a climate of mutual interaction and enriching communication between the different age-groups. It is therefore important to preserve, or to re-establish where it has been lost, a sort of "covenant" between generations. In this way parents, in their later years, can receive from their children the acceptance and solidarity which they themselves gave to their children when they brought them into the world. This is required by obedience to the divine commandment to honour one's father and mother (cf. *Ex* 20:12; *Lev* 19:3). But there is more. The elderly are not only to be considered the object of our concern, closeness and service. They themselves have a valuable contribution to make to the *Gospel of life*. Thanks to the rich treasury of experiences they have acquired through the years, the elderly can and must *be sources of wisdom and witnesses of hope and love*.

Although it is true that "the future of humanity passes by way of the family",¹²² it must be admitted that modern social, economic and cultural conditions make the family's task of serving life more difficult and demanding. In order to fulfil its vocation as the "sanctuary of life", as the cell of a society which loves and welcomes life, *the family urgently needs to be helped and supported*. Communities and States must guarantee all the support, including economic support, which families need in order to meet their problems in a truly human way. For her part, the Church must untiringly promote a plan of pastoral care for families, capable of making every family rediscover and live with joy and courage its mission to further the *Gospel of life*.



"Thanks to the rich treasury of experiences they have acquired through the years, the elderly can and must be sources of wisdom and witnesses of hope and love."



SCAN the QR code to read the full document on the Vatican website.

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117. John Paul II, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Familiaris Consortio* (22 November 1981), 17: AAS 74 (1982), 100.

118. Cf. Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World *Gaudium et Spes*, 50.

119. John Paul II, Encyclical Letter *Centesimus Annus* (1 May 1991), 39: AAS 83 (1991), 842.

120. John Paul II, Address to Participants in the Seventh Symposium of European Bishops, on the theme of "Contemporary Attitudes towards Life and Death: a Challenge for Evangelization" (17 October 1989), No. 5: *Insegnamenti* XII, 2 (1989), 945. Children are presented in the Biblical tradition precisely as God's gift (cf. *Ps* 127:3) and as a sign of his blessing on those who walk in his ways (cf. *Ps* 128:3-4).

121. John Paul II, Encyclical Letter *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* (30 December 1987), 38: AAS 80 (1988), 565-566.

122. John Paul II, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Familiaris Consortio* (22 November 1981), 86: AAS 74 (1982), 188.

MoH reviews Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act, makes recommendations

MICHELLE KAUFMAN

New Zealand's Ministry of Health has published the first periodic review of the *Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act 1977*, in which it has posited several recommendations to ensure "timely and equitable access," particularly to abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy, but also to contraception and sterilisation.

UNDERSTANDING THE CONTRACEPTION, STERILISATION AND ABORTION ACT

When the *Abortion Legislation Act* was passed in 2020, amendments were necessarily made to the *Contraception, Sterilisation, and Abortion Act, 1977 (CS&A Act)*. It is the principal legislation governing these matters in New Zealand law. One of those changes requires the Director General of Health to review the CS&A Act every five years. The first review was published in April 2025.

Given Royal Assent on 16 December 1977, the legislation sets out how abortion, contraception,

and sterilisation may be accessed lawfully in New Zealand. It has undergone several revisions over the almost fifty years of its existence.

Many pro-life advocates will focus solely on the outcomes of the section on abortion, believing that contraception and sterilisation are a matter of personal preference or conscience or beneficial to curtail the evil of abortion. However, the "contraceptive mentality" has contributed gravely to the acceptance of abortion in society.

In *Evangelium Vitae*, St John Paul II points out how closely connected they are, stating, "*despite their differences of nature and moral gravity, contraception and abortion are often closely connected, as fruits of the same tree.*" (§13)

Those who drafted the legislation saw the connection; we would be wise also to take note and to provide a vision alongside practical solutions to assist people to embrace life.

FAMILY LIFE CATHOLIC GIFTS

Saint John Paul II Centre for Life

569 Richardson Road, Mt Roskill, Auckland

REGULAR HOURS:

Monday to Friday
9:00am - 4:30pm

Saturday
10:00am - 2:00pm

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5 concerns and challenges in the review

1 NARROWING OF FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE

It is inferred within the review that those hospitals that do not currently provide abortion on their premises will be required to do so in time. One example is in the text discussing later surgical abortion, in which it is noted that “the Ministry is aware of some hospitals declining to provide this service even though willing practitioners are reportedly available.”

A group of people who are not currently governed by the requirements of the CS&A Act but are singled out in the review are administrative staff. In the future, restrictions on their freedom of conscience, such as those imposed on medical practitioners, may be implemented.

2 A FOCUS ON PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

People who live with a disability are vulnerable to the decisions of others. Often reliant on the advice and decisions of caregivers, there is a very real danger that these individuals are coerced or forced to undergo procedures and take contraceptives without freedom and without informed consent. These dangers are particularly prevalent for individuals who experience difficulties with communication, including listening, comprehension, and speaking, as well as those with significant intellectual impairments.

Currently, reporting is optional, and the data is scarce, so it is impossible to paint a clear picture of how many women and men of child-bearing age who have a disability are having procedures they do not consent to.

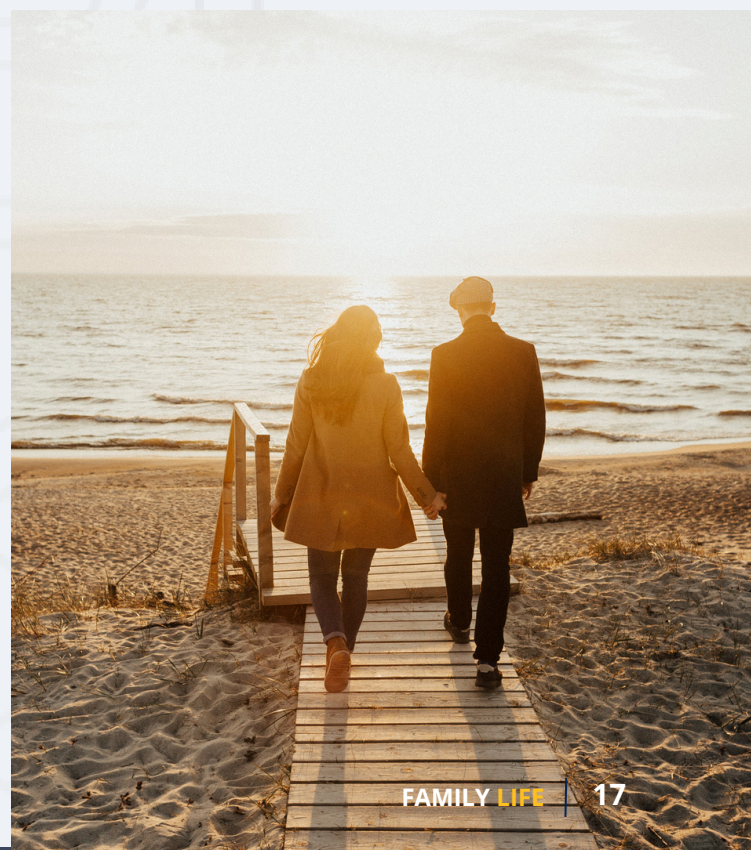
Although the review concludes that these difficulties should lead to more accessible information, a pro-life view would be to ensure these people are protected and not exposed to chemicals that are harmful to them or made to undergo abortion or sterilisation procedures, all of which are physically and spiritually harmful.

3 VEILED EUGENICS

The modern-day reproductive and sexual health movement came out of a eugenic mindset. Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood in the United States, is one of the most well-known eugenicists. It is a fact so well known that in 2021, Planned Parenthood released a statement denouncing her racist and eugenic mindset. This mindset has permeated (even unknowingly) among those who believe in an unfettered right to contraception, sterilisation, and abortion.

As mentioned above, those who are disabled are easy targets; however, so are those who come from a lower socio-economic background, who are from the Pacific, or who are Maori.

Of concern in the review is the desire to remove questions from the required sterilisation reporting that identify the race of patients. Also being removed is information about the person's relationship status and the number of children they have. All of this information is necessary to understand who is being sterilised.



4

INFORMATION AND ADVISORY SERVICES

Countering “misinformation” regarding abortion is a concern for the Ministry. Highlighted is the growing number of pregnancy centres and helplines of varying kinds throughout New Zealand. There is an undercurrent of concern about the existence of these vitally important services which assist women in making truly informed choices.

Pregnancy help centres and other similar outreaches are a real threat to those who believe abortion is a “right”. Although accused of spreading misinformation, the reality is that these organisations look at a woman’s situation holistically, ensuring she knows all the practical and emotional assistance available to her. Pregnancy advocates also give information about the development of her pre-born child (nearly always omitted by those advocating in favour of abortion), along with the very real risks to her physically and psychologically, both in the short and long term.

The review laments that the CS&A Act does not bind advocates within these organisations, meaning they are not bound by professional standards or regulations. However, pregnancy advocates at FLI’s *Gianna’s Choice Pregnancy Options and Support* and *Saint Gianna’s Home* staff and volunteers are held to the professional and ethical standards formulated by Heartbeat International. These standards hold individuals accountable and guide best practices.

5

GREATER EXPANSION OF ABORTION

Abortion is considered health care within the New Zealand system. As such, expect over time increased funding, further training opportunities for medical personnel, and stricter requirements for medical facilities to participate, particularly in rural areas where women may need to travel further, currently.

More than 1,000 surgical abortions took place in 2024 between 13 to 26 weeks gestation; these accounted for 71% of all induced abortions in the second trimester. The review noted that those prepared to carry out these abortions are small in number but “dedicated.” It then lamented the worker’s lack of “support it would gain from a nationally consistent approach and direction, along with a clear training pathway.

CONCLUSION: A WAKE-UP CALL FOR THE ‘PEOPLE OF LIFE’

The Ministry of Health’s review of the Contraception, Sterilisation, and Abortion Act is a sobering insight into the direction New Zealand is heading as abortion is normalised in our health care system, just as contraception and sterilisation have already been.

Pro-life advocates must not be content to oppose abortion in isolation. Clearly, those who drafted the Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act understood the connection. This review underscores how true that connection remains. Now is the time to redouble our efforts to build a culture that welcomes life.

We must:

- ✓ **Protect freedom of conscience** for all healthcare workers and institutions who do not wish to participate in offering contraception, sterilisation and abortion but who would rather point to alternatives that lead to true human flourishing.
- ✓ **Uphold the dignity of people with disabilities**, ensuring they are never subject to coercion or quiet discrimination.
- ✓ **Defend the rights of parents and families**, who are increasingly pushed aside by state-led ideologies.
- ✓ **Support life-affirming pregnancy centres**, which offer hope, practical support, and accurate information about induced abortion and the alternatives.

Let this review serve as a wake-up call—not only to resist the further expansion of abortion, contraception and direct sterilisation – but to recommit ourselves to proclaiming the Gospel of Life with clarity and love.



JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

Advocate for life & family



Are you *passionate* about defending life from conception to natural death?

Do you believe *protecting* and *promoting* the family
is a good for individuals and for society?



to be a *Life and Family Advocate* and help mobilize
your community - right where God has placed you!

**As a *Life and Family Advocate* you will help
restore a culture of life by:**

- ▶ Inviting people to participate in events.
- ▶ Distributing educational materials.
- ▶ Liaising with the parish priest and others to gain support for, and participation in, pro-life and pro-family initiatives.

**Already the
pro-life contact
in your parish?
We want to hear
from you!**

We will equip you with the necessary materials and support you in your role. There's scope to become more deeply involved if you wish.

For more info or to apply contact:

Simon Archer 021 400 729 | life@fli.org.nz

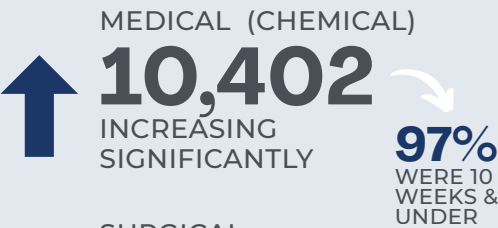
FLI.ORG.NZ/JOIN-OUR-TEAM



STATISTICS

LOOKING AT THE 2023 FIGURES
INDUCED ABORTION IN NEW ZEALAND

ABORTION PROCEDURES



REMEMBER! EACH NUMBER
REPRESENTS A DEFENCELESS
HUMAN PREBORN CHILD.

EARLY MEDICAL
ABORTION (EMA)
10 WEEKS & UNDER



HOW THE ABORTION PILLS
WERE OBTAINED



DECIDE IS A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN
HEALTH NZ, SEXUAL WELLBEING &
MAGMA HEALTHCARE.

LATE TERM ABORTIONS
20 WEEKS PLUS



16,277

REPORTED ABORTIONS



221

ABORTIONS PER 1,000
KNOWN PREGNANCIES



EXCLUSION ZONES

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 01 AUCKLAND MEDICAL AID CENTRE | 06 HAWKES BAY HOSPITAL
THE TERRACE CLINIC | 11 GREYMOUTH HOSPITAL
TE NIKAU, GREY HOSPITAL & HEALTH CENTRE |
| 02 EPSOM DAY UNIT
GREENLANE CLINICAL CENTRE | 07 PALMERSTON NORTH
THE WOMEN'S CLINIC | 12 CHRISTCHURCH HOSPITAL
GPU & CHRISTCHURCH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL |
| 03 WAIKATO HOSPITAL | 08 WAIRARAPA HOSPITAL | 13 DUNEDIN HOSPITAL |
| 04 THAMES HOSPITAL | 09 HUTT HOSPITAL | 14 INVERCARGILL
THE WOMEN'S CLINIC |
| 05 ROTORUA HOSPITAL
WOMEN'S CLINIC | 10 WELLINGTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL
TE MAHOE UNIT | |

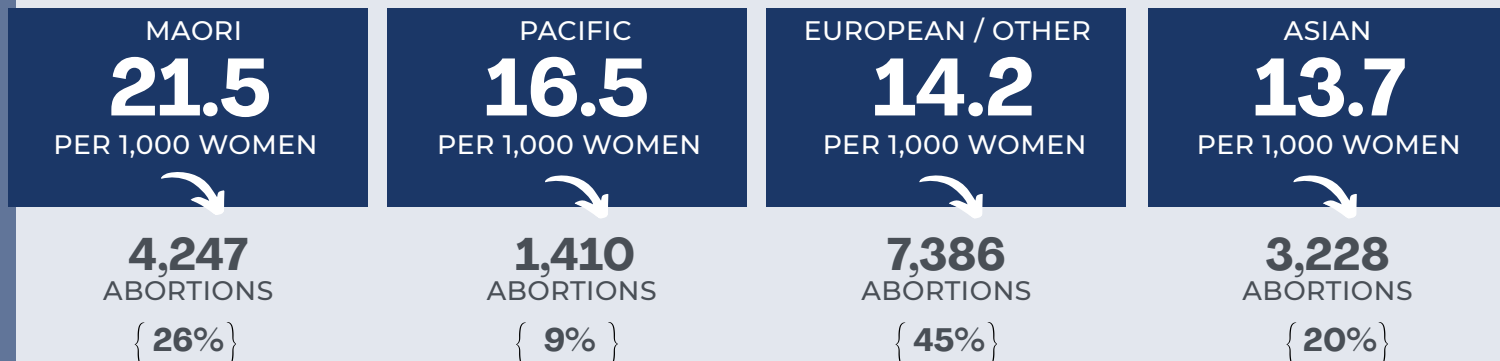
Exclusion Zones are legally
called "Safe Areas."



ABORTIONS BY ETHNICITY

ABORTION RATE: While the overall abortion rate for 2023 is 15.6 per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44, the rate, when broken down by main ethnicity, shows a concerning picture, particularly for Maori and those from Pacific nations.

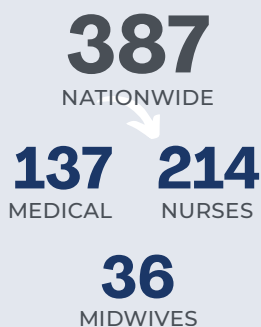
Note: 6 people are omitted because of lack of data.



TEEN ABORTIONS

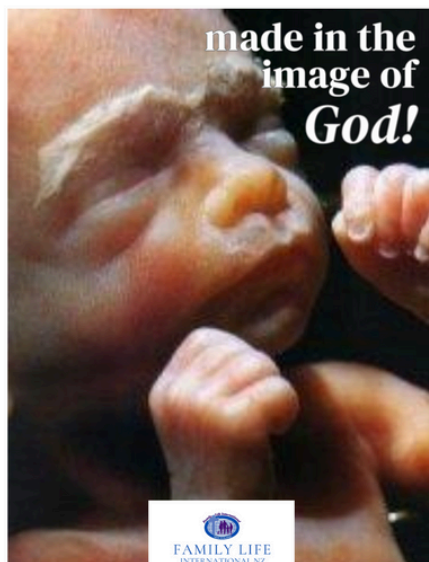


ABORTION WORKERS



COMPLICATIONS AT TIME OF ABORTION

- 184** RETAINED PLACENTA & FETAL TISSUE
- 70** INFECTION
- 25** HAEMORRHAGE
- 22** RETAINED PLACENTA & FETAL TISSUE & INFECTION
- 16** PAIN
- 13** HAEMORRHAGE & RETAINED PRODUCTS / INFECTION
- 11** FAILED ABORTION
- 8** REACTION TO MEDICATION - DROWSINESS NAUSEA DIZZINESS
- 7** OTHER
- 2** PERFORATION OF UTERUS

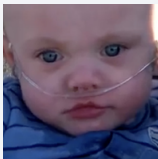


PRO-LIFE WORLDVIEW

» NEWS & COMMENTARY FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

FLI STAFF

Recent News

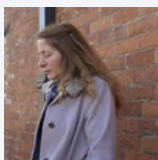


World's most premature baby, born at 21 weeks, celebrates first birthday

According to Guinness World Records, Richard Scott William Hutchinson is the youngest premature baby to have survived. Born at 21 weeks and two days and weighing 11.9 ounces at birth, this little fighter defied all odds, recently celebrating his first birthday. Live Action reported the comments of the baby's neonatologist, Dr Stacy Kern: "Even though [Richard] was 21 and two-sevenths weeks, we could oxygenate him, we could ventilate him, and that just goes to show there is still so much unknown and that we have to learn."

A quick search online reveals another contender for the world's youngest premature baby to have survived: Curtis Zy-Keith Means. Born at 21 weeks and one day, he celebrated his fourth birthday in February.

Survival rates for very premature babies (called micro-preemies) are increasing. A recent study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that the survival rate of babies born at 22 weeks and who were treated ranged from 25.7% to 41%.



UK prolifer again under investigation for praying outside abortion facility

Isabel Vaughan-Spruce, the UK pro-life advocate who drew international attention after being arrested twice—and later acquitted—for praying silently outside an abortion facility in Birmingham, is once again under investigation.

The investigation is believed to be about the Crown Prosecution Service guidelines (2024), for policing

within "buffer zones." The exclusion zones make it illegal to "influence" a person's decision to access or provide abortion. Police are interpreting the mere presence of a person holding pro-life views as "influence". Such an interpretation, along with her previous arrests, constitutes a violation of one's freedom to think and to pray in silence. With the current ideological stance regarding abortion so pervasive it is little wonder that such private and sacred activities are considered a crime. Pro-lifer's must resist this attack on freedom.



IVF responsible for an horrific death toll of human embryos

It is estimated that more than 250 million human embryos have been destroyed (killed) globally since 1978 as a result of the in vitro fertilization (IVF) process.

LifeSiteNews provided the estimate after analyzing known information about births and the typical procedure for IVF.

One academic paper, recently published, estimates that between 13 and 17 million people were born between 1978 and 2018 through Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART), of which IVF accounts for 99% of procedures. For each child born, at least one human embryo, and typically more, will be discarded as unsuitable to attempt implantation. Further, if a multiple pregnancy occurs - twins or more - the advice is to selectively reduce (abort) at least one child to assure a "safer" pregnancy. In addition, spare embryos will be stored, and may never be used, eventually deemed not required and destroyed.

The IVF industry declares itself to be a builder of families. In the process, many embryonic children die - far more than sacrificed by induced abortion.

READ MORE AT [FLI.ORG.NZ](https://www.fli.org.nz)



UPCOMING EVENTS

FLI.ORG.NZ/PROLIFEEVENTS

For more information about any of these events please contact:
Simon Archer: 021 400 729 | simon@fli.org.nz

SEPTEMBER

AUCKLAND & HAMILTON DIOCESES

the
family
a sanctuary of life



**PRO-LIFE SPEAKING TOUR
14 - 26 SEPTEMBER 2025**

With Father Shenan J. Boquet
President of Human Life International



Join Father Shenan J. Boquet, President of Human Life International, for a powerful and timely series of events that will inspire and equip you to defend life and family in today's world.

Discover how God's beautiful plan for marriage, and for life from its very beginning to its natural end, forms the foundation of a healthy society—and how embracing this plan can transform our culture for the better.

With insight, clarity, and a deep pastoral heart, Father Boquet will speak directly to the pressing moral and spiritual challenges of our time. Drawing on his extensive global experience, he'll offer hope, practical wisdom, and a compelling vision for life, marriage and family.

You'll gain a clear understanding of the current threats—and the exciting opportunities—facing New Zealand, and how you can make a real difference right where you are.

Whether you're a parent, student, advocate, priest or seminarian, you'll leave this event informed, encouraged, and empowered to be a courageous witness to the Gospel of Life.

Don't miss this vital opportunity to be inspired, equipped, and encouraged!



Scan the QR
Code for more
information



FLI.ORG.NZ/PROLIFE-SPEAKING-TOUR-2025

HAMILTON 14 & 15 | TAUPO 17 & 18 | AUCKLAND 20 | WHANGAREI 22 | PUKEKOHE 24

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Human
Dignity**
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NEXT
generation
Serving Life | Living Love



Sunday 21st September
2-8pm



St Columba Centre
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**AGES
13 - 18**

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Pregnancy options and support