



2025

NOVEMBER

250 847 2475
wecaretoo@telus.net
lifecanada.org/smithers

Box 3252
1316 Main Street
Smithers B.C,
VOJ2N0



Smithers Crisis Pregnancy Care Center

Tuesday 10 -1:00 or
by appt. 250-847-2475

Website:
smitherspregnancycare.com

24hr Helpline:
1-877-88-WOMAN

Crisis Website:
www.onlinecare.ca

Free, non-judgmental support:

- Pregnancy Tests
- Pregnancy Choices Lay Counselling
- Post Abortion Lay Counselling
- Sexual Education
- Community Referrals

you don't have to go
through this **alone**

Movie Night

The powerful epic of Francesca Cabrini, an Italian immigrant nun, who arrives in New York City in 1889 to help impoverished children while she deals with injustice, prejudice and her own broken English and poor health. *Based on her story.*

WHEN: Friday, Nov 14
at 7:00 pm (movie lasts 2 hours)

WHERE: Smithers Christian
Reformed Church at 4035 Walnut Drive.

COST: \$5.00 per person. (Pays for the rental fee)



PG -13

BAKE SALE; a Pro-Life Fund raiser.



DATE: November 29,
Saturday.

TIME: 8:30 –3:30

PLACE: No-Frills Mall

If you are able to provide baked items , please have them wrapped and labeled , and they can be dropped off at the mall before 11:00 or the night before at Jenny Vandenberg's home on Good Road. If you'd like to volunteer to help set up or sell or cleanup please call Jenny at 250 847 0910. We are so thankful for your support which helps keep our helpline and Pregnancy Care Centre open as well as enabling the board to defend life our community! Thanks again! Smithers ProLife

Legacy Gifts

After you have remembered your loved ones, please consider including Smithers Pro-Life in your will. You can make a bequest in your will by designating Smithers Pro-Life, Box 3252 Smithers, VOJ 2N0 as a recipient of a specific amount or a percentage of the estate. (This cannot be used as a tax deferral because the Society does not have a charity number.)

China's Birth Rate Crisis

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet/October 27, 2025/2 Comments/Pro-Life Commentary, Spirit & Life Blog

A recent headline on an article published by the BBC is astonishing. "China offers parents \$1,500 in bid to boost births," it reads. Wait a minute. China's Communist government is now *paying* for couples to have children? The same Communist Party that, for decades, enforced the most brutal population control regime on earth?

For those women who violated the policy, there was the forcible abortion of their preborn child, up to 9 months gestation. In instances where an "illegal" child was born, that child could expect to live his or her life as a social pariah without access to such basic things as education and healthcare.

The Communist Party's Panic

The Communist Party's greatest fear, it seemed, was out-of-control population growth, which would, per the predictions of the over-population alarmists of the 1960s, lead to widespread famine, disease, war, and social collapse. And so, they pulled out all the stops, creating a vast bureaucracy and accompanying police force with total authority to do anything necessary to prevent the birth of "excess" children.

AND THEN EVERYTHING CHANGED.

Around about the year 2015, news began to percolate out of China that the government was beginning to relax the policy. In 2016, the government officially announced that Chinese women would now be permitted to have two children. And then, in 2021, the limit was raised to three children.

The Communist Party has realized that the unthinking enforcement of extreme population control measures would have more far-reaching consequences than expected. While China's population stayed relatively stable over recent decades, the size of the effects of the one-child policy are just now beginning to become manifest. China is now learning the same lesson that many other developed nations have learned far too late, i.e. that it is much easier to reduce fertility rates than it is to increase them.

Why Population Decline Is So Hard to Reverse

We know, after all, precisely how to prevent births: distribute massive amounts of contraceptives, and then abort any preborn children who manage to make it through the gauntlet. How to *increase* births, however, is a whole other matter. Governments the world over have experimented with incentives to increase birth rates. So far, these measures have had almost no impact.

Why Government Bonuses Don't Build Families

Even Hungary, more than any other nation, has explicitly and insistently emphasized its pro-natalist

stance, and yet, Hungary has only experienced a very modest fertility boost in the wake of these policies.

As more people are beginning to realize, the elephant in the living room is that tapping into and encouraging pro-natal behavior (i.e., a couple's willingness to welcome children) is far more complex than simply offering economic incentives. In large measure, couples do not choose to welcome a child because their economic situation is just right. In many developing nations where contraceptives are widely available, couples nevertheless choose to have large families, **because they value large families**. Meanwhile, in affluent Western nations, extremely wealthy couples routinely choose childlessness, because they do not value creating a family. "The country's declining birth rate is not only an economic problem but a cultural one," wrote Emma Zang. "For many young people, the real barrier is not the cost of raising children. Rather, it is the conviction that parenthood no longer makes sense."

A Culture Without Hope Cannot Create Life

I have often noted in these columns that the culture of death begets more death, just as the Culture of Life begets more life.

Widespread contraception and abortion have led to severe birth deficits, which are in turn leading to the rapidly growing euthanasia regime, as older couples realize that they have no one able or willing to take care of them.

And now, even in the very effort to reverse these birth deficits, couples and governments are having to resort to other technologies that are deeply enmeshed in the culture of death. I was very saddened recently to see that the Trump administration has followed through on promises to make *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) much more affordable and available to women. While this policy may look "pro-life" at face value, the hidden costs are far from pro-life. IVF involves the creation and destruction of countless human embryos, who are human beings in the earliest stages of their development.

Hope, Not Policy, Will Renew Civilization

China's government is similarly looking to make IVF more widely available. However, experts are unconvinced that this will make much of a difference. The 'solution' of IVF only applies to the small percentage of the population that is infertile, but rather the problem is the desire or willingness to welcome children. And that, as noted above, is a matter that goes much deeper than either economics or technology.

Recently, Pope Leo XIV joined his predecessors in lamenting the low birth rate. The Holy Father exhorted his listeners to prioritize pro-family efforts. "Let us do everything possible to give confidence to families — especially young families" he said.

In other words, it is *hope that* will reverse the birth decline. A *culture of life* will only arise when people *value* life as the gift that it is, and welcome new life with joy, in the confident hope that "life is worth living!"

In this, it is the Church, more than government bureaucrats, who have a central role to play. Let us pray that our spiritual leaders find new and creative ways to speak to the hearts of our younger generations, giving them the confidence needed to welcome life with joy.

Human Life International

FR. SHENAN J. BOQUET

As president of Human Life International, Fr. Boquet is a leading expert on the international pro-life and family movement, having journeyed to nearly 90 countries on pro-life missions over the last decade. Father Boquet works with pro-life and family leaders in 116 counties that partner with HLI to proclaim and advance the Gospel of Life. www.hli.org/2025/10/chinas-birth-rate-crisis

CALENDAR

→ -November
-Movie night
-Membership drive
December

CHURCH REPS

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
Elisabeth Vanderhorst
Smithers Canadian Ref
Jessica Vandergaag
Smithers Christian Ref
Betty Bandstra
E-Free **Kathy Dobrenski**
Bethel URC **Brenda Ewald**
Telkwa Faith URC
Jenny Vandenberg
Telkwa Community
Karen Fokkens
Baptist **Ed Schneider**
MVA **Brigitte Kloosterman**