



Newsletter – February 2019

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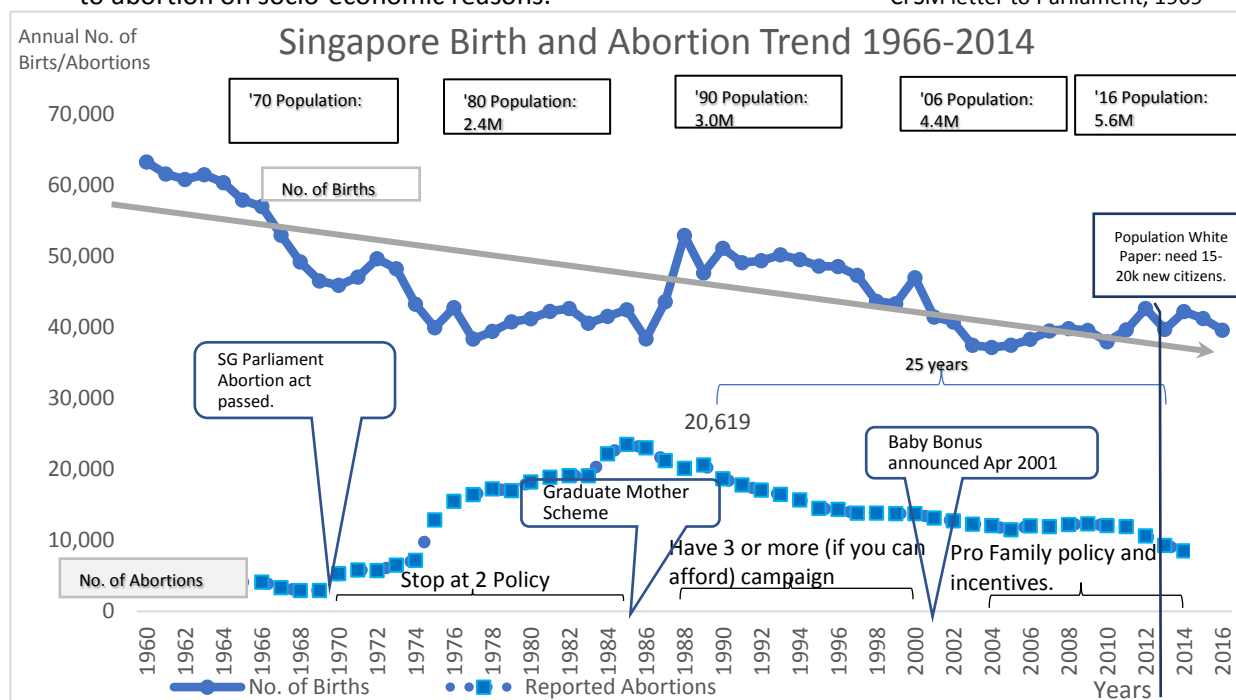
ABORTION AND THE DIGNITY OF LIFE

See (Observe)

We celebrated the birth of Jesus two months ago, yet December 1969 marks an ominous watershed for Singapore: Our parliament passed an act legalizing abortion for a foetus up to 24 weeks old. In the acceptable language of our community, abortion is the termination of a pregnancy, but in reality it is termination of a child's life before s/he is born. It is unjust to the child because s/he is innocent, defenceless and, and if we keep in mind every child is a member of the community, the act goes against the principle of keeping our community safe. In a letter to the Parliamentary committee, the CFSM urged the government:

"The right to life is the most fundamental and basic right enshrined in the United Nations' Charter of Human Rights. ... All other rights are meaningless once the right to life is withdrawn. ...the CFSM fails to see how the right to socio-economic well-being can ever take supremacy over the right to life and hence objects strongly¹ to abortion on socio-economic reasons."²

- CFSM letter to Parliament, 1969



¹ Historical abortion statistics, Singapore compiled by Wm. Robert Johnston
<http://www.johnstonsarchive.net/policy/abortion/ab-singapore.html>

² CFSM Letter compiled into *Report of the Select Committee on the Abortion Bill and the Voluntary Sterilization Bill* presented to the Second Parliament of Singapore (First Session) on 1 December 1969.

Advocates for Pro-Choice may argue that “life” only begins at the 24th week but that definition is arbitrary and the academic moot is little consolation to all the innocent defenceless foetus less than 3 months. All life comes from God, the very act of sex itself is life-giving hence life begins at conception. The erosion of this moral stand (spiritual impoverishment) has a long term consequence on the practical reality. Since its legislation from 1970 to 2014, we as a nation have legally terminated 648,000 foetus’ lives, averaging 14,000 yearly and inevitably our birth rate has declined to below replacement level for almost 2 decades.

Judge (Reflect)

It starts with our concupiscence; the liberal attitude toward sex, widened acceptance of abortion thus enabling us to shirk the responsibility of parenthood and spiralling to the breakdown of marriages and the family and thus further worsening the abortion issue.

“By abortion the mother does not learn to love, but kills her own child to solve her problems. And, by abortion, that father is told that he does not have to take any responsibility at all for the child he has brought into the world. The father is likely to put other women to the same trouble. So abortion leads to more abortion.”

– St Teresa of Calcutta

In fact St Mother Teresa attributed the killing of an innocent defenceless baby by the mother to society’s cavalier attitude towards sex upstream and linking to the killing culture downstream:

“Once that living love is destroyed by contraception, abortion follows easily... And abortion, which often follows from contraception, brings a people to be spiritually poor, and that is the worst poverty and the most difficult to overcome.”

“And if we can accept that a mother can kill her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another?”

– St Teresa of Calcutta

Common sense tells us that societies that do not cultivate a sense of resilience and take the responsibility of caring for its young will tend to fade into oblivion. Historians has attributed the fall of the Roman Empire to several factors of which a major one was its diminished core population due to the citizens’ preference for hedonistic lifestyle and over-reliance on foreign mercenary. In fact infanticide then was a common practice and that’s one of the reasons why Christians were persecuted and thrown to the lions; because of their stand for chastity of marriage and sanctity of life.³ Already the parallel is obvious in most developed countries today – liberal attitudes to promiscuous lifestyle and abortion, breakdown of marriages and the family and the pursuit of material wealth. Many, like Singapore, are facing a bleak outlook with regards to a greying population, and eventually extinction⁴. The short term solution, like ancient Rome, was to take in large number of foreigners.

In a strange twist of fate, the consequence of passing that Bill (legalizing abortion) haunted Singapore in due time:-

³ Whilst Christianity was eventually accepted by the Roman rulers from 313 AD, it was too little too late. Even as the minority Christian tried to spread the Gospel, Rome was invaded and sacked multiple times from 410-476 AD, effectively ending the Empire.

⁴ Business Insider, 14 August 2017, *Seven Countries at Risk of Becoming ‘Demographic Time Bomb’*, <http://www.businessinsider.com/countries-becoming-demographic-time-bombs-2017-8/?IR=T/#hong-kong-1>
The Straits Times online, *Let’s Not Condemn Singaporeans to Extinction*, 17 November 2017, <http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/lets-not-condemn-singaporeans-to-extinction>

In 2013 Singapore released a white paper on population planning and projection. To address its need for workers to support the economy and aging population, Singapore needs to take in 15,000 to 20,000 new citizens every year⁵. Assuming Singapore wants new citizens to be young skilled/ educated workers, say at 25 years old. In a poignant twist of fate, if we look back 25 years ago we would find that Singapore aborted 20,135 babies in 1988. Incidentally, Singapore has been aborting an average of 14,000 babies annually from 1970 to 2014⁶.

Act

It is apparent that bringing forth life comes with duties but also gains. If we look at it in terms of this, then our decisions will be swayed by the prevailing economic and social fads. With the advantage of hindsight we can see that it is wiser to obey the Word of God.

Secondly, we have our prophetic role to tell others around us. In fact the words of CFMSM in 1969 were indeed prophetic when the letter to the Parliamentary Committee ended with these words:

“...the Bill provides immediate short term solutions to undoubtedly difficult problems and situations. It however contradicts the long term aims of our leaders to be heard in their repeated calls towards ruggedness, discipline, and self-sacrifice”

Thirdly, we would be more effective in telling the rest only if we come together as an effective organization and support other organizations promoting life, e.g. Archdiocese Commission for Family, Family Life Society etc.

Andrew

(The above article is the views of the writer and may not be the views of CFMSM.)

See.

1. What is the attitude of people around us towards contraception, abortion and having children?
2. What are the factors affecting these attitudes?

Reflect.

3. How is marriage a reflection of Christ's relationship with His people? How is the family a reflection of the Holy Trinity?
4. What is the consequence to our community if the next generation choose not to marry and pro create?

Act.

5. What can we, as a family movement, do about the situation?
6. How are we making our marriage and family life a beacon of hope for the rest of society?

⁵ Ministry of Trade and Industry, 2013, *A Sustainable Population for a Dynamic Singapore: Population White Paper*, <https://www.strategygroup.gov.sg/docs/default-source/Population/population-white-paper.pdf>

⁶ The number of abortions has been on a decline since the 80s due largely to the availability of artificial contraceptives.