

TRUTH IN ADVERTISING: PLANNED PARENTHOOD EXPOSED

Dr. Leana Wen, M.D. is looking for a job. Just eight months ago, she was ushered in as the new President of Planned Parenthood (henceforth PP). She had hoped to work on a broad range of health care issues but as she said in her tweet, "...the new board leadership has determined that the priority of Planned Parenthood moving forward is to double down on abortion rights advocacy." I cannot imagine how she could have been blindsided. Though some gloated that PP was again exposed (Twitter exploded: "Wen—Terminated at 32 weeks!"), I submit that such a reaction is a strategic mistake. While such a response may be understandable given the reality of what happens daily in their clinics, I believe it is counterproductive. Rather than engage in clever banter, especially if it could be construed as trivializing the horrific reality of abortion, let us reflect upon the lesson this episode uncovers for all Americans.

For the better part of nearly 50 years, PP has been **trafficking a lie**. Even its name shields us from the reality of its primary purpose. True, they will put forth their statistics that reveal only a small percentage of their "procedures" revolve around abortion. What they fail to tell the people is that every abortion involves several steps, each of which is considered a "procedure." The statistics are intentionally skewed to make it appear as though abortion is just one among many services. The reason why **Dr. Wen was fired**, (and in secret meetings to boot) was due to her futile attempts to focus the organization on broader women's health care issues. But isn't this precisely how the organization presents itself? Either she did not know the reality, or mistakenly thought that she could redirect the organization's mission and priorities. She learned a very difficult lesson, but one that further exposes Planned Parenthood for what it **really** is.

Do you recall the flap over **David Daleiden's** undercover videos showing PP officials dining over salad and Chardonnay at a restaurant while discussing the sale of **fetal body parts**? It was ghoulish, chilling and yet so real. A long legal battle ensued, but last week, a federal judge in San Francisco indicated his intent to decisively **cut back** Planned Parenthood's **retaliatory lawsuit** against The Center for Medical Progress. Rather than a \$20 million lawsuit, the scope is drastically reduced to approximately \$100,000 for "damages for investigating intrusions," whatever that entails. This is not the first time that PP has fired its president—they fired Pamela Maraldo, RN in 1995, who also focused on the "broad range" of women's healthcare.

Planned Parenthood had stated that "3% of all Planned Parenthood health services are abortion services." You see, "services" are defined as "a discreet clinical interaction." They reported **10.6 million** "services" for **2.7 million** "clients" in 2013. They performed 327,653 abortions that year (332,757 abortions in 2017). On the face of it, that's a tiny percentage of their interactions. However, each type of service is **counted separately**; most clients receive multiple services. For example, a woman may receive a pregnancy test, Pap smear and finally an abortion. The **Washington Post**, anything but a conservative bastion of thought, subjected Planned Parenthood to its "fact checker" feature, questioning the 3.4% stat and dispassionately and surgically exposing this untruth. The provision of contraceptives decreased by 80,000, cancer screenings were down by 45,000, and other "women's health services" decreased by 13,000.

For decades, the carefully crafted language PP has been as intentional as it is misleading. Unquestionably, this organization's bread and butter is abortion. When Dr. Wen introduced even a *slightly* different approach, it shouldn't have surprised anyone that it was met with total rejection. If you visit PP's official website, you really have to dig to find anything that mentions adoption. Of course, they go to great pains to say that their goal is to provide education and information on various options. But the facts reveal something very different: Planned Parenthood performs **82 abortions for every one adoption referral**. That is very telling. I clicked the tab "Our Services" to find 12 categories, none of which mentioned adoption. Only when typing adoption into the search box, did anything come up. Yes, it's on the website, but conveniently buried. The glossary of sexual health terms never lists adoption among its 47 entries beginning with "A."

In short, no one is fooled by the rhetoric, and now Dr. Wen herself knows this first hand. She still counts herself a staunch abortion rights advocate, but time will tell. Some of the pro-life movement's strongest voices are from former PP employees who came to see the light. May God's grace enlighten her to see the full

truth of Planned Parenthood, joining Abby Johnson, Bernard Nathanson M.D. and a host of others who have become the greatest champions of unborn life in the womb. God has worked these miracles before. Let's not do anything out of pride or even righteous anger to get in the way!

- Each of the 30 teams in Major-league baseball plays 162 regular season games—that's 2430 games each year. A total of 69.6 million fans in 2018 purchased **19.4 million hotdogs**. They are tasty, but I'm old fashioned and still enjoy **Cracker Jack ®** on my visits to Target Field.
- Roadside **inflation**? Evidently, it has been a long time since I stopped by a roadside **lemonade** stand. After passing by several this summer, I finally decided to pull over. I grabbed a handful of loose change in the center console, only to discover I needed every bit of it! Since when has a six-year-old girl's lemonade stand **cost \$1.00** per cup? Good for her— I think I met a future entrepreneur! Next time you see a summer stand, pull over!
- I led a tour for teenagers at a summer *Quo Vadis* Vocations camp. These young men were bright— couldn't stump 'em! I even mentioned that two years ago a boy questioned me for identifying the birds in St. Peter's Chapel as pelicans. "They don't look like pelicans to me," he quipped. Guess what? A young lad raised his hand— "That was me!" He was back again for another visit. He'd make a great priest, but perhaps an even better lawyer!
- The Knights are coming, the Knights are coming... the **Knights of Columbus** that is. The K of C's annual meeting is at the Minneapolis Convention Center, but we expect visitors to cross over to **our side of the river** prior to the official start of the conference. We will be hosting a **special Mass** on **Monday August 5th** on the Feast of St. Mary Major at which the priest state chaplains will be present. This **4:15 p.m. Mass** will include organ and cantor— **it will replace the 5:15 p.m. Mass** for that day.
- Unfinished work? Ever notice the two **pedestals** on the front steps of the Cathedral? A parishioner couple donated two framed blueprints done by E.L. Masqueray of the Cathedral they had acquired years ago. It is fascinating, as it included a sketch of **two statues** for those spots...hmmn, Sts. Peter and Paul? (See sidebar)

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. John L. Ubel
Rector

