

Life News



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Life Newsbytes

After reaching a high of over 1.6 million in 1990, the number of abortions performed annually in the U.S. appears to have dropped to about 1.06 million a year.

Total Abortions Since 1973: 58,586,256 Lives

Two independent sources confirm a downward trend: the government's Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Guttmacher Institute (GI), which was once a special research affiliate of abortion chain Planned Parenthood ... CDC researchers have admitted it probably undercounts the total because reporting laws vary from state to state, and some abortionists may not report or under-report ... The CDC showed a decline of nearly 125,000 abortions from 2007 to 2012. Guttmacher's latest report also shows a significant recent decline, seeing abortions fall 13% from 2008 to 2011. Most all of this decline appears to have occurred at clinics with annual caseloads of a thousand abortions a year or more. The number of abortions with RU-486 and other chemical abortifacients was up despite the overall decline. Cumulative abortion numbers since 1973 were generated using GI figures through 2011 and then using the 2011 number as a projection for 2012 through 2015. Then a 3% undercount GI estimates for its own figures was added, yielding the total above. (*National Right to Life Factsheet – January 2016; CLR LifeWire, 1/28/16*)

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The Saga of Sin and Salvation

by Rev. Michael W. Salemink

On Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season, many congregations imposed ashes made from the palm leaves of the previous year's Palm Sunday. This long-standing Christian custom proclaims a powerful Gospel of redemption. God's grace in Jesus Christ gives glorious purpose even to things that appear worthless or useless to us. Palms that seemed dead and disposable almost a year ago—nothing left but ashes—still serve as messengers of the most excellent Word: the saga of sin and salvation.

In the same way, no human life—whether unborn, impaired, chronically suffering, terminally ill, or at any other stage and in any other state—is too lost to reflect God's abundant love.

Indeed, as *Luther's Small Catechism* explains, ashes—like baptism—indicate “that the Old Adam in [all of] us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.”



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