

Notes for Clergy on Abortion Pills

Sharing the truth about the gift of human life and the need for its protection can be included in a homily. The then-Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of The Sacraments notes that “it is very appropriate for a preacher to relate the texts of a particular celebration to the events and questions of the day” (2015, *Homiletic Directory*, §7).

The abortion pill is a growing cause of death of preborn children and serious physical, spiritual, and psychological harm to mothers. When appropriate, particularly leading up to and including Respect Life Month every October, it is often valuable to reflect upon and share some of the points below in a homily.

For more information on the abortion pill, visit https://www.usccb.org/resources/What_Are_Abortion_Pills.pdf.

For general Homily Considerations for Healing After Abortion, visit <https://www.usccb.org/resources/homily-considerations-regarding-healing-after-abortion>.

Background Information

Most abortions are no longer carried out in clinics through surgery, but by taking pills. In addition to ending the lives of babies, abortion pills can be dangerous for the mothers who take them. In 2021, the FDA made the abortion pill (mifepristone) more readily available without any in-person doctor visits. This is even true in states that have pro-life laws against abortion because it is almost impossible to enforce those laws when it comes to online ordering and home delivery of prescriptions.

That means a woman might be taking an abortion pill dangerously late in her pregnancy, or during a complicated pregnancy where it would be unsafe, and the prescribing doctor would not know. Being able to get abortion pills through a “telehealth” video appointment and mailed to your home, or at your local pharmacy, also means abortions are now happening everywhere and anywhere, often with women suffering through the trauma of delivering their dead baby alone and disposing of the baby by flushing him or her down the toilet.

When we speak of the abortion pill, we are referring to mifepristone, which was designed to kill preborn babies. The administration of mifepristone is followed by misoprostol to help remove a deceased baby’s remains from the womb. It is important to know that both drugs *can* have other uses, such as in some miscarriages. We are speaking here about mifepristone as used for abortion, which is its original and predominant purpose, and which has been made much more available in recent years, due to the government removing the requirement of in-person doctor visits to get a mifepristone prescription.

Homily Considerations

- It is sad and very difficult, but necessary at times, to talk about abortion—because part of our Gospel call is to speak up for our vulnerable brothers and sisters—and that includes both innocent preborn children in the womb and their mothers and fathers who may be

facing hardship or unimaginable pressures.

- It used to be that we could think of abortion as happening “somewhere else,” at a clinic in some other town or neighborhood. But not anymore.
- In the last several years, most abortions have actually occurred via abortion pills, which can now be ordered online after a video appointment and sent to a mother at home, or picked up with a prescription at the neighborhood pharmacy.
- Not only do they end the child’s life, but abortion pills are four times more likely than surgical abortions to cause dangerous complications for the mother. She may experience the abortion alone at home, unprepared to deal with what she sees, and without doctor supervision to ensure access to life-saving medical help in the case of complications.
- We have to be aware that these abortions may be happening anywhere, among our family, friends, and neighbors. And we therefore need to be attentive and generous in our support for parents facing challenging or unexpected pregnancies.
- Some abortion supporters sow confusion by claiming that abortion pills are hardly an abortion at all, but this is deceptive and false. Abortion pills are deliberately used to end the life of a preborn child in its early stages of development.
- Thankfully, some doctors have developed an “abortion pill reversal” process that has helped thousands of women who took the first of two abortion pills, changed their mind, and instead acted to save their baby’s life. *
- God has given us this most precious gift of life. Let us fulfill our responsibility to witness to that truth and encourage elected representatives and corporate America to reverse the massive growth in abortion pill availability.
- Let us pray that God would grant public servants and elected officials the humility, wisdom, and courage to defend all human life. And may we have all the faithfulness and generosity to be proactive in helping parents in difficult situations to welcome new life in any circumstance.
- If you or anyone you know has already had an abortion, by pill or otherwise, remember that no sin is beyond God’s great mercy and love. He eagerly awaits you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Or reach out to Project Rachel Ministry, the confidential diocesan abortion healing ministry of the Church in the United States.

*Should anyone approach you for immediate help with an abortion pill reversal, or related questions, please direct them to the Abortion Pill Rescue Network at <https://abortionpillreversal.com/>.