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## FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

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### MAJORITY OF AMERICANS 18-24 BELIEVE ISRAEL SHOULD BE “ENDED AND GIVEN TO HAMAS”

The following is by Jon Levine, *New York Post*, Dec. 16, 2023: “A majority of young Americans said they believe Israel should ‘be ended and given to Hamas,’ according to a shocking poll. The survey, conducted this week by Harvard-Harris polling, found 51% of Americans between the ages of 18 and 24 said they believed the long-term answer to the Israel-Palestinian conflict was for ‘Israel to be ended and given to Hamas and the Palestinians.’ Only 32% said they believed in a two-state solution, and just 17% said other Arab states should be asked to absorb Palestinian populations. The figure was in stark contrast to other age groups, which all dramatically preferred a two-state solution. Just 4% of Americans 65 and over said they felt Israel should be ended. ‘These individuals siding with evil over democracy should be a wake-up call,’ Sen. Roger Marshall (R-Kansas) told *The Post*. ‘Ideological rot among young Americans, driven by woke values and victim culture, has gotten so bad they’ve convinced themselves to sympathize with actual terrorists who hate America.’”



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### THE PRONOUN POLICE IN U.S. GOVERNMENT



*Dr. Rachel Levine,  
Assistant Secretary  
of Health*

The following is excerpted from “The Pronoun Police Have Arrived,” *Fox News*, Dec. 15, 2023: “If your boss required you to publicly announce that  $2 + 2 = 5$  and act like you sincerely believed it, would you comply or be fired? Unfortunately, tens of thousands of federal employees are being put to a similar test by the Biden administration. But instead of being required to deny basic math, they are being forced to deny basic biology under radical ‘gender identity’ policies. On International Transgender Day of Visibility, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management ordered federal agencies to prohibit the intentional use of ‘incorrect’ pronouns in the workplace because it could contribute to an ‘unlawful hostile work environment.’ First to comply were the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of State and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP), all of which have recently issued workplace pronoun mandates. Not surprisingly, the administration’s LGBT advocate-in-chief, Assistant Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine, announced the policy for HHS. Although Levine is a biological male (and for decades went by Richard), HHS employees are prohibited

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from using anything other than 'she' when speaking of Levine and all other trans-identifying biological males at HHS. Further, because the policy covers 'gender non-conforming, agender, gender fluid or non-binary' identifications, biologically male employees can retain male names and dress and appear like a man on any given day, and still demand to be addressed as she, xir, or they. ... Not to be outdone, the USCBP issued a memo for Border Patrol agents prohibiting them from addressing persons they catch illegally crossing the border as 'Mr., Mrs., Ms., Sir [or] Ma'am' until they ask, 'can you please confirm your pronouns or gender identity?' and then adopting whatever the immigrant says. ... Perhaps most offensive of all, under OPM guidance, all federal facilities with showers and changing rooms must now be opened to people of the opposite sex based on their say-so."

## THE GOLDEN AGE OF COAL

The following is excerpted from "The Golden Age," PowerLineBlog, Dec. 18, 2023: "You wouldn't know it from reading the newspapers, but that is what we are living in. The recently-concluded COP28 conference touted a coming end to the use of fossil fuels, with coal first in line for extinction. But that isn't happening. Robert Bryce has the data: 'The [International Energy Agency] expects coal use to rise by 1.4% this year and set a new record of 8.5 billion tons' ('Two Days after COP28,' Dec. 18, 2023, [robertbryce.substack.com](https://robertbryce.substack.com)). So more coal is being burned than ever before. 'That increase shows, yet again, how difficult it will be to achieve significant cuts in CO2 emissions from hydrocarbon use. Mainly due to coal use, which accounts for about 40% of emissions from energy, global CO2 emissions will set another new record in 2023 of 36.8 billion tons.' So good luck with 'net zero' by 2050, or any other date. Environmentalists in the U.S. and Western Europe have succeeded in prematurely shuttering a number of coal plants, but that is virtually irrelevant. It is China and India, along with countries like Indonesia, that are driving the coal explosion. And those countries don't even pretend to be participating in a 'transition' to wind and solar energy. ... When it comes to coal, supposedly slated for extinction by the world's 'greens,' the U.S. and Western Europe are irrelevant. 'Some 204,000 megawatts of new coal-fired capacity is now under construction around the world. Of that 204,000 MW, about 67% is in China. To put that massive amount of new capacity in perspective, the U.S. currently operates about 205,000 MW of coal-fired power plants. ... In addition to the huge amount now being built, another 353,000 MW of coal-fired capacity has been announced, pre-permitted, or permitted. Of that 353,000 MW in the queue, about 72% is in China' (Bryce). ... The challenges are unprecedented because until now, no one has done anything as stupid as shutting down vast quantities of reliable electric power while having no plan to replace that capacity, on any timetable or at any cost. But that is where we are now."

## ROME MOVING TOWARD FULL ACCEPTANCE OF HOMOSEXUALITY

Pope Francis has done more than any previous “pontiff” to move the Catholic Church toward full acceptance of homosexuality. On Dec. 18, the Vatican announced that the pope has formally approved letting Catholic priests bless same-sex couples, so long as it is “not tied to any specific Catholic celebration or religious service and should not be conferred at the same time as a civil union ceremony.” Rome still officially rejects same-sex marriage and condemns homosexual relations as “intrinsically disordered.” In 2013, in his first broadcast news conference, Pope Francis said, “Who am I to judge,” when asked about a homosexual priest. Earlier this year, the pope said it is permissible

for transgender people to be baptized and to serve as godparents (“Step by step,” *AP News*, Dec. 19, 2023). All of this makes sense in light of the massive numbers of homosexual priests, as evidenced by the billions of dollars that the Catholic Church has paid to settle lawsuits pertaining to child molesting, which usually involves a priest and a male child or youth. Rome’s acceptance of homosexuality also makes sense in light of the Bible’s description of Mystery Babylon. “And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication” (Revelation 17:4).

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## VIOLENT PORNOGRAPHY’S VAST INFLUENCE

The following is excerpted from Jonathan Van Maren, “Pornography is destroying childhood and changing sexual desire,” *The Bridgehead*, Nov. 14, 2023: “[I]n a recent column for the *Daily Mail*, Holly Bourne [best-selling British author] details how ubiquitous porn use among young people is creating a toxic rape culture that makes life unbearable for teenage girls. The connection between pornography and sexual violence is a subject I have been reporting on in this space for nearly ten years, but the full reality of what it means to see a generation raised on a diet of sexual violence is still sickening to watch. ... Bourne has been on the frontlines of youth culture, and what she saw scarred her so badly she experienced mental trauma as a result. ... When I started giving presentations on this issue over a decade ago, choking as a sexual practice was unheard of.

Now, it is normative. Why? Because pornography has served as sex education for an entire generation ... Bourne says, ‘the widespread consumption of hardcore pornography is now a public health emergency.’ ... We are going to find out what that impact is. So far, it is pretty gut-wrenching. ... Broken marriages. An even further rise in sexual confusion and deviancy. That is why calling out this problem in clear terms is so important--and why we should consider not simply addressing porn as a public health crisis, but banning it entirely.” **CONCLUSION:** We have no reason to think that pornography is going to be banned in any meaningful way. Bible-believing people must do their own banning by wise parenting, by keeping smart phones away from young people, by filters, by accountability, and most of all by abiding in Christ and walking in the Spirit.

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# BUILT-IN ERROR CORRECTION



The following is from CreationMoments.com, December 29, 2023: "It sounds like science fiction to suggest that if someone typed your name into a computer and misspelled it, the computer would find and correct it. This would need a very sophisticated software program. But did you know there is an even more sophisticated information storage and transmission system in each of your cells--your genetic code? Not only does your genetic code store far more information in a microscopic space than can our largest computers, it also has a built-in error correction system. Scientists have discovered a number of key enzymes within the cell that have just one job: find and correct errors in the genetic code. Those errors can creep into the code because of radiation, certain chemicals, or other outside forces.

The enzymes faithfully correct any errors, preventing mutations--the same mutations that scientists thought could cause evolution. One expert on enzymes has stated that science has no explanation for how such sophistication could have evolved. Neither is there any explanation for how life could have continued without this genetic proof-reading and correction capability. Only our Creator could have been wise enough to design an information system that can correct its own errors. Even we human beings have not figured out how to do this with our much simpler computers. Certainly, blind chance could never do what the best of human intelligence can do! REF: Fersht, A.R. 1980. *Trends in Biochemical Science*, v. 5, p. 282. Lambert, G.R. 1984. *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, v. 107, p. 387."

## INFORMATION

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