



## Focus on Religious Freedom

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***"Violence is the last refuge of the incompetent."  
- Isaac Asimov, Writer, Science Professor***

### **Attacks Against Churches and Pregnancy Centers Increasing in U.S.**

"The vandalism we are seeing today is quickly rising to levels that haven't been seen since the late 1800's and early 1900's from organized groups such as the Know-Nothings and the Ku Klux Klan," said Brian Burch, president of Catholic Vote, in his recent report about hundreds of attacks against churches since May 2020. <sup>(1)</sup> "Since civil unrest began on May 28, 2020, following George Floyd's death in Minnesota, there have been at least 278 attacks against Catholic churches in the U.S. including arson attacks which damaged or destroyed historic churches, spray-painting and graffiti of satanic messages, rocks and bricks thrown through windows, and statues destroyed, often with the heads cut off," Catholic Vote reported. <sup>(2)</sup> While the unrest over Floyd's death eventually subsided, attacks on Churches continued to rise.

"Americans appear increasingly comfortable lashing out against church buildings, pointing to a larger societal problem of marginalizing core Christian beliefs, including those that touch on hot-button political issues related to human dignity and sexuality," said a Family Research Council report released in December 2022. <sup>(3)</sup> This report found that church attacks spiked to 397 following the overturning of Roe v Wade that returned the abortion issue to the states.

Pro-life facilities have also faced a barrage of attacks since the Dobbs abortion decision leak at the Supreme Court last May 2022. At least 80 pregnancy resource center attacks have been reported but many attacks are unreported because these centers want to protect their clients. The pregnancy resource centers provide free medical and financial support to pregnant and new mothers. They have been spray-painted with pro-abortion and anarchist messages and symbols and several have been set on fire.

The FBI is offering rewards up to \$25,000 for information related to these attacks. "Today's announcement reflects the FBI's commitment to vigorously pursue investigations into crimes against pregnancy resource centers, faith-based organizations, and reproductive health clinics across the country," said the FBI Director. <sup>(4)</sup>

***"Social justice cannot be attained by violence.  
Violence kills what it intends to create." - Pope John Paul II***

***"Saying that there are too many children is like saying there are too many flowers."  
- Mother Theresa of Calcutta***

(catholicvote.org, 1/25/23(1)(2); msn.com, 1/23/23(3); washingtonexaminer.com, 1/19/23(4); catholicvote.org, 6/9/22; washingtontimes.com, 1/24/23)