

PASTOR'S CORNER

The Dehumanization of the Unborn

Human life begins at the moment of conception. This is now demonstrable scientific fact, given our understanding of DNA and the transmission of the fullness of human materiality, including the ongoing development of the human being via the genetic code. Moreover, it is now a well-established doctrine of the Church that ensoulment (which is directly accomplished by God) occurs at the same instant. The issue, both scientifically and theologically, is settled. Even pro-abortion hard cases agree with the science. So how come there is any controversy? Shouldn't it be obvious what one's moral position should be concerning the killing of the unborn? You would think so, but it isn't, at least not for some.

Let's try this from another perspective. Religion is a human phenomenon – dogs don't do it, rocks don't have it, cats couldn't care less. Judaism is a religion. Therefore only human beings can be Jewish. Knowing therefore that only fellow human beings can adhere to religious principles, then why did the Nazis murder millions of them? How do you justify doing that – morally and legally – to fellow human beings? Not enemies who threaten you in some way, but innocents like women and children who only differ from you by being of a different religion? Yet kill them the Germans did and in inconceivable numbers.

Admitting that human life begins at conception has in no way flagged the enthusiasm of pro-abortion advocates. Not a bit. On the contrary, they continue to support a woman's right to dispose of her unborn child under the theory that "it's her body" and only she should have control over it. This is nonsense and false on its face. The life she wishes to destroy isn't "her body" but has been entrusted into her stewardship as mother. Society has a compelling interest to make sure that she doesn't abuse those stewardship rights to the extent that such exercise would result in the destruction of another human person. The privacy rights so ponderously delineated in *Roe v. Wade* completely ignore this fact. The Justices chose this tactic for the purpose of reaching the decision they wished to reach. They intimated that since science could not determine when human life begins (false now, as it was then), it was therefore best to err on the side of murder! This sleight of hand effectively gives the mother the legal right to determine the status of her unborn child; that is, whether he is a human person or not. The startlingly beautiful pictures of embryonic human life that appeared in *Life* magazine at the time of *Roe* prove this too to have been a lie. Let those with eyes to see, see. But those who are blind, will not see, and that by their own choice.

No, logic has nothing whatsoever to do with this controversial debate at all. In the warped mind of the modern age, human life, though it clearly and demonstrably and scientifically begins at conception, is not worthy of protection because the mother's autonomy trumps the baby's right to life. Even last year's Democratic nominee for Vice-President agrees with this, and he claimed to be a devout Catholic! Would that he were the only hypocrite in the Church; but alas he is not. No, I suspect that the real reason murder is tolerated as a free choice of the mother is because unborn human life is not really considered fully human; that is, it is considered "sub-human." As such, it can be disposed of at will, even as it emerges from the birth canal (hence the horror of "partial birth abortion").

About a year or so back, Planned Parenthood, the abortion mill folks, got caught with their hand in the cookie jar. Two nicely dressed ladies were clandestinely taped chatting amiably over lunch concerning the potential profitability of selling intact pieces of murdered children to various scientific labs. No doubt these labs are run by scientists and doctors whose moral sense rivals that of the Angel of Death himself, Dr. Josef Mengele. As this increasingly tipsy duo of female professionals giggles and laughs planning their capers of death and destruction, I couldn't help but think of the Wannsee Conference held in a swanky, posh suburb of Berlin on January 20, 1942. The conference was convened by the Reich Main Security Office (RSHA) and was chaired by SS-Obergruppenführer Reinhard Heydrich. Top Nazi and other government officials were called to participate and flew in from all over the Third Reich.

Their purpose was simple: how to implement the Endloesung; the Final Solution to the problem of the Jewish infestation of Europe. Intelligent and cultured men set around a large mahogany table and calmly reached the conclusion that the best way to deal with the problem was to kill all of them in a mass act of genocide. They didn't use the word genocide, of course, any more than the two Planned Parenthood goons used the term baby, but their meaning was crystal clear.

Killing the unborn is murder and any child knows it. The only way in which it can be done while retaining a sense of sanity is to dehumanize the victims: they aren't children, they're bundles of tissue, or not fully human since they lack (presumably) a conscious sense of self. Or perhaps we can point to a supposedly greater good that justifies their murder: think of the vast number of medical benefits that can flow from embryonic stem cell research! (None yet, not that it matters). Or perhaps we can elevate one human being's interests over another's, as for instance when the "freedom" of women over their bodies is believed to be more important than the life of the child itself.

The bottom line of this all-too-easy rationalization is the same and always has been: bloody murder and the proliferation of death camps. The Nazi death camps were out of site, located frequently in the conquered bloodlands to the east of the Reich (esp. Ukraine and Poland). Germans could pretend they didn't know what was going on. Abortion is different; everyone knows it's going on. It takes place all the time, all around us. It is the cost our culture is willing to bear to keep the sexual revolution rolling. It takes place in brightly lit back rooms in the anonymity of suburban office buildings. It's architects are different as well; not Nazi thugs strutting about in absurd looking dress, but professional men and women calmly discussing murder at the next table over.

Fr. Stephen Geer

Ordinary Time

Day	Date	Time	Observance	Mass Intention
VIGIL	Nov 11	5:00 pm	Vigil of the Sunday Mass	Joanna Kong +
SUNDAY	Nov 12	9:00 am	The Most Holy Eucharist of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (The Holy Rosary will be prayed in the chapel at 8:30 am)	Henry Chieu Nguyen +
		11:30 am	The Most Holy Eucharist of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ	Missa pro populo
Monday	Nov 13		No service	
Tuesday	Nov 14	8:30 am	Ferial weekday	Albin Ryland +
Wednesday	Nov 15	8:30 am	St. Albert the Great, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	Ray Ryland +
Thursday	Nov 16	10:00 am	St. Margaret of Scotland	Terri Greenfield +
Friday	Nov 17	8:30 am	St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious	Mike Moore +
Saturday	Nov 18	8:30 am	Ferial weekday (The Holy Rosary will be prayed in the chapel at 8:00 am)	Joyce Peebler +
			<u>Readings for the Sunday Mass:</u> Proverbs 31.10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Psalm 128; 1 Thess 5.1-6; Matthew 25.14-30	
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