

2nd Ordinary Sunday
January 20, 2019
“Roe vs. Wade”

Is 62:1-5
1 Cor 12:4-11
Jn 2:1-11

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord –

Bishop Soto has asked that we make this Sunday a day of prayer and fasting so that the practice of abortion can be curtailed or ended altogether. 2019 is the 46th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. With that decision, the Supreme Court ruled that abortions would no longer be illegal or punishable offenses.

My personal reflection on this is that Roe vs. Wade became possible because 10 years before in 1962, the Warren Court ruled that God and prayer would no longer be allowed in public schools. Madalyn Murray O’Hair, an atheist, was behind this case – the case of Engel vs. Vitale. The court ruled 6-1 in favor of Engel – and our country has been in a downhill slide ever since.

Over 200 years ago, Thomas Jefferson, with all his faults and agnosticism, wrote that without belief in a higher power and a common code of morality, no republic could long endure! Since God is no longer part of millions of lives – and the 10 Commandments are virtually unknown – everyone can become a law unto themselves and serve themselves with impunity! The ultimate proof of this was the financial debacle of 2007 and the loss of hundreds of millions for those with retirement funds. Simultaneously, millions were pocketed by those who perpetrated the financial meltdown without sanctions or punishment!

There are between 40 and 50 million abortions yearly throughout the world. In 2008, there were over one million abortions in the United States alone! That is 2900 per day, 120 per hour, and 2 every 60 seconds. Unmarried women account for 86% of abortions – while only 4% of married women have them! Furthermore, 72% of abortion-seeking women had no religious belief!

Along with Roe vs. Wade was the beginning of the feminist movement and a woman’s right to choose. But the logic of abortion is faulted, if we consider that the choice to own slaves is never allowed. Slavery controls another human being – while abortion destroys another human being! The unborn child is not considered a human person with any rights at all – until after birth!

Once abortion became common and life could be terminated, euthanasia raised its ugly head – So that, now, euthanasia or Doctor-assisted suicide, has already been approved in some states. The faulted logic is that since there is no God, then each person becomes their own god and can do whatever they choose to do with their life. They can bring to an end the life that only God can take from us!

Certainly, those choosing to end a pregnancy have encountered serious problems. They face pain on many levels. They feel trapped – Often, they have no support – The father refuses to acknowledge responsibility – And, often, they have no way to provide for a newborn child.

However, although the “official” surveys allege that, post-abortion, most women do well, studies by Anne Speckhard and Sr. Paula Vandergard prove otherwise. Guilt, regret, depression, PTSD, flashbacks, and a sense of meaninglessness are often experienced for many years to come in many cases.

Fortunately, since 2003, the U.S. Bishops have established “Project Rachel” which is for post-abortion women. Thousands have availed themselves of these programs and have found healing, forgiveness, compassion, community with fellow travelers, and a way forward.

The readings for today can give us great hope. We have a God who is always with us despite whatever sins we have committed. Isaiah tells the Chosen People that God will never abandon them, or forget them. God loves us all. We all have to face our own crimes and sins wherein we have failed others and God Himself. But Jesus came to teach us of God’s love for us and His plan for the world.

St. Paul gives us insight to our personal role in the issue of abortion by teaching that the Holy Spirit gives everyone unique and personal gifts. One of these gifts is to help post-abortion women to be healed and to feel welcomed in the Christian community.

In the Gospel, Jesus saves the wedding reception for the bride and groom. Truly, marriage with its inherent support system is the only place for the creative act. That act is God’s gift to the couple for mutual support and the fostering and nurture of new life!

Brothers and Sisters, God gave us life out of His infinite love. Abortion is the denial of that life and love. However, we must find ways to help and support those who will make mistakes, before they choose abortion. We must support those who struggle to remain pro-life. Moreover, the scourge of abortion can be ended only by fasting and prayer for the victims – and for those who espouse this tragic solution.

So, let us pray that we can be there for those who need us – and may we be inspired to help them find a Godly answer to their pain, anxiety, and fear!

Amen.

January 20, 2019

Msgr. Russell G. Terra

