

The Slippery Slope

On January 22 we remember the 43rd anniversary of the US Supreme Court's decision in *Roe vs. Wade*. We are all aware of the devastating effect this case has had. Millions of lives lost, millions of women with a sense of loss in their lives, which they cannot always recognize or accept. If society does not recognize that sanctity of life then marriage between a man and woman can become a matter of self-gratification not self-gift, not unitive and procreative. Is marriage only between a man and a woman? What is a man or a woman? Pornography and focus on self and not others. We mistreat the poor. In 1973 we began a journey down a slippery slope. Our treatment of others and our image of ourselves has become darker. As a society we are more anxious and less secure.

Humane Vitae was prophetic in that it recognized that artificial contraception, let alone the litany of problems listed above, would be the outcome of distorting the purpose of the sexual act and marriage.

In January 1973 I was preparing to enter law school. I had some vague notion that *Roe vs. Wade* might lead to the societal issues enumerated above. I believed abortion was a grave moral evil but, there was another issue that troubled me. Despite the Vietnam War,

despite the imperfections of the way society treated the poor and marginalized, despite the institutionalized racism that was crumbling, there was an inherent optimism. "Blind justice" and the knowledge of what should be informed what the Court did and generally speaking there was a good alignment between the highest decisions of the courts and the teachings of the Church. No more, it was as if there was a great tear in the moral fabric of the country.

Some addressed this issue by trying to hem in the right to religious freedom. Some argue that religious freedom is only the right to pray in Church not the right to exercise one's conscience in public. But in 1973, I felt the need to examine how I formed my conscience on the matter of abortion and on the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe vs. Wade* an unwillingness to just assume the Church was right. In a significant Supreme Court case like *Roe vs. Wade*, many parties; doctors, lawyers, scientist, churches, ethicists and organizations write *amicus curiae* briefs. I read the briefs voraciously. While the individual details of the briefs is not as clear in memory as they once were, a few things stand out. The briefs that support the Church's views on life were based on science and rationale and the ones that supported abortion discussed 17th century science. God's truth is spoken through nature and the Church's teachings. My faith in the Faith was strengthened. I had an opportunity to talk with Justice Blackman, who wrote the majority opinion in *Roe vs. Wade* when I was in law



school. The way he dismissed the need to consider the science or ethical issues raised in the *amicus curiae* briefs made me realize that the rip in the fabric that united Church teachings and societal teachings was not caused by the Church taking the wrong turn but rather by individuals and a part of society taking a wrong turn.

Over time the witness of women, who were part of Silent No More, helped me to understand that there are at least two victims in an abortion. Each step we take to change the heart of society on this most important matter is a step toward healing. Speak the truth in faith and love. Remember that there are many people who have been misled in this several score of years. Our job as Catholics is to convert them not to reprimand them. Our job is to pray and witness. Let us pray for the unborn and the conversion of our country.

***God's truth
is spoken through
nature and the
Church's teachings.***



PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle,
be our protection
against the wickedness
and snares of the devil.

May God rebuke him,
we humbly pray.

And do thou,
O Prince of the Heavenly Host,
by the Power of God,
cast into hell, satan
and all the evil spirits
who prowl the world
seeking the ruin of souls.

AMEN.



Regency Nursing Home Ministry

"Do you like spending time with the elderly? Have you ever considered visiting a nursing home? We are looking for persons willing to minister to the elderly at Regency Nursing home in Whitmore Lake on a monthly basis. Fr. Tom would like an Old St. Pat's volunteer to lead a rosary/prayer service with perhaps some songs for the elderly. This is a wonderful opportunity for individuals or even families to bring the joy of the Gospel to those who are suffering and cannot make it to Mass. Please contact the office or Fr. Tom directly for more information."

"The distinctive mark of the Christian, today
more than ever, must be love for the poor,
the weak, the suffering."

~Pope Saint John Paul II

Holy Hour for Life

As pilgrims travel to Washington DC for the March for Life, the Guanellian Cooperators plan to offer a Holy Hour of Prayer and Adoration for their safety and a successful march. We will gather in the Chapel at St. Louis Center Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 7pm for prayer and worship followed by a time of fellowship. All are welcomed to attend. Please contact Kelly Flaherty 734-475-8430 or kellyf@servantsofcharity.org for more information. St. Louis Center is located at 16195 W. Old US Hwy. 12, Chelsea 48118.

Minivan Needed

Pro-Life Action Network Needs a Minivan for its ministry to reach abortion-vulnerable women. One of our donors has provided limited funding for the sole purpose of procuring the minivan. The vehicle must run and be rust-free; high mileage and minor problems are fine. A minivan could also be donated to Pro-Life Action Network, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Please call or text Mariel 734-330-9046.

Huron Valley Open Houses

Come and experience Huron Valley Catholic School, where we focus on academic excellence in a faith-filled atmosphere. We invite you to visit our preschool through eighth grade classrooms during one of our winter Open Houses: On Sunday, January 29 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm, you can tour the school and meet the teachers. On Thursday, March 2 from 8:30am to 11:30am, you can observe our teachers and students during the school day. We have scholarships available so that all students can experience what God is doing at HVCS. If you can not attend either Open House, please call the school to set up a personal tour and classroom visit: (734) 483-0366.

Forum on Issues Related to Death

In this midwinter period, the St. Mary, Manchester Parish Council is hosting a forum on *Sun, Feb. 12* at 1:00 pm at our Parish Center. The program is entitled "*Life is Changed, Not Ended,*" and it will offer an opportunity to learn

more about and give thought to several issues that we may confront when a loved one dies. There will be speakers from hospice, an attorney, and a representative from the funeral home plus our pastor Fr. Bosco and Dcn. Dennis. For more info, please contact the St. Mary Parish Office (734-428-8811).

What's Happening in the Diocese?

Recovery Retreat for Divorced Catholics
February 10-12, 2017 St. Francis
Retreat Center, DeWitt

From Darkness to Light: Human Trafficking and Our Response

February 11, 2017 Lansing Catholic
High School, Lansing

The Man Event (Men's Conference)

February 25, 2017 Our Lady of
Fatima, Michigan Center

Mass for Families of Miscarriage and Child Loss

March 26, 2017 St. Patrick, Brighton
2pm