

Public Policies and Human Life

Q&A on *Roe v Wade*

● *Do All Legal Experts Approve of Roe?*

No. *Roe* has been criticized by several Supreme Court justices and even by legal experts who favor legalized abortion. Justice Byron White called it "an exercise of raw judicial power." Yale law professor John Hart Ely has said that *Roe* is "a very bad decision It is bad because it is **bad constitutional law**, or rather because it is not constitutional law and gives almost no sense of an obligation to try to be." Edward Lazarus, former clerk to Justice Harry Blackmun who wrote the *Roe* opinion, says that "*Roe*, as constitutional interpretation, is virtually impossible to defend."

● *Wasn't the Court Only Continuing a Trend Toward "Liberalizing" Abortion Laws Begun by the People and Their Elected Representatives?*

No. In the years leading up to *Roe*, proposals to weaken laws against abortion were introduced in most states but usually not enacted. Some states did add narrow exceptions to their laws, and a few legalized abortions for any reason, generally up to 20 weeks' gestation. But then the trend reversed. New York's legislature voted to restore legal protection to unborn children (a move blocked by the governor's veto). And in 1972 the people of Michigan and North Dakota overwhelmingly voted to **reject proposals to loosen their abortion laws**. After studying public opinion against legalized abortion, demographer Judith Blake concluded that a Supreme Court decision striking down state laws would be "the only road to rapid change." *Roe* created a national policy more **extreme** than the law of any state, and it disrupted the democratic process by which the American people had begun to deal with the conflicting claims of the abortion debate. [USCCB, Wash., DC, 7/2018]

Join the LIFE CHAIN in Your Community This Year! Sunday, October 7, 2018

In its 31st year, LIFE CHAIN is a peaceful & prayerful public witness of people standing in the early afternoon for **90 minutes**, praying for our nation and for ending abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death.

Stand with thousands of pro-life individuals throughout the USA and Canada in honor of millions of babies whose lives have been lost to abortion. Pray for people in crisis situations and for our nations. You'll be a light in a darkened world as you help put an end to abortion through prayer!

Bring your whole family! Water, lawn chairs, umbrellas and strollers are welcome and encouraged! Rain or shine! For a **location nearest you**, visit www.lifechain.net

Stop Treating Sick People Like 'Vegetables'

Many patients who are not actively dying are nonetheless described as facing "end of life" issues, often simply due to physical or cognitive disabilities. Our utilitarian-minded culture judges one's "quality of life" by asking "What can you do?" And if it's judged that you can't "do" enough, your **quality of life** is said to be "poor." What for others would be considered basic health issues become "end of life" issues.

Most patients rely on no medically extraordinary care. The only "life support" they **require is food and water**. This is often delivered by a feeding tube because in most cases such patients have lost the memory of how to swallow. Their situation is sometimes misrepresented as if it were tantamount to supplying oxygen to an otherwise terminal patient whose body is shutting down.

Martin Pistorius was diagnosed as "vegetative" after coming home from school as a boy with a sore throat and slipping into unresponsiveness. Martin lived for more than a decade with full awareness but an inability to meaningfully communicate before **recovering** and telling his story. There are many similar remarkable stories that share the themes of hopefulness and surprise. Each patient required a resilient and continual love, emotional patience and mental fortitude from their **families and their caretakers**. Their recoveries could not have been anticipated.

What was essential in their recoveries from the standpoint of their families and caretakers was, first, a willingness to acknowledge a certain powerlessness. **We cannot always make our loved ones better** by our own power. Second, a willingness to embrace uncertainty about their ultimate fate. Are they still really 'with us'? Will they ever fully recover? Yet an even stronger willingness to live with the sort of care that could **provide an environment for life and for recovery**.

For a society wishing to be humane, no "unresponsively wakeful" patient who is not dying can be allowed to fall victim to an **imposed death of starvation and dehydration** by removal of so-called "artificial" food and water. It is neither a natural nor a simple way to die. To be accepted and to receive care and attention is what every incapacitated person deserves in a society that claims to care for the disadvantaged, the underprivileged and the vulnerable. [Bobby Schindler & Tom Shakely, Let's Stop Treating Injured & Sick People Like "Vegetables" www.LifeNews.com 5/17/18]

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Back issues to 2014 are posted on the Diocese of Paterson, NJ, website. To have your parish receive this newsletter, email your request to the editor.

Does Your Local United Way Fund Planned Parenthood?

2ndVote, watchdog for corporate activism, released its annual findings on United Way's financial support for Planned Parenthood (PP). The report tracks 1,200 United Way affiliates. Despite an exposé in recent years that the PP abortion business sells the body parts of aborted babies, and despite the fact that PP is the nation's biggest abortion company, tax filings revealed that **62 United Way affiliates sent \$2.7 million to PP** in tax year 2016.

Out of 1,129 local United Ways in the United States, only a small number (less than 3 percent) provide direct support to PP. But any of United Way's financial support for the abortion business enables it to kill unborn babies.

2ndVote's research found United Way affiliates in **29 states** with financial ties to PP. Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, and Florida are the top five states for United Way support for the abortion giant. Even though donations are on the rise, the number of United Way affiliates supporting the abortion business is dropping. The latest figures represent the lowest annual number since the project began.

On its website, 2ndVote's 'Pro-Life Guide to United Way' contains a state-by-state list of every United Way in the U.S. Each entry shows the amount of money donated to PP by that affiliate with a link to tax forms documenting the expenditure. This research gives conservatives and pro-life activists a resource to **hold organizations like United Way accountable**. Using donated dollars as leverage is a great way to get non-profits to stop supporting PP's abortion agenda. [Steven Ertelt, United Way Defends Funding Planned Parenthood, www.LifeNews.com, 8/27/18]

YouTube Censoring Christian & ProLife Videos

From 2008 to present, Catholic Online has reported YouTube removing or blocking videos that support a pro-life or Biblical message. In September 2017, it reported that its own Scriptural reflection videos and saint biographies had been removed. In January 2018 former employee James Damore filed a lawsuit against Google because he was fired due to his objections to Google's events celebrating polygamy and gender identity politics. (YouTube is owned by Google) [Catholic League, *The Catalyst*, April 2018]

More and more people are using **alternatives to YouTube** such as Vimeo.com, Zipp Cast.com, Internet Archive, Bring Videos, and Upload Society.

Why The Secular Crusade Against Babies?

Years ago, a fearless worker in the pro-life movement had returned from China to report to NARAL on the atrocity of **forced abortions**, thinking that "pro-choice" organizations would respond with passionate indignation to his many stories of coercion. To Stephen Mosher's surprise, they couldn't care less. Forced abortions were "unfortunate," they said, but then shrugged their shoulders: "There is overpopulation, after all."

The scales fell from his eyes and he saw the truth: the constant praise of "choice" is nothing more than lip-service. What these organizations really want is to extend abortion as far & wide as possible. They pretend that the cause for which they fight is "freedom of choice," but they really want to make what they call "safe abortion" available for any reason.

Why? For one, it's financially a big business. As crass as it is, money blinds people to reality, to other persons, to duties and obligations. Second, these advocates are anti-child, anti-motherhood, anti-family. As stated by then-Pope John Paul II & the Holy See, the abortion movement pursues as its global **agenda "making the world safe for casual murder."** They will continue to fight until mothers become unloving, children unloved, and traditional families shattered.

Thankfully, such a view cannot take root in people who are mentally healthy and live a normal life. This suggests a profound misery, unhappiness, and self-loathing at the core of abortionism that "spares" babies the misfortune of living and "spares" their parents the misfortune of having to make sacrifices—sacrifices which can be sustained only by a love stronger than self-love. Beneath all of the propaganda is a **nihilism** that denies to human life inherent meaning, value, dignity or beauty. **Without God and His gifts**, life will not seem worth living; it will be vapid and pointless. The system perpetuates itself, alienation breeding alienation.

The Lord who searches hearts sees contempt for the Creator, rejection of the Giver of Life. The God who is love yearns to pour out His mercy, His precious Blood, upon all sinners, especially the most desperate and wretched, if only they would turn to Him and acknowledge their guilt. If people knew they were loved, they would welcome every new life as a summons to love, a source of hope, a presence of beauty.

For us, there is counseling and picketing at clinics, lobbying & writing letters, distributing pamphlets, donating time, money, clothes to pregnancy centers. But there is one thing that every Christian can and must do every day: **pray—pray for the mothers and the children**, for the doctors and the nurses, for the lawmakers and the judges. [Peter Kwasniewski, Ph.D., LifeSiteNews, 8/24/18]

