

Thoughts on Pro-Life and Voting

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The saying “Never discuss religion or politics” is dead. One only has to look at the headlines in the newspapers or on television to see issues of morality being debated as political questions. Our Roman Catholic Faith has very definitive instructions to all believers concerning issues of public policy and the dignity of the human person.

The United States of America discussion of religion and politics always begins with “the separation of Church and State”. This is a great place to begin, but not to end. The separation clause means religious institutions should expect neither favoritism nor accept discrimination. Its purpose is not to silence the religious voice or deny a public role for it. The separation clause guarantees the freedom for the Church to earn its way into the public policy debate by demonstrating the WISDOM of its teaching.

The wisdom of the Roman Catholic Church's teachings on the dignity of the human person can be seen in its belief that ALL LIFE IS CREATED IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD (Genesis 1:26-27). The Catholic teaching on the dignity of the human person is NOT a one-issue teaching, that abortion is wrong. The Catholic teaching is a multi-issue teaching, from conception to a natural death, womb to tomb. Yes, the Catholic Church holds that life begins at conception and that abortion is morally wrong and a very serious sin. But the Church also declares that life has to be respected after birth too. Basic civil rights for all peoples; issues of proper housing, food, education and justice for all workers, and care for migrants, immigrants, the poor and physically and mentally challenged. This is why the Church is against stem cell research, euthanasia/mercy killing and capital punishment.

Public policy should not be making government efficient at the expense of people with AIDS, the poor, new peoples, mentally or physically challenged, the elderly or the unborn.

Every month should be Pro-Life, not just October. We as members of the Roman Catholic Church must serve as role models of a consistent life ethic which upholds the sacredness of all human life at every stage of development. And we should seek laws and elect politicians that will protect the dignity of the human person.

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