

+++ *From the Pastor* +++  
*Sunday, January 22, 2017*

Christ, the Light of the World, Calls Us to Proclaim His Gospel of Life

Today, Sunday, January 22, 2017, marks the 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, a decision by the United States Supreme Court, which decriminalized the grave sin of abortion during all nine months of a woman's pregnancy. As a result of this unconstitutional act of judicial overreach and incompetency, *over 50 million* of our totally innocent brothers and sisters have died.

Abortion, as we know, is the destruction of a completely innocent human being in his mother's womb. The Church teaches us that abortion is always and everywhere, in all times, places and circumstances a crime against humanity which cries out to Almighty God for vengeance. Abortion is a mortal sin against the Fifth Commandment of Almighty God.

The pain and suffering—which leads to his death--inflicted on a child by abortion is unmentionable. The pain and suffering inflicted on women and men from the trauma they experience from abortion is incalculable. The pain and suffering of abortion inflicted on our nation is overwhelming: as a people we are sorely divided in regards to abortion.

As Catholic Christians-- who are also citizens of the United States of America--we have a great responsibility to be patriots, to love our country. As patriots we support our country when it is right and do everything that we can to correct it when it is wrong. *We are seriously wrong about abortion.* In no way does abortion fit in to what we ordinarily believe about ourselves as Americans: as being a hopeful, just, kind, gracious, and compassionate people—all of those things that make our country such a beacon of hope for millions and millions of people. Abortion represents the extreme dark side of our fallen human nature. It represents everything that can go wrong in a country when we allow ourselves to be duped and lied to by the forces of evil.

But there is a way out and His name is Jesus Christ. Christ has come to give us life and have it to the full. Christ, whose own birth we have just celebrated, teaches us that life is a holy, sacred gift from God. This truth is enshrined in the opening words of our nation's Declaration of Independence and is the core, fundamental value upon which rests all of our longings and desires. Without life, nothing else matters. Thus, the way back to sanity for us is through Jesus Christ. He alone can lift us up from the gloom and despair and the utter hopelessness that abortion represents. Christ and Christ alone can lead us out of this pit of madness in which we find ourselves and show us a better way.

May the Light of Christ be our guide as we pledge our lives to do everything within our power to promote His beautiful Gospel of Life as we work to save the lives of our brothers and sisters, our fellow citizens, in the womb.

