

Editorial

Tutu and Us

If one stops to think about it, it is remarkable that many Christians aren't more upset by apartheid than they are. They should be incensed.

Yet South Africa brazenly flaunts this legalized bigotry in the face of the world, insulting decency and daring bloodshed.

One must wonder how many have even cared enough to recognize the name of South African Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu who was named this year's winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for his unstinting criticism of his country's system of apartheid. He has spoken out for his nation's oppressed majority -- the ruling whites number only 4.5 million of the total population of 27.8 million -- and has worked for peaceful solutions in the struggle against apartheid. He has been a key figure in avoiding all-out warfare though there has been much bloodshed in a human rights conflict curiously ignored by most of the world.

Besides depriving a majority of its people of simple human rights, the white government in Pretoria has been enforcing its edicts with persecution and killing, has separated families, has moved whole blocks of black people from one area to another against their

will, has used planes and bombs against those revolting against such barbarism and has even been working on developing a nuclear bomb.

Why hasn't the media done more to bring the reality of the danger in South Africa to the attention of the rest of the world?

Why does the present administration which shows such support for so-called "freedom fighters" in Nicaragua turn its back on true fighters for freedom against perhaps the most debased bigotry in the world?

Why hasn't the opposition party in this year's presidential election made mention of an issue of this government's willing acceptance of South Africa's apartheid?

Why aren't more white Christians, especially Catholics, more involved in this obvious injustice?

There is an obvious answer. Pray, God, that it is not so.

Violence Folly

Something having the grandiose conceit to call itself the Army of God has been resorting to violence in the anti-abortion cause. In the past, members have been convicted in bombings, arson and kidnapping.

Most recently the group is suspected of sending threatening letters to Justice Harry Blackmun who

wrote the infamous Roe vs. Wade decision in 1973 which legalized abortion.

First, from the track record of such extremist groups, it is obvious that the threats are serious and real. Violence has no place in a civilized society -- neither the violence of abortion nor the violence of such extremists. At times it almost seems that such psychopaths seize on tragic situations to vent their own bitterness. Surely they do the pro-life cause no good.

And that is the second point. Such evil methods do nothing to promote a change of heart in those who favor abortion. They merely harden the lines of division. Surely Justice Blackmun is not going to be swayed by such action; indeed, when he considers these groups he could be more convinced that the decision was correct in the first place.

Furthermore, groups such as the so-called Army of God provide ammunition for those who use a broad brush to smear the guilt of such actions over all in the pro-life movement.

Let us continue to wage the anti-abortion effort assiduously. Let us never flag in our dedication to the cause of life, if success should take a hundred years. But let us always be careful to distinguish ourselves and our cause by opposing brutality, both that of abortion and of the extreme groups who would kill supposedly for the pro-life cause.

and Opinions

We Are All At Fault

EDITOR:

"The fault, dear Brutus, lies not in our stars ... but in ourselves ... that we are underlings." This quote of Shakespeare helped me out of the mental block that for a while stopped me in my tracks, upon reading what seems to be Cuomo's and Ferraro's battle cry: "I personally feel that abortion is wrong ... but I won't impose my religious beliefs on others."

It doesn't take a mathematician to figure out that 1 plus 1 equals 2. It doesn't take a Catholic to figure out that killing a child in the womb is wrong. More than 70 percent of the people believe that abortion is wrong and 70 percent of the people of the world are not all Catholics. The difference is commitment to the truth. It's not always easy to follow the truth, and harder still to practice it against adversity and failures, in the face of poverty or illness or at the loss of human esteem.

Even poor Pilate had trouble with commitment. He found no guilt in Christ: "Why? What has He done? ... I find no guilt in this man!" Yet, when the crowd was threatening his place of honor, Pilate gave way ... washed his hands of the challenge to follow his belief, to follow truth and instead handed Truth Itself over to the crowd to be crucified. It's so easy to put the blame, or the work and challenge of truth, on somebody else. We are all Pilates and Cuomos and Ferraros. Yet God's truth and love calls us to be better ... better human beings, better families and neighbors, better Christians and Catholics ... better politicians and voters.

God's love will always call us to greater sacrifices of ourselves ... of greater forgiveness and love of all that He has created, because His love has no stopping point. It is a God-given honor to be conceived; it is a man-given honor to be a politician.

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life ... He who denies one of these little ones ... denies Me." To deny the child is to deny God as Creator. To deny God as Creator, how can we accept Him as Prince of Peace, Who came as a child, Who remains

in the Eucharist because of His undying love for all mankind. As Catholics, we should have less cause to be underlings because that Presence gives double meaning to the phrase that life is God's gift to us. What we do with our lives and the lives entrusted to us is our gift to God. If we want peace, we must defend the sanctity of life.

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1.5 Million Silent Screams

EDITOR:

Once again this year Respect Life Sunday focused our attention on "life" issues, especially that of abortion. One wonders: What must an abortion be like from the victim's point of view? A clear insight into this is being given us by means of an ultrasound film now being shown around the country by ex-abortionist turned pro-life activist, Dr. Bernard Nathanson.

In this film, an active 10-week-old unborn girl is viewed playing, turning around, sucking her thumb. Her tiny heart beats at a normal rate of 120, until the first instrument touches the uterine wall, at which the baby recoils immediately with a more rapid heart rate. She senses something is invading her sanctuary! Then this innocent child of God is literally drawn and quartered. First the spine, then a leg -- piece by piece -- as the child wildly writhes in agony, living through most of the process, thrashing about and trying to escape the menacing instrument. Her head is thrown back and her mouth opens in what Dr. Nathanson calls "her silent scream." Soon her frightened heart is beating frantically at a rate over 200! Then the ghastly outline of the forceps is seen fishing around to find the head to crush and remove it because it is too large to pass through the suction tubing.

This killing process takes only 12 to 15 minutes. The abortionist who did this particular procedure filmed the ultrasound mainly out of curiosity. After viewing the film, he left the clinic never to return.

Abortion destroys the delicate handiwork of God in a

painful and barbaric way. How much longer will this holocaust continue in our nation at a rate of a million and a half silent screams a year?

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Editor's Note: A similar letter describing the same set of circumstances was received from Ronald J. Tocci of 111 W. Church St., Fairport, who advised that votes should be cast for presidential and congressional candidates who have the "courage to condemn abortion."

Abortion Key Issue

EDITOR:

There are many important issues in this election. Abortion has to be the most important. The outcome of the presidential election will determine for years to come the direction of the right to life movement.

President Reagan, in both words and actions, has demonstrated his concern about the need to restore legal protection to unborn children. If President Reagan is re-elected there is an excellent chance that he will make appointments to the Supreme Court. This could tip the balance in the Supreme Court and could lead to overturning the 1973 ruling that gave us abortion on demand.

If Walter Mondale is elected, hopes of restoring even minimal protection to the unborn will be lost. The voting records of both Mondale and Ferraro on the abortion issue could not be worse. During his 12 years in the Senate, Mondale maintained a 100 percent pro-abortion voting record. Since Ferraro's election to Congress in 1978, there have been 14 abortion-related votes. She voted in favor of abortion every time. She even supported fetal experimentation.

Yes, there are other important issues in this election but in no other issue is so much at stake. Please remember the unborn child when voting Nov. 6.

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EDITOR:

The Nov. 6 election is close. Many issues have been debated and discussed. In my opinion, the most paramount

and crucial issue is legalized abortion. I say this because abortion directly kills an innocent preborn baby. Every time an abortion is performed a very tiny American loses his/her inalienable right to life. All of us need to pray and ask for God's help in order to restore everyone's right to life.

Since this issue is of paramount importance, we need to know where each of the candidates stands on this issue.

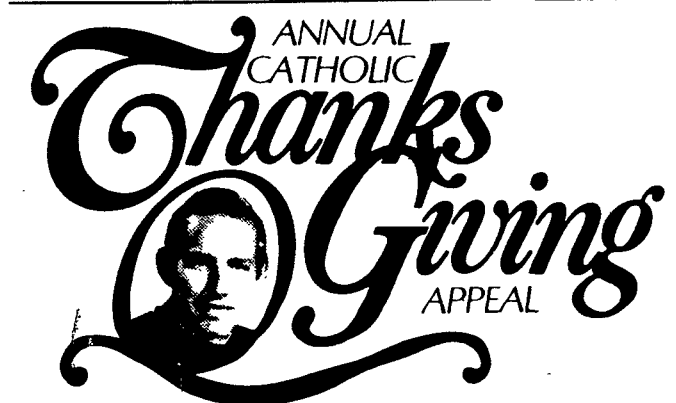
The Democratic platform and candidates are pro-abortion or "pro-choice." "The Democratic party recognizes reproductive freedom as a fundamental human right ... the Democratic Party supports the 1973 Supreme Court decision on abortion rights as the law of the land and opposes any constitutional amendment to restrict or overturn that decision." Walter Mondale has said that he opposes any constitutional amendment or legislation that would allow others to restrict or limit a woman's right to choose to have an abortion.

Since Geraldine Ferraro's election in 1978, there have been 14 key abortion-related may corr (letter) voting record shows that she voted 100 percent abortion-on-demand. She not only wants legalized abortion but she also wants tax dollars to pay for them.

The Republican Party platform states that "the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed. We therefore reaffirm our support for a Human Life Amendment to the constitution and we endorse legislation to make clear that the 14th Amendment's protections apply to unborn children. We oppose the use of public revenues for abortion and will eliminate funding for organizations which advocate or support abortions..." President Reagan has on many occasions spoken out for the right to life of the unborn and handicapped newborns. In his State of the Union address this year, he said, "During our first three years, we have joined bipartisan efforts to restore protection of the law to unborn children..."

Vice President Bush in a speech to the Knights of Columbus, Aug. 8, said, "We've stood for a right-to-life amendment to the constitution..."

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Abortion Sin Against God

EDITOR:

Why do Geraldine Ferraro and Ted Kennedy call abortion a religious issue when in reality it is a direct violation against almighty God, our Creator.

God is opposed to abortion. He did not establish any religion but He gave us His Bible, a manual on how to live our lives while here on earth. He made man according to His own image and likeness and this creation of man was said to be the crowning glory of God's genius and we are not to tamper with God's work by destroying an unborn child.

In reality, this is a Godly issue and not necessarily a religious viewpoint but I doubt very much that Ferraro or Kennedy would have the guts to openly oppose God so they substitute it as being religious.

This nation was founded on Godly principles. Our pledge of allegiance states that we are one nation under God. Is this combining religion and state? All our currency reads that in God we trust. Can this be called

combining religion with government?

If either Ferraro or Kennedy would one day become president of our country, they would take their oath of office holding their hand on the Bible and yet they apparently do not believe what it teaches.

The Supreme Court made abortion legal but that doesn't say it's right. Abortion is morality and morality is ultimately determined by the Master of the universe and not by nine men. Nine men didn't make the world, God did.

Geraldine Ferraro and Ted Kennedy are typical of the modern day Pharisees and Ferraro was right on target when she said her views on abortion are between her and her Maker. Matthew 12:36 states: "I assure you on judgment day people will be held accountable for every unguarded word they speak. By your words you will be acquitted and by your words you will be condemned."

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Guidelines

The Courier-Journal welcomes your opinions. Letters must bear the writer's signature, full address and telephone number. They should be sent to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 114 S. Union S., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

Opinions should be brief, typed, double-spaced, no longer than 1 1/2 pages.

We routinely condense letters, edit offensive words and libelous statements, and reserve the right to reject letters. Generally speaking, however, only limited grammatical corrections will be made and the letters will reflect the writer's own style.

Because submitted opinions exceed the space for letters, we publish only original letters addressed to us. We will not use poetry, open letters, or copies of letters sent elsewhere. To ensure diversity, we limit each writer to one letter per month.