



ST. HUGO OF THE HILLS
CATHOLIC PARISH & SCHOOL

November 1, 2018

Dear parishioners,

A few weeks ago I had dinner with some friends. At the end of the meal, my friend's wife brought up the election. She began making her point by saying "Abortion aside." I interrupted her and said "As a Catholic, you can never begin a political conversation by saying abortion aside." It seems to me that lots of people, even Catholic people, are saying the same thing. It is my responsibility as a priest and as a pastor to correct that notion.

Abortion, which is the purposeful killing of an unborn child and partial birth abortion which is the killing of a child as it is being born, is now and always will be intrinsically evil. It is an abomination before God. It is a shameful blight on a nation or party that allows it or justifies it. While many may think of this as a political statement, it is not. It is a moral statement justified by the Gospel of life.

Almost every year the bishops of the country and the bishops of Michigan give guidelines which Catholic people should consider at the time of an election. In part, this is what they had to say before the 2016 election.

"Considering a candidate's position on issues of human life is critical as the politics they pursue can move the state or nation closer or further away from a society that values life and rejects violence. Votes must always reject certain actions such as the intentional taking of human life."

The bishops go on to say: "These issues have a particular weight on one's conscience. Voters should be aware that Michigan law currently prohibits use of the death penalty and assisted suicide. Legislation introduced during the 2015-2016 session to overturn both bans, however, demonstrates the need to continue evaluating candidate positions on these issues."

With this in mind, the questions we all should ask are basic.

Does the candidate support the protection of human life from conception to natural death?

How does the candidate plan to oppose abortion and prevent taxpayer funding of abortion?

Does the candidate oppose assisted suicide, the death penalty, and research that results in the destruction of embryonic life?

In every election, we are called to make difficult moral choices. The simple question "What would Jesus do" makes those choices clear. Would Jesus support abortion or partial birth abortion? Never. Would Jesus support the destruction of an embryo for the purpose of embryonic stem cell research? Never. The truth is that when we support choices that are evil, we become complicit in that evil. Those who are complicit should remember that, some day, there will be a judgement.

As a priest and pastor, it is my responsibility to give you authentic Catholic teaching so that your choices are choices that support a moral imperative. Your vote for life counts so stand up and be counted.

Cheers in the Lord,

Fr. Tony

Rev. Msgr. Anthony M. Tocco

Pastor

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