

In today's gospel, we heard that when Jesus saw the multitude of people in need of protection and care, he was moved to respond with compassionate concern. His love was a personal love for each and every person who came to him in need. Who are those in need? The needy and especially the unborn. We have been working to defend and protect human life not only because it is right, but it is by our baptismal calling that we live out this mission asked of us by Christ and His Church.

Blessed John Paul II stated very clearly in "The Gospel of Life" that, "Every individual, precisely by reason of the mystery of the word of God who was made flesh, is entrusted to the maternal care of the Church. Therefore every threat to human dignity and life must necessarily be felt in the Church's very heart and engage her in her mission of proclaiming the Gospel of life in all the world and to every creature" [EV, 3.].

Our Catholic Church teachings proclaim first and foremost that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. Not only is this our teaching, but also natural law.

Society manipulates terms that mask the truth like "choice", "women's rights", and "planned parenthood". As for the Catholic Church, we must recognize this is a deception, knowing that abortion is an intrinsic evil. We must turn it on its head, be a witness to truth, and rise to the challenge to grow a culture that respects each human life. We must be Catholic in a world that wants to silence our voices and diminish our rights and freedoms and we must be committed to the biblical mandates for life and the Catholic teaching on human dignity.

The answer is clear. God is the author of life. As he blesses us with abundance, we are called to pray, to fast and to combat this culture of death by our steadfast and fearless commitment to truth. We have to ramp up our efforts as a people of God, overcome this evil, and eradicate the push to choose abortion. Prayer, speaking out, and reaching out are the answer to change one by one, person by person.

Henry Thoreau chose jail rather than paying a poll tax to support the Mexican War. Like many, he saw the war as a move to expand slave holding territories. He could not support a government that supported slavery. Waldo Emerson, who hated slavery, too, visited him in jail and said, "Henry, why are you here?". Thoreau replied, "Waldo, why are you not here?"

When did I pay a price for opposing evil? Edmund Burke said: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to remain silent." Let this be our promise to Jesus today: I will always speak and stand for the truth.