

44 YEARS OF ABORTION LEGALIZATION (Roe v. Wade)

This year, we summarized two articles from the *Wanderer* to reflect on the effects of abortion and other associated evils of society over the past 44 years.

***Adolescence Cannot Aspire to True Love* by Fr. Kevin Cusick, January 5, 2017:**

With the *National Geographic* cover in January showing a nine-year-old-boy dressed in pink, hair dyed to match, whose parents have decided that they agree he is a girl, we witness the total collapse of parenthood. The perpetual confusion and uncertainty of youth have now been canonized as gender ideology, among other things. Love has been distorted into a cruel parody of itself.

Don't like your reproductive organs? Change them. Don't like pain or dying? Kill yourself, as 744 people did in Canada within 4 months after their Supreme Court passed the most liberal euthanasia law in the world in August of 2016. Don't want a baby growing in your womb? Abort it. Don't feel attracted to the opposite sex? Redefine marriage. The adolescent rebellion against nature, and therefore also against God, is arriving at its end state: self-destruction! Love cannot be our end if adolescence is our 'god.'

As we see, with the example of even a baby, the need for others is part of our makeup and love must take it into account. Love, finally though, means loving even those who cannot or will not love us in return. This is the radical truth about love that we touch and see and receive through the God-man with us, Jesus Christ.

Love is a mature choice and not merely a felt or reciprocal response. Love is a commitment to give of self fully, without regard to circumstances or feelings, to the fullest capacity of which one is capable.

The destruction of marriage and commitment is just part of this great betrayal of our offspring, a conspiracy to obtain the illusion of freedom for ourselves through perpetual rejection of responsibility for the consequences of even our choices to love. What is abortion, if not the annihilation of the most irreducible reminder of the truth about love: another human being?

God's initiative is to give us what we need, which, of course, is love. But the One who gives Himself is Divine. He cannot deny Himself by accepting our counterfeit substitutes for authentic love. Unlike many parents today, God insists on our good whether we like it or not. Sometimes we know He loves us because he says "no." He remains the source and model of true parenthood which forms us in mature, adult faith and calls us to the authentic love which saves.

***The Fragile Equilibrium* by Donald Demarco, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, St. Jerome's University, Waterloo, Ontario & Visiting Scholar at Holy Apostles Seminary.
Written on December 1st, 2016**

We watched the presidential debates and were hard pressed to find an actual debate amidst the whirlwind of accusations and false statements. The abortion issue was presented with too little grasp of its profound moral and social significance to become relevant.

Pope St. John Paul II, in his encyclical, *The Gospel of Life* (1995), used the phrase, “*ubiquitous tentacles*” to describe the broad and devastating effect that abortion has on all corners of society, a phenomenon that contributes powerfully to the formation of the *Culture of Death*.

Abortion has become so commonplace, its acceptance is even more persuasive. Many see abortion, as did the Supreme Court, as a private issue, merely the rightful decision of the mother. And since seven justices declared it a “right,” it should no longer be contentious. Therefore, pro-life people are stigmatized as being “anti-choice,” against human rights, and even misogynistic.

With abortion's widespread acceptance, so too has easy-sex become accepted. Casual sex inevitably leads to casualty sex, with the train of heartbreak, disappointment, and disease. Political correctness has made it unfashionable to even discuss abortion. The media has become its main societal advocate.

On the academic level, the privatization and the deconstruction of any argument against it has contributed to the relativization of all morality. The aftermath of abortion has also contributed to the erosion on marriage, with negative effects for the man and children involved. Regret has become commonplace with the associated emotional, psychological and physical maladies.

While abortion causes death of the child involved, all of society suffers. Medicine, law, the media and education as well as the family and all of its components are negatively affected. As John Updike wrote: “*Death. Once invited in, leaves its muddy boot-print everywhere.*” Abortion is as private as the wind!

“The moral health of any culture rests on a “fragile equilibrium,” to cite St. John Paul II once again. The eclipse of God, the attack on innocent life, and the renunciation of love provide an unsettling and perilous tandem. No culture can maintain its balance, its equilibrium when it depreciates life and love.”

Despite the urgency of the present situation, we need prayer and heroic patience, fortitude and spiritual testosterone to truly remain *church militant* as soldiers for Christ.

■ Your Respect for Life Committee at St. Thomas Catholic Church