

St. Bernadette Respect Life Committee

Newsletter

January 2006

33rd Anniversary of Supreme Court Decision To Legalize Abortion in the United States

Respect Life Activities

Tuesday, Jan. 10, 6:30 PM, Mass for Respect Life Intentions, followed by recitation of the Rosary
St. Bernadette Church

Saturday, Jan. 14, 9:30 AM, Annual Prayer Breakfast for Life, The Brownstone Hotel, Raleigh

Saturday, Jan. 14, 1 PM, Rally and March for Life, from Nash Square to Sacred Heart Cathedral, Raleigh

Monday, Jan. 23, 5 AM, Washington DC March for Life, buses leave from St. Raphael Catholic Church, Raleigh

See flyers posted in Gathering Area for activity details

On this, the 33rd Anniversary of the Supreme Court decision on *Roe vs. Wade*, that resulted in legalizing abortion in the United States, we ask you to consider what you can do to bring an end to the taking of innocent human life. The cut-off below can be put in an envelope and mailed to Governor Easley at the following address:

Governor Michael F. Easley
Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

You can also contact Governor Easley through email by going to www.governor.state.nc.us/Contact.asp and clicking on [Governor's Office](#).

What *Roe vs. Wade* Said

Thirty-three years after the decision, most Americans do not know that abortion is legal throughout pregnancy. Yet even many who do know believe that *Roe* held that the unborn child is not human. In fact, the decision did not say that. Rather, the Court said it did not know when human life begins, hence admitting that the unborn might be human. But then the Court authorized the destruction of the unborn.

A hunter who is not sure whether what is moving behind the bush is a bear or a human being may not shoot as long as there is doubt. One of the most destructive aspects of *Roe* is that it violated this basic moral principle.

Roe vs. Wade, therefore is about more than abortion. It is about what kind of authority the government has. It is about whether the government can say that some human beings are not human persons. It is about the fundamental question of whether the promises of the Declaration of Independence and the protections of the Constitution apply to each and every human being. The Church holds to a consistent ethic of life. This simply means that life is sacred at every stage and that there is a linkage among all the life issues. Two common misunderstandings of the consistent ethic are that it puts all issues on an equal level of urgency and that each group must work on every issue. The US Bishops' Pastoral Plan for Pro-life Activities, *A Campaign in Support of Life* (November 2001), makes it clear that we are called to give abortion "urgent attention and priority." In their 1998 document, *Living the Gospel of Life*,

To The Honorable Governor Michael F. Easley,

I am a resident of North Carolina, and am writing to inform you that I am opposed to the taking of innocent human life through abortion. On the 33 anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in the United States, I am requesting your support in ending abortion in North Carolina.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

the bishops used the image of the house to describe the linkage between issues, pointing out that abortion attacks the very foundation.

The sanctity of life is at the very core of the social teachings of the Church...we must not dismember unborn children because their lives are sacred.

It is a strange irony that the very words used by some to defend abortion are the words used by Jesus to give life: "This is My Body." Jesus does not claim to control His body so that others die; rather, He gives it away so that others may live. (Fr. Frank A. Pavone, *Pro-life Today and Always*)

Update on Court Decisions Regarding Abortion

In 1973, the Supreme Court created a "right" to extinguish the life of an innocent unborn child, and in the process seized for itself a power that no one has a right to exercise. And at every turn, relying on *Roe*, courts at all levels have refused to allow any law that would limit abortions, even up to and including a ban on the gruesome and sickening procedure called partial birth abortion.

In 2004, Mississippi adopted a law limiting abortions after the first trimester. In August 2005, a federal appeals court struck it down.

Early in 2005, Idaho adopted a law requiring parental consent for women under 18 seeking an abortion. In September 2005, a federal court struck it down.

In 2003, the US Congress passed, and President Bush signed, a federal partial birth abortion ban. In September 2005, a federal appeals court struck it down. That court, the Eighth US Circuit Court of Appeals, included this explanation for the action that it took: "Neither we, nor Congress, are free to disagree with the Supreme Court's determination."

More than 40 million unborn children have been aborted over the past three decades because six judges would rather cling to the disastrous legal precedent than reverse it. (COLUMBIA/October 2005)

*Today we take stock of our nation's progress in fostering a culture where every human life is respected and defended. Here, the outlook is decidedly mixed...in 1973 the US Supreme Court's decision of Roe vs. Wade legalized abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy—for any reason. Since then over 40 million children in the US have died from abortion. Today the Court insists abortion must be legal, even when a child is in the process of being born. (Rev. Monsignor Michael P. Shugrue, Vicar General, Diocese of Raleigh, *Respect Life Homily 2005*)*

Human life finds itself most vulnerable when it enters the world...A person who...simply, just by existing, compromises the well-being or life-style of those who are more favored tends to be looked upon as an enemy to be resisted or eliminated..."You shall not kill" has absolute value when it refers to the innocent person...The deliberate decision to deprive an innocent human being of his life is always morally evil and can never be licit either as an end in itself or as a means to a good end..No one is permitted to ask for this act of killing...nor can any authority legitimately recommend or permit such an action...The Second Vatican Council sternly condemned abortion: 'From the moment of its conception life must be guarded with the greatest care, while abortion and infanticide are unspeakable crimes.' (Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, March 25, 1995)

Confidential Pregnancy Counseling Services

Pregnancy Help: 800-848-LOVE
Pregnancy Life Care Center: 919-873-2442
24-Hour Help Line: 800-395-4357
Birth Choice: 919-781-5423
Christian Life Home: 919-518-5400

Confidential Post-Abortion Counseling Services

Project Rachel, Cary: 919-852-1021
9:30 AM to Noon on Tues. & Thurs.
7 to 9 PM on Wednesday

St. Bernadette Respect Life Committee
Rich Carberry, President
Claire M. Schweitzer, Editor

Within the whole network of issues about life, the first priority has to be the right of each individual at every state simply to exist at all, to be inviolable, to be free from direct attacks. (Richard Doerflinger, Deputy Director of the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, US Conference of Catholic Bishops)