

"Thou shalt not kill"

Pro Life Speaker addresses public

Chuck Roche, teacher at Stouffville District Secondary School and Chairman of the Durham Region Right to Life Association, spoke Sunday at the Stouffville Pentecostal Church on abortion. "Abortion" or "Thou Shalt Not Kill"

Mr. Roche told the congregation "To thousands, who are not here yet, we represent one last hope in their struggle for survival, a chance to live. We are pleading their case, they are innocent and on Death Row. We must win. I am aware you have mixed feelings about abortion: I am aware some of you may have had personal experiences in this area. I am aware of how controversial and emotional the abortion issue is. Consequently, I find myself faced with an awesome, a frightening responsibility. On one hand, I have no right, no desire or no intention to judge, to embarrass, or to hurt anyone. More and more people, especially the young, acting in fear, in ignorance, agree to abortions only to suffer serious and traumatic regrets later. I have no desire to add guilt to a regrettable mistake.

On the other hand I am faced with the realization that lives may or may not be saved by what I say or how you react here and now. Did you know that every ten minutes a Canadian baby dies at the hands of an abortionist. Did you know that our laws allow abortions only where the health or the life of the mother is endangered? Did you know that more Canadian babies died on the abortion table in 1975 than the number of Canadians killed in the Second World War? Do you believe that 50,000 Canadian women a year cannot carry a baby to full term? Is it possible the 17 year old girl in the Hospital recently for her third abortion was there

each time for health reasons?

No, my friends, the truth is that only about 1 per cent of abortions are for health reasons. According to Dr. William Allemand, engaged in abortion practice, Senior Staff Obstetrician and Gynecologist, Toronto General Hospital, less than 1 per cent of abortions in Canada are being performed for medical reasons. The truth is abortions are being performed for social reasons, for economic reasons, for convenience. Abortions are being performed because the baby, the developing human being, is a boy when a girl is more desirable or vice versa. Abortion is the latest, surest and costliest method of birth control.

Do we know what the cost of abortions really is? In dollars, the least important consideration, OHIP pays, or I should say, we pay an average of \$700 for 23,000 abortions annually here in Ontario — over \$15,000,000. Our society pays a higher price, in terms of loss of pride, dignity and respect for life. The recent examples of Mongoloid children being denied life-saving surgery because they don't meet someone's standards or specifications. The people involved pay a high price psychologically and physically. Statistics reveal an abortion frequently causes physical inability to conceive or carry a baby in later life. The highest price is paid by the baby itself. He or she pays with his or her life. This is expensive birth control. I say abortion is used as a method of birth control based on a recent report from the government sponsored Badgley Committee. Fact — 20 per cent of abortions are second or third time. 59 per cent of women having abortions know about birth control methods and just didn't use any. 95 per

cent knew about birth control and how to be informed but conceived irresponsibly a so-called unwanted child.

The fact is because abortions are readily available, we have more and more unplanned pregnancies and irresponsible sexual involvements. To solve this problem Marc Lalonde is proposing to set up abortion clinics, and make it more available. Does he think we are stupid enough to accept this? Is he encouraging wholesale infanticide? We must object publicly, violently and now.

As human beings made in the image and likeness of God, we must feel a little shame at what we see, what we allow. Does that familiar plea, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me" no longer apply? Is it just another outdated or obsolete custom?

What is an abortion? It is a termination, an interruption, the stopping of a process before it is completed. We might ask ourselves what is stopped when a baby is aborted? To answer consider — What is started when a woman conceives? Life begins, small helpless but truly one of God's chosen ones. His handiwork. A new and distinct human being. What else could it be? Can a man and a woman reproduce anything but a human being?

The next critical question is — Is it living? Any medical doctor will admit the very real fact of life. And why not life — living cells, coming together at conception to form a living, growing body with distinct features. A distinct person does not die and later come back to life. Life continues. This stage of life is only smaller more dependent and more obscure. This dependence, this geographic location has no more effect on the life

of the humanity of the fetus, the baby, any more than a patient in an oxygen tent or any life sustaining device.

The criteria for life are detectable before the mother ever knows she is pregnant. A heartbeat at 18 days, sucking his/her thumb at 5 weeks, all systems are functioning at 5 weeks. The fetal stage is only another stage in human growth and development as is infancy or adolescence.

One common abortion method is injecting a salt poison solution. Why poison? — To kill the fetus that we are told is not living. How often have you heard of babies left in a pail 2, 3 or even 5 hours to die before they throw them out? How often have you heard of babies moving and crying in the garbage bag on the way to the incinerator? It happens. It is wrong. We as humans have a responsibility to build a society which protects and guarantees the right of every one especially the right to life.

In the first Chapter of the Book of Genesis it reads: "Then God said, let us make man in our own image after our likeness." God created man in His Own Image, in the Divine Image He created him; male and female, He created them. Since man has been created in the image and likeness of God, every human being is Godlike and therefore is sacred and derives his right to life from God.

If on the other hand we defy God by denying man's right to life is God given, it is easy to accept the current theory that man exists for society and is valuable only in so far as he is useful to that society. When we take this stand it is easy to kill the inconvenient child in the womb.

In the words of Lutheran Pastor Martin Neimoller in Germany: "In Germany they

first came for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade-unionist, and I didn't speak up because I was a trade-unionist. They came for the Catholics and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me . . . and by that time, no one was left to speak up."

Thou shalt not kill. There were and are no exceptions in the plan of God. Only man has made exceptions and man will answer for it. If you continue to allow it to happen, we will most certainly answer for it. We are here as laborers in His Vineyard. "The harvest is great but the laborers are few." If you believe that God is pleased with the defenseless slaughter of His innocent unborn, then stay as you are. Do nothing. Remain silent!

If on the other hand you are alarmed by this situation, do not return home from your comfortable pew this morning until you have decided that the acid test of your convictions lies not in your thoughts but in your future actions. The Lord has said "Whatever you do to the least of my Brethren, you do unto me."

Let us join in the fight for life. Let us be heard and seen carrying the banner: "Thou shalt not kill!"

So when the twilight of our existence fades, as surely it will, when the plastic hopes and aspirations of this world have disappeared, when we stand before our God at the final judgement we can confidently say: "Grant me eternal life, O Lord, I fought for life."

CHUCK ROCHE
RR 1 Ashburn

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"Retirement" THE FOURTH QUARTER

By LESLIE HOLBROOK

Good weather months encourage even the most stay-at-home types to get up and go. But, you say, you can't go far at today's zooming transportation and accommodation costs. Well, you don't have to go far. You can have just as much fun and get just as much satisfaction out of trips within short miles of home. After considerable foreign travel, my wife and I have cut back because of rising costs. (Although there is considerable Canadian travel in the cards for us now as we call on editors who offer you this column — or should be offering it to you — and meet with other seniors across the land.)

Checking the country next to you. Wherever you roam, if you keep your eyes open, camera and binoculars at the ready, and note book open, you can gather the stuff of which memories are made without going far afield. If you still like to drive your car — or have a friend with similar interests — you can best ramble, at will, your neighbouring countryside. But there are also many groups and individuals in all parts of the country who specialize in arranging short and longer trips for seniors — by bus, train or

plane — where you let someone else worry about the mechanics of the trip. But however you go and no matter how limited your physical capabilities, make a real effort to record your experiences, your impressions, and data about places and faces you enjoyed. A steno's notebook is fine for such records; supplemented by some personal picture-taking the story will be even better when you enjoy it in review later. Some oldsters come back with their trip comments, sounds of their travels and talks with local folk on tape. The small, portable cassette tape recorders

are easy to use and you might find one a good investment. With adequate notes, and pictures to back up your memory, you have every trip deposited in a "bank" for use whenever you wish. Unlike most banks you can keep on withdrawing without ever having an overdraft. My own travel notes often are incorporated into a personal daily journal I have kept steadily for some thirty years. Other notes are placed with informative files of places visited. With this we have a library of thousands of colored slides taken on our journeyings. When time permits

(which isn't, often enough), we can look at pictures of trips years back and, when memory fails, refer to journal or files to bring greatest pleasure to our armchair re-visit. These trips down memory lane can be just as enjoyable whether the original journey was 10 miles or 1000. Thought for the week: "An old travel adage runs "The longer and more expensive the trip, the older the passenger". Let's revise this to read "The shorter and most reasonable the outing, the smarter the traveller".

Curtailing jaunts to Europe, South America, Mexico, the Caribbean, etc., we discover that there is no basic difference between rambling in Rome and



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