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BULLETIN

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Volume 2

January 19, 1986

Office of University Ministry  
University of Notre Dame

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ISSUE #15

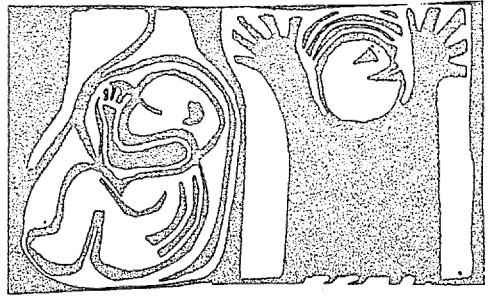
*To me the nations with legalized abortions are the poorest nations.  
The great destroyer of peace today is the crime against the innocent  
unborn child.*

*Mother Teresa*



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January 22nd marks the 13th anniversary of the Wade v. Roe decision in which abortion upon demand became a legal option. The issue of abortion has been and will be with us for a long time. One and a half abortions are performed each year. There have been over eighteen million since the Roe vs. Wade decision in 1973. Some four to five thousand are performed each day. On this the anniversary of Legal Abortion let us consider how each of us works on behalf of life, and how we live out the consequences of Jesus' most difficult words: Love one another as I have loved you. Whatever you do to the least human being you do to me.



Our basic attitude towards abortion matches our readiness either to address ourselves to others' needs or to eliminate others when their needs burden us too heavily...Those who do not wish to rearrange their lives to accommodate a child will not readily be brought to see their unborn as endowed with rights or as an envoy of joy—at least not by any argument. Those who know that they have nothing more satisfying to do with their lives than to give others life and its hospitality hardly need to have it explained to them that the stranger appearing unbidden at life's entryway must, before all, be bidden welcome.

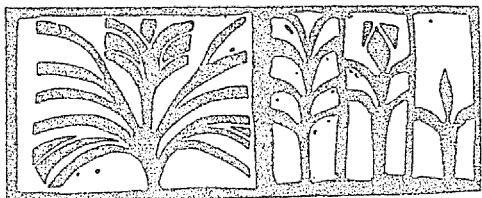


I hold that the life of every fellow human being must be respected, preserved, and even protected. We must defer to others' lives, not simply to gain and repay a like protection from others nor just to avoid the penalties of law, nor merely because every human being has a right to his or her life, a right which deserves

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priority over every other human right, need, or desire. We must defer for still another reason: if we deal unjust injury or violent death to others, we shall bring upon ourselves a death of spirit—a violent death. Those who kill, die. And they die when they slay, not later... But back to the point, the chief point, the much avoided point, the only point at issue: to abort is to destroy one's son or daughter.

James Tunstead Burtchaell  
Rachel Weeping

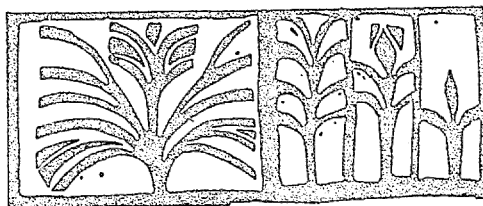


For my part, I believe that there is no life so degraded, deteriorated, debased or impoverished that it does not deserve respect and it is not worth defending with zeal and conviction. I believe that even if there are good reasons we can give ourselves for sacrificing one life for another considering the inadequacy of the material means at our disposal, such a sacrifice involves a kind of defeat, because it confirms acceptance of that inadequacy. Above all, I believe that a terrible precedent would be established if

we agreed that a life could be allowed to end because it was not worth preserving since the notion of biological unworthiness, even if carefully circumscribed at first, would soon become broader and less precise. After eliminating what was no longer human, the next step would be to eliminate what was not sufficiently human, and finally nothing would be spared except what fitted a certain concept of humanity.

I have the weakness to believe that it is an honor for society to desire the expensive luxury of sustaining life for its useless, incompetent, and incurably ill members; I would almost measure a society's degree of civilization by the amount of effort and vigilance it imposes on itself out of pure respect of life. It is noble to struggle unrelentingly to save someone's life, as if he were dear to us, when objectively he has no value and is not even loved by anyone.

Jean Rostand, Humanly Possible: A Biologist's Notes on the Future of Mankind



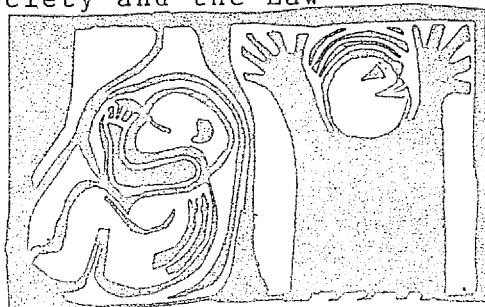
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On January 22, 1973 the Supreme Court gave judgement that Infant Roe, as the unborn child of Jane Roe, was to remain at her disposal. In the opinion of the Court, delivered by Associate Justice Harry Blackmun, no protective reference in the Constitution to persons "has any possible pre-natal application... In short the unborn have never been recognized in the law as persons in the whole sense."

The history of mankind has shown too many instances of systematic efforts to exclude certain races or classes of people from the human community to allow

us to view with equanimity the declaration that fetuses are "not human." Historically, the proposition that all human beings are equal, however "inchoate" they may be, is not conservative but radical. It is constantly being threatened in theory and subverted in practice.

Daniel Callahan, "Abortion, Society and the Law"



A silent vigil will take place at the Women's Pavilion (the abortion clinic) at 425 N. St. Louis Street on January 22nd at noon. Rides will be provided and will leave the main circle at 11:45 and 12:20.

In the twilight of life, God will not judge us on our earthly possessions and human success, but rather on how much we have loved.

*St. John of the Cross*