



3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time YEAR A – January 26, 2020

This past week, we observed the 47th anniversary of the landmark decision *Roe v Wade*. It's the moment at which abortion became legal in the United States. Since then, over 60 million unborn children have never seen the light of day in our country. That's more than 12 million more than the total population of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Our bishops ask us to pray for the overturn of that decision so that unborn children can see the light of day. Have you found time to do that?

In 1998, *Roe v. Wade* plaintiff Norma McCorvey told a U.S. Senate panel, "I am dedicated to spending the rest of my life undoing the law that bears my name." The more people reflect on all that is involved in abortion, the more they come to understand the need to change the law.

Nine years ago, Scott Peterson was found guilty of two murders. The murder of his wife and the murder of his unborn child. If his wife had aborted her child while she was alive, that would not be called "murder", it would have been called abortion. That's the way the law reads in our country today. The contradiction and denial of reality is simply ignored.

History repeated itself again in the case of a young marine female who was killed about 11 years ago. Did the killer commit one crime or two.

Pope Saint John Paul II said on one occasion, "Any nation that kills its unborn children is doomed to destruction." That country will eventually cease to exist.

More than 60 million unborn children is a lot of people. That may include a man or woman we need to lead our country in the future, or a person who will discover the cure for a global plague as of yet unknown. It's time to stop choosing evil under the appearance of good. It's time to come to our senses.

Jesus reminds us in the Gospel today (Matthew 4:12-23) that we have the capacity to change. He tells us that new wine belongs in new wine skins. His teaching is the new wine and we are the new wine skins.

Unfortunately, not all the new wine in our culture today is the new wine of Jesus. We are very much like the people in the land of Zebulun and Naphtali. They decided for themselves what is right and what is wrong: what is good and what is evil. Some of their man-made laws were contrary to the laws of God. Some of ours are too.

Everybody has an opinion about abortion. Some folks distinguish between being pro-birth and pro-life. They are not the same. Some parishioners think we talk too much about abortion at Mass. Some think we do not talk enough about it.

Do you think *Roe v Wade* should be overturned?

Reflect on that question for a few moments in prayerful silence. What do you believe?

