THE RIGHT TO LIFE

This is the month each year when moral people, of whatever faith, remember with sadness the atrocity we know as Roe v. Wade. I’ve written before about abortion “rights” and the rare occasions when an abortion might be necessary to preserve the life of the mother. I’ve also addressed the much more difficult situation where a pregnancy is the result of a rape—an atrocity committed against an innocent woman—and the moral complexity of dealing with something so horrific. I won’t reprise those reflections now, but I feel it is important to put abortion-on-demand in perspective in a world where so many other “rights” seem to frame the right to life as irrelevant in the “modern” world.

A week ago Saturday, there was a great article in the Chicago Tribune which included a quote from Dr. Karen Deighan, an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Loyola University Medical Center. She told the interviewer that she has seen tiny hearts beating as early as six weeks and went on to say “I don’t see this as different than a newborn baby who should be protected.” I don’t see that as different either, and I don’t see how anyone could. But, sadly, that indifference to innocent life and the failure of too many men and women to accept responsibility for their sexual activity seems to be the norm in our increasingly immoral and self-centered world.

But I began this by alluding to all the other “rights” we hear about today that seem to take precedence over the rights of the unborn. One of the most newsworthy is the rights of illegal immigrants. There’s no question that people whose lives are in danger in their own lands have a right to seek a safe home for themselves and their families. How they choose to do that is another matter that raises both moral and legal questions. I don’t have an answer to the immigrant “crisis” at our southern border, though part of the answer surely has to do with our nation’s financial support of corrupt regimes. It seems that we funnel money to some of them with no accompanying demand that they use those funds to serve their own citizens and deal with the corruption that often puts that money in the pockets of the wealthy or influential.

But the point is that so many Americans who promote the rights of illegal immigrants—especially Democratic members of Congress and the Illinois legislature—can’t seem to make the connection to the rights of the unborn, those innocents who have broken no laws, who haven’t asked to be brought into this world, but whose lives are taken without a second thought and whose “right” to be murdered in the womb is enshrined in law, both nationally and in our own corrupt and increasingly immoral state.

Those in our country who actually have a conscience can only continue to raise awareness of the injustice and immorality of abortion-on-demand. And you can raise your own awareness by coming to church this Tuesday at 7:00p.m. for a presentation by Belinda Guyton, the Director of the Southside Pregnancy Center. Don’t miss it.

Fr. Bob