

Have you ever had to do something that you **really didn't want to do**?

Earlier this week Donna and I picked a bunch of cucumbers and started to prepare them to be made into bread and butter pickles.

We had enough cucumbers to make 30 pints.

So we went into the basement to grab some pint sized canning jars.

The problem was,,, the only pint jars we had left,, were some old jars that a neighbor had given us years ago.

These jars were really old and pretty dirty, covered with mud and dirt.

Now we did have some quart jars that were in much better condition, but,,,,, I was informed that we were going to use the dirty old pint sized jars.

I voiced my opinion and disagreed.....

So I wound up soaking the pint jars in dish soap and bleach.

After they soaked for a while I began to scrub them with a scouring pad until they were just like new again.

That was the thing I really didn't want to do, I wanted to take the easy way out and use the good jars, but I did what I had to do to get the job done.

So why am I telling you this great story about dirty canning jars and doing something I really didn't want to do?

Because this Sunday is Respect Life Sunday and it is my usual weekend to give the homily.

And to be honest with you, I did not really want to preach about respect life issues and specifically abortion.

I would rather have just talked about something else, but here I am.

The reason I did not look forward to this is because I think we all know where we are when it comes to respecting life.

Things are not good in our world when it comes to abortion and it is really not good,, and getting worse in our own country.

Let me give you some recent news.

The white house has dropped the Hyde Amendment, which stopped federal tax money from paying for abortions.

So now our tax dollars are funding abortion again.

The white house also dropped the Mexico City Policy which simply required non-governmental organizations that receive U.S. aid to refrain from **performing or promoting** abortion as a method of family planning in developing nations.

So now our tax dollars are funding abortions worldwide.

The House of Representatives just passed on September 24, HR3755, know as the Women's Health Protection Act of 2021.

I read this act and it is very disturbing. The opening paragraph states:

*Congress finds the following:*

*Abortion services are essential to health care and access to those services is central to people's ability to participate equally in the economic and social life of the United States. Abortion access allows people who are pregnant to make their own decisions about their pregnancies, their families, and their lives.*

This bill passed with a very partisan vote of 218 for and 211 against,, so this bill is now on to the Senate.

In an action alert, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops calls this legislation "the most radical abortion bill of all time."

Archbishop Joseph Naumann, chair of the USCCB's pro-life committee, outlined how the bill would expand abortion in letter to members of Congress.

*"This deceptively-named, extreme bill would impose abortion on demand nationwide at any stage of pregnancy through federal statute,"*

*The legislation, he said, would also override state and local pro-life laws such as parental notification and informed-consent requirements.*

*"It would force all Americans to support abortions here and abroad with their tax dollars."*

So where do we go from here? What can we do to stop this act that Saint Pope John II called an **intrinsic evil**?

I think there are two things we can do today.

Prayer and action.

We Christian people can join together in prayer and fasting to end this.

An example of this happened just this past week.

The archbishop of San Francisco is called for a "massive and visible campaign of prayer and fasting" for the conversion of the House Speaker's heart as she pursues what pro-lifers have called "radical" abortion legislation, that would be HR3755.

The archbishop asked that we commit to praying one rosary a week and fasting on Fridays for her conversion of heart."

He then directed readers to sign up for the "**Rose and Rosary for Nancy**" campaign at

<https://benedictinstitute.org>

When participants sign up, a rose will be sent to Nancy "as a symbol of your prayer and fasting for her."

I thought about this act of sending a rose,,, and I did it.

I figured if I cannot control my tax dollars being spent to support abortion, at least I can spend my after tax dollars on causes that try to end abortion.

What else can we do?

Did you know there is a prolife resource center in Hayward?

The Northwood's New Life Resource Center on Hwy 27 south is a place that offers pregnancy tests and ultrasounds for free.

They offer education opportunities to people who are seeking answers about the difficulties of life.

I spoke with the people there this week and asked what their biggest needs are.

They said volunteers,, and money.

So again, we have another opportunity to use our time and money to support a culture of life.

Their website is <http://www.nwnewlife.org/>

There is another group I found that helps women in need.

It is called Let Them Live.

Their website is <https://letthemlive.org>

Their mission statement says:

“73% of women have abortions due to financial burden”.

Let Them Live offers them financial support so that they can choose life instead of abortion.

Their website states:

*We envision a culture where women **never** feel like abortion is their only option simply because of their financial situation.*

Please check out their website and look at the frequently asked questions page.

It is full of information about how your money would be used for good.

There is also the Wisconsin Right to Life.

Their mission is to:

*“To make euthanasia, infanticide, abortion and destruction of human embryos,,, **socially**, ethically and legally unacceptable solutions to human problems and to promote positive alternatives to each of these acts.”*

Their website is:

<https://wisconsinrighttolife.org>

And in our own parishes there is the Elizabeth Ministries and Spiritual Adoption where you can pray for an unborn child who is in danger of abortion.

So there are many different ways that we can try to help stop the culture of death in our world.

We just have to make up our minds that we cannot count on our government to do it all for us.

So with all that being said,,,

There are actually some good things happening, but they don't make the news much.

The state of Texas recently passed a fetal heartbeat bill.

The law took effect in September.

Texas Governor Abbott said while signing the bill:.

“Our creator endowed us with the right to life and yet millions of children lose their right to life every year because of abortion,”

The Legislature "worked together on a bipartisan basis to pass a bill that I'm about to sign that ensures that the life of every unborn child who has a heartbeat will be saved from the ravages of abortion.”

Other states have also passed such legislation including Ohio, Georgia, Louisiana, Missouri, Alabama, Kentucky, & South Carolina.

So there is some hope.

But we need to get involved in some way.

We need to show our support for pro-life organizations and movements by getting involved and taking action.

We can do that by helping some of the prolife ministries I mentioned before or ones you research for your selves.

My hope is,,, that someday history will look back on abortion like we look back at the Holocaust,, and say,

“How could we have let his happen to so many innocent people”?

“Why didn't we see through all the talk of healthcare and see what was really happening”?

God created each of us sitting in this church today,,, and at the moment of our conception His plan was set in place for our lives.

My prayer today is that we as Christians can be brave, and spread the message of life,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

in a world that desperately needs to hear it.