

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

I am writing these notes on January 22nd, the 47th anniversary of the tragic Supreme Court decision, *Roe vs. Wade* (1973). That decision legalized abortion in the first three months of pregnancy in all 50 states. Since that decision, abortion is now legal in some states (e.g. New York) for all nine months of pregnancy, including during labor and delivery. It was unimaginable in 1973 that this would be the case, but this is exactly what can happen when time-honored values are reversed or cast aside. Quite honestly, things will probably get worse in regards to life issues, as well as other issues. Case in point: arguments are now often made that even once a child is born, the mother or both parents should have the right to decide if the child should live for whatever reason. They could possibly argue that it's better for the child to die rather than live. We have come to a point of absurd reasoning.

Other traditions, and even more important, divine laws are constantly challenged. One has only to think of recent civil laws regarding marriage or gender to understand what I mean. The legal definition of marriage, accepted by virtually all the world for millennia, has been rejected and replaced in the last quarter of the 20th century. Understanding of divine-willed gender determination and differences are also becoming obsolete. Moreover, those who hold on to the traditional understanding are deemed old fashioned, ignorant, intolerant, wrong-headed, evil, etc.

One thing I believe we all have to realize is that just because something becomes legal in civil law does not mean it is good or moral or acceptable in "God's eyes". It is absolutely true that every person has to be respected. It is also true that there is a difference between right and wrong. Please continue to pray that God's ways will be respected once again in the world, and that human life will be protected and defended from conception until natural death. Human life is a precious gift from God.

Sincerely in Christ,

Monsignor Giandurco