

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

SAINTS DENIED

*This Sunday we are celebrating the Solemnity of All Saints, one of those opportunities of timing that allow us to reflect on the blessings that the Saints are in our lives, and their essential role in helping us see Christ more clearly ourselves. Where would our faith be had they not shown us the path of faith. This week our country holds its national election, but sadly many of our fellow citizens can't imagine the losses we have suffered from the abortion of millions and millions of children who might have been a great epidemiologist, a president, an opera singer, **or a saint**. Every soul ever conceived was intended by God to be a blessing for us and a sign of His goodness to us now and in the life to come. Below, a reflection from a friend, now deceased, who realized God's beauty and goodness in someone else's voice, who couldn't imagine life without that blessing, and feared to think of all those lost to us by abortion.*

In March, 1944, a baby girl was born in New Zealand. She was illegitimate, and of mixed race: one parent white and of European descent; the other, possessing the darker complexion typical of the native Maori people of New Zealand. As is all too common in similar cases, the child was abandoned. Social services had difficulty in finding anyone to adopt her because of her racial background and her gender. Finally, a childless couple in an inter-racial marriage did adopt her and raise her as their own child. When she was seven, her parents and she became Catholics. She attended a Catholic high school where with the encouragement of her mother and one of the nuns who taught music, she began to study singing. Eventually, she became one of the most accomplished sopranos of our day, with the ability to sing not only beautifully but fluently in several languages. (Only Pavarotti has recorded more than she has).

Kiri Te Kanawa is one whose life teaches the tremendous possibilities in every life and the tremendous potential we all have in touching others in some significant way. Should she have never lived, the lives of millions of her fans (moved not only by her singing, but by her goodness as well) would be that much less complete. And yet, today, a baby conceived in the very same circumstances would likely be aborted or languish unwanted.

The thought of how different our lives would be if all the people who have been a part of them had never lived — or how different their lives would be without us — should be hard for us to accept. Their lives seem to

be meant for us, and ours for them. They are valuable: first, to God; then, to themselves; and then, to all those whose lives they can touch by their own gifts. Even the most unpromising of starts can conceal the great blessings God intends for us in them.

Abortion must always be seen for what it is: a way to solve a problem at someone else's expense. At the same time, we should be ready to help the woman who — often in great stress and not able to imagine any future happiness for the child she knows she will not be able to care for — turns to abortion. (In many cases, the woman is nearly as much a victim as her child.)

[Too many years ago] abortion was established dubiously as a “civil right” in this country while at the same time honoring the courageous witness of the Rev. Martin Luther King to the founding and “self-evident” proposition of our nation that “all men are created equal.” It is unlikely that our nation would have elected a person of color, President Obama, as its leader without Dr. King's sacrifice. Perhaps we might imagine what our nation has lost in the unborn children who were never allowed to pursue the “unalienable rights” of “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness” with which we were endowed by our Creator.

The week challenges us to renew our efforts and prayers to see that everyone can enjoy the life which God has made possible for them. By working to overturn laws that disregard the sanctity of all human life; by supporting mothers who are all too often encouraged in this world that it's the choice and not the child that matters; and by understanding our responsibility toward children waiting to be born and waiting to be adopted, we can say, with God, to everyone, “You are important to us!”