

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 09/06/20

“You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel; when you hear me say anything, you shall warn them for me. If I tell the wicked, ‘O wicked one, you shall surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way, the wicked shall die for his guilt, but I will hold you responsible for his death.”

Every man ordained to the priesthood, from the parish priest to the pope, must take the above warning very seriously if he hopes to save others and ultimately himself.

Every priest has been entrusted with the task of instructing the faithful in the perennial theological and moral truths of the Catholic Church no matter how hard it may seem at the time. It is what we promised to do at our ordinations.

The Ten Commandments are the beginning and most straight forward of the moral teachings of the Church and yet so many people seem so confused about the most basic one of all – Thou Shalt Not Kill – when it comes to an unborn baby.

Let me demonstrate how wicked and nightmarish our culture has become especially when God is thrown out of the picture.

Peter Singer is a tenured professor of moral philosophy and ethics at Princeton University. He’s the son of Austrian Jewish parents who immigrated to Australia when the Nazi’s annexed Austria. Three of his grandparents were killed in concentration camps. He says he was raised in a happy non-religious home. He’s an atheist.

In spite of the murder inflicted on his family by the Nazis he is one of the most radical pro-abortion voices in the world today. Ironically, he is well-known for his advocacy of animal rights – not so unlike his murderous Nazi counterpart – Adolph Hitler.

In order to justify his radical pro-abortion position he first puts forward the following correct syllogism. He says, “It is not right to kill innocent human life. An unborn fetus (fetus is his word) is innocent human life. Therefore it is not right to kill it.” This is common sense.

The problem comes when he says, “So we have to re-evaluate the first premise – that it’s not right to kill innocent human life.”

In other words, he argues that it is perfectly fine to kill innocent human life. Do away with the first premise and the whole syllogism collapses.

This is the slippery slope that we are facing today in America and in the world. When people agree that unborn babies are innocent human life but they can be killed anyway then we are in deep trouble.

When politicians, especially Catholic ones, advocate evil ideas, such as abortion on demand, while claiming themselves to be personally opposed and the average Joe buys into it and votes for him just because he claims to be for the little guy then we are in the deepest of trouble.

A vote for a pro-abortion politician gives license to people like Peter Singer to lead us down that slippery slope and it will only stop when it reaches its final destination – the very bowls of hell.

Jesus offered a remedy in the gospel today for seriously wayward Catholics, especially public Catholics, such as politicians, who advocate abortion and other anti-life policies.

Jesus tells us firstly we must confront him privately. If that doesn't work then we bring along another believer and if he still refuses to listen and change his ways then we tell the Church. If he refuses to listen even to the Church, then we treat him as we would a Gentile or a tax collector. In other words, we excommunicate them.

Voting for one of these politicians threatens our own salvation as well.

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Jesus is telling the Church to excommunicate them. Bar them from heaven as a means of bringing about their conversion. It's ultimately a medicinal measure meant to heal not to destroy.

If anyone thinks I enjoy preaching on this stuff then they are sadly mistaken. Like everyone else I just want to enjoy my life with family and friends but I can't or I might end up in hell.

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I take this warning very seriously. I'm not going to hell for the sins of anyone else. I have plenty of my own to answer for.