

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners:

From time to time our parish has been asked to display the “Memorial to the Unborn.” The memorial is comprised of 727 small crosses. This display was first erected at St. Aloysius Church in Leonardtown in 2002 by that parish’s Pro-Life Committee and the local council of the Knights of Columbus. Since that time the Memorial has been replicated and displayed by many churches, both Protestant and Catholic, throughout our area. The display is a memorial to the approximately 50 million children who have died from “choice.” since January 22, 1973, when abortion was legalized in the U.S. The memorial is meant to remind people what the advocates of “choice” are talking about. The choice they are talking about is the choice to kill a child in the womb. The 721 crosses of the memorial symbolize the average number of children executed by “choice” in our country every working hour.

If you find these facts and the display distressing, you should. Those promoting abortion and the politicians they control, including a number of supposed Catholics, have succeeded in making the “freedom to choose” abortion sound patriotic. It is not that at all. It is the choice to take a defenseless life. It is also a multimillion dollar industry for Planned Parenthood and other death factories. Fanatic in their promotion of abortion, Planned Parenthood and its agents want abortions to be paid for by federal tax money. For them pregnancy is a disease that must be avoided or ended by any means necessary. It’s also a profitable business. Truly, what sort of people say to a woman who is worried about having a child, “Our gift to you is the choice to take your child’s life and we’re only going to charge you several hundred dollars for it?”

What can we do to turn back the evil of abortion? Number *one*, we must pray for the conversion of hearts. Our own and those of others so that we all recognize that life, all life is a gift from God, and is not to be taken away by men. *Two*, we must reach out to women who are facing pregnancy under difficult circumstances so that they know that the death of their child is not their only choice. We can do this by supporting pro-life pregnancy care centers like the “Catherine Foundation Pregnancy Care Center” in Waldorf. *Thirdly*, we can practice and promote an appreciation for God’s plan for human sexuality. Quite simply, if people were not having sex outside of marriage much of the demand for abortion would disappear. We need to help our young people understand that the real “choice” in this matter is whether to be sexually active or not before marriage and that chastity is both expected and made possible by our Lord. *Fourth*, we should support economic policies that enable married couples to have children as well as a reasonable standard of living. *Fifth*, we must reject the contraceptive mentality that sees children as a threat because we have come to value money and possessions more than the gift of life. *Sixth*, we should vote against all politicians who sanction and even promote the choice to kill children. *Finally*, we can get active in the Pro-Life movement by going on the March for Life this Friday in Washington and joining local groups like our own parish Pro-Life committee.

The memorial to the victims of choice is a statement that **what the “freedom to choose” really means is the death penalty for the truly innocent. No woman should have to make that choice and no civilized society should allow it.**

With my prayers,

Fr. Conley

What would the “Pro-Choice” advocates have chosen in these situations?

A preacher and his wife are very poor. They already have 14 children. Now she finds that she's pregnant with number 15. *The choice of abortion would have meant the death of John Wesley, renowned preacher and founder of the Methodist church.*

The father has syphilis; the mother has tuberculosis. They have four children. One child has died, one is blind, one deaf and one has tuberculosis. The mother is pregnant. *The choice of abortion would have killed Ludwig von Beethoven.*

A white man raped and impregnated a 13-year-old black girl. *The choice of abortion would have killed singer Ethel Waters.*

A teenage girl is pregnant and unmarried. Her father has disowned her. *The choice of abortion would have killed Fr. Joseph Mohr, priest and co-composer of the hymn “Silent Night.”*

A teenage girl is pregnant. She is not married. Her fiancé is not the father of the baby. *The choice of abortion would have killed our Lord Jesus Christ.*