

Reflections
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From Butchery to Blasphemy

Have we developed societal beliefs that are promoting a repeat of some of the worst behaviors of the past?

In 1581, Fr. Edmund Campion was captured in England and under the penal laws of the day was sentenced to death for being a Catholic priest within the realm. He was stretched on a rack, dragged through London behind a horse to the public gallows, hanged and taken down before the point of death, disemboweled, his entrails pulled out and burned, and then the body torn into quarters by four horses. It is hard to imagine the gruesome butchery that was socially acceptable in the Medieval Ages.

In 2018, in America, children in the womb may be aborted legally to the moment of birth. In the second trimester of a pregnancy, the abortionist uses a dilation and evacuation procedure, in which, often without anesthetizing the child, he reaches into the womb with a long clamp, grasps a limb and pulls it off and out. This is repeated for the other limbs and torso, before the skull is crushed and the parts removed. The child must undergo excruciating agony, for science has shown that an unborn child can feel pain at 20 weeks of age and perhaps earlier.

Is the American abortionist any less barbaric than the medieval executioner? America is one of only seven nations in the world that permit abortions after 20 weeks. According to a 2014 report by the Charlotte Lozier Institute, among 198 nations, only North Korea, Vietnam and China have more permissive gestational limits.

As barbaric as abortion is, its advocates in the United States continue to fight successfully to maintain its legality. On January 19, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, a bill to prohibit abortions at 20 weeks and beyond. The President promised to sign it when it reached his desk. But it never did. On January 29, a companion bill was filibustered in the U.S. Senate preventing a vote to take place. It is a shameful blot on the nation that its legislators cannot summon the political will to stop abortions even when they involve excruciating fetal pain. Rev. Franklin Graham wrote: "Sin has an enormous price. Our nation will one day have to answer to God for the millions of innocent lives taken by abortion, and that applies to every politician who voted for and defended abortion."

But abortion is not done simply to satisfy a woman's desire. As a series of undercover videos by The Center for Medical Progress has shown, Planned Parenthood makes a business in selling parts of aborted, dismembered children. In one video, Dr. Deborah Nucatola, Senior Director of Medical Services for Planned Parenthood Federation of America, casually sips wine and has lunch while she describes the grotesque manner in which organs and body parts are harvested to improve their economic return.

Greed certainly drives the abortion industry. But now those who destroy children in the womb are trying to couch their hideous activities as religiously motivated. The statements of three late-term abortionists epitomize these perverted and sacrilegious views. LeRoy Carhart, who operates in Maryland and Nebraska, asserts he believes in God "very strongly," even though he

doesn't attend regular church services. He considers his abortion practice a ministry and "feels he is living out his faith" by helping women through what is often the worst time of their lives. Mississippi abortionist Willie Parker considers himself a Christian whose spirituality places a higher value on compassion for the mother than the life of the child. Texas abortionist Curtis Boyd, a former ordained Baptist minister, has admitted that abortion is killing, so after each abortion he offers a prayer "that the spirit of this pregnancy be returned to God with love and understanding."

As twisted as the views of the abortionists are, the actions of ordained clergy are more hypocritical. On the same day that the Pain-Capable Act was filibustered in the Senate, four Christian pastors and a rabbi gathered at Carhart's Maryland facility to pray for and bless the abortion clinic and staff. The Rev. Carlton Veazey, a Baptist pastor, prayed in God's name for the doctor and nurses who facilitate abortions at the clinic and for their patients, so that "they always know that all that they do is for Thy glory." Several staff members intoned, "Amen." The clergy then sprinkled water throughout the clinic and in the parking lot, and the Rev. Cari Jackson of the United Church of Christ said: "We sanctify this space and we honor this as holy."

This was not the first time pro-abortion clergy have given religious cover to abortion clinics. In January 2017, ministers from 20 religious sects gathered to pray, chant mantras and conduct a liturgical dance as they blessed Planned Parenthood's newly-opened mega-clinic in Washington, DC. The CEO of Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington said, "This confirms the sacredness of the work we do."

In early November 2017, lawyers for Whole Woman's Health argued in a Texas court that abortionists should be allowed to continue second-trimester abortions in which living, unborn babies are dismembered while their hearts are beating. A few days later on November 9, pro-abortion clergy gathered at the abortion chain's facility in Fort Worth, blessing its staff and patients, praying and singing "Hallelujah." On October 8, 2015, United Methodist Church pastor Rev. Laura Young blessed an abortion facility in Cleveland, because Christianity is founded on love, and she wanted to protect women who go to Planned Parenthood and other abortion facilities from "preachy protesters" who have "misguided faith."

Are these clergy reverting to pre-Christian worship? Those who offer prayers for abortionists and their staffs are more likely appeasing Molech, the Old Testament, Ammonite idol who demanded child sacrifice, rather than calling upon God, the author of life, whose son sacrificed himself for our sins. "The religious person," Pope Francis said, "knows that among the greatest blasphemies is to invoke God as the justification for one's own sins and crimes." These ministers should pay heed to the admonition of Isaiah: "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness."

If once again, our nation is to revere life at all stages, it will take God working through us. Pray for our nation. Urge the nation's leaders to hold Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers accountable for laws they may have broken and the atrocities they have conducted. Be a public witness to end abortion and uphold the sanctity of life.

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March 2018