

Reflections

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If “Catholics” Were Catholic

"All the evils of the world are due to lukewarm Catholics," said Pope St. Pius V. While the events of the past several weeks demonstrate the truth of this statement, it may be more accurate to say “are due to apostatizing Catholics.”

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, a professed Catholic, recently signed “The Reproductive Health Act” into law, which allows abortions to be performed throughout a woman’s entire pregnancy, permits non-physicians to perform them, and removes all criminal penalties for the procedure. In a display of arrogance, Cuomo signed the act on January 22, the anniversary of the enactment of *Roe v. Wade*, and celebrated by having the World Trade Center bathed in pink lights.

Less than two weeks later, a New York man stabbed his girlfriend and her 14-week old unborn child to death. Two charges of murder were initially filed, but that relating to the child was soon dropped because of the new law.

Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo, who identifies as Catholic, is supporting an abortion bill similar to that of New York, which recently was introduced into the state’s House of Delegates.

In New Jersey, Gov. Phil Murphy, a proclaimed Catholic, signed a bill on January 31 requiring the state’s public middle and high schools to teach about the societal contributions of LGBT persons, which would help the gender confused to appear normal. Then, on February 7, a senate legislative committee voted 6-3 to advance a bill that would legalize physician-assisted suicide. This occurred after Senate President Stephen Sweeney appointed himself and Sen. Nicholas Scutari, both Catholic and supporters of the legislation, to replace two senators who had previously voted against physician-assisted suicide.

In Maryland, where abortion is already legal throughout a woman’s pregnancy, the speaker of the state’s House of Delegates, Michael Busch, has introduced a bill to enshrine abortion as a woman’s right in the state constitution, which would preclude any laws to restrict abortion from being passed in the future. Busch is a cradle Catholic who left the faith a few years ago.

A bill to legalize physician assisted suicide is also being considered by the Maryland legislature, even though both the president of the state Senate, Thomas “Mike” Miller, and the governor, Larry Hogan, are Catholic.

In Virginia, Delegate Kathy Tran, a proclaimed Catholic, introduced a bill to allow abortion, even, she said, when a woman is in labor and about to give birth. Gov. Ralph Northam, a non-Catholic, commenting on the bill, said that if a “severely deformed or otherwise non-viable” child was delivered “a discussion would ensue between the physicians and the mother” to consider possible termination options. Hence, even infanticide would be allowed as a medical option under a bill proposed by a Catholic.

In response to the Northam comments, the *Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act* was introduced in the U.S. Congress on February 4 to require medical care for infants who survive an abortion. Patty Murray, a Catholic, blocked a vote in the Senate. Then, under the leadership of

Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Catholic, a vote on the measure was blocked six times in the House of Representatives.

These are not the only high-profile political office holders who profess to be Catholic, while opposing the Church's teachings. They are only the ones who have taken prominent action in the past few weeks.

What is late-term abortion that so many politicians are willing to legalize? The trial of Kermit Gosnell, the Philadelphia abortionist, provided a glimpse into its hideous reality and the abortionist's callousness toward human life. In his clinic, police found children's bodies in jars of toxic fluid, ground in garbage disposals, stuffed in cat food containers, flushed down toilets, and stored along with employees' lunches in a refrigerator. Abortion is a violent and brutal act, conducted by people who are willing to routinely kill children, not only in the womb, but increasingly after being delivered alive.

Gosnell is not a rogue outlier among abortionists. At his clinic in Houston, Douglas Karpen regularly allowed late-term babies to be born alive. He then would cut the spinal cord, suffocate the child by putting his finger down its windpipe, or twist "the head off the neck with his own bare hands."

Dr. Cesare F. Santangelo, located in Washington, DC, reassured a 26-weeks pregnant undercover reporter that if "you delivered before we got to the termination part of the procedure...we would not help it. We wouldn't intubate."

LeRoy Carhart, who conducts late-term abortions in Bethesda, Maryland, jokingly told a female covert investigator, who was in an advanced state of pregnancy, that during the abortion procedure she will be carrying a dead baby for three days, during which time the child "gets soft and mushy," like "meat in a Crock-Pot."

How has humanity become so degraded that children in the womb are routinely killed and treated like trash? How can physicians who have taken the Hippocratic Oath to do no harm assist an elderly patient to commit suicide? How have people gotten to the point where the quality of their life is more important than life itself for their child or parent in distress?

Nancy Pelosi typifies the attitude of too many Catholic politicians. In an interview a few years ago, she stated: "I grant the Church where they are on abortion. That's where they are, that's where they have to be. But my faith isn't about what their position is." She and similar politicians have so compartmentalized their minds that they can say, "I am personally opposed to (you name the evil), but I will not impose my views on others. This attitude of misguided toleration is palatable because it imposes no obligation on the individual to publicly live the faith, and does not interfere with one's drive for material success.

What can the future of our nation be when governmental leaders – Catholics and others -- routinely violate the Commandments of God?

Ponder the words of Thomas Jefferson, "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that his justice cannot sleep forever." Pray for an end of abortion. Pray that physician-assisted suicide does not become socially acceptable in this country? Pray that political leaders, especially those who are Catholic, live by the tenets of their faith.

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