

Misunderstandings about Pro-Life: *Clarifications from Father Roth*



I have provided information about abortion in two previous articles (October 10, 2021 and July 3, 2022), both of which are available in the bulletin section of our parish website. In this week's article, I offer clarifications in response to some popular misunderstandings about abortion.

1) Restricting Abortion takes rights away from women.

This is the main argument made in the dissenting opinion by Breyer, Sotomayor and Kagan, and all of their points lead back to this one point. I think they lean on this so much because in a sense they are correct. By making abortion illegal we are restricting what a woman is allowed to do. The problem with this argument is that it forgets that limiting what we are allowed to do is a basic part of living in a society. We usually don't think of it as taking rights away, but instead, call it being civil. If you go to a restaurant and all the tables are full you are not allowed to kill a table of people because they are limiting your right to eat at a restaurant. You could say taxes are taking away a person's right to use their money as they want. But if no one paid taxes we would not have roads, public schools, etc. A more directly related example is that of the over 10 million men who were drafted into WW2. To this day men who do not register with Selective Service can lose student financial aid, citizenship, and become ineligible for federal jobs, even at the post office.

Making abortion illegal is just another way we form a civil society and serve those around us. Every abortion ends a life of an innocent person. As long as abortion is legal and thought of as morally okay, we do not have a civil society. Sadly, there will always be murder (killing of innocent life), but we can never as a society decide any form of it is morally good, even if it means we have to have our own personal rights restricted to allow everyone else around us to live freely.

2) Crisis Pregnancy Centers trick women into not having an abortion then leave them without support.

I would hope that everyone at Saint Joseph immediately understands this as a lie since we support Morning Star and have had them talk at Mass about how they serve the community. Pregnancy centers offer services including but not limited to ultrasounds, pregnancy tests, STD testing and treatment, parenting and prenatal education, job training, counseling and mental health services, resources and supplies for mothers to take care of their children such as diapers, clothing, strollers, etc., all for free or at a low-cost. It is truly amazing what pregnancy centers do for the families who come for support.

3) Making abortion illegal would mean there would not be medical exemptions.

All laws limiting abortion allow for medical exemptions and always will for one simple fact: if the mother has a medical issue, it is no longer considered an abortion. It is a medical procedure to cure the mother. In the case of abortion, a medical procedure is being done to kill the child. But in medical emergencies, the procedure is directed to an unhealthy part of the woman and in the process, sadly, the child is lost. In every single case where someone has shared with me a news article about a mother being denied treatment because it would lead to the death of the child, I have found the claim to be false. Every celebrity who has said they are only alive because of an abortion would have still been able to have their medical procedure to save their life even if abortion was illegal.

Baby Bottle Campaign starts next weekend!

