

Know Your Faith

Contributed by Abigale Coates

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Paragraph 2270 Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person - among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life.

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you.

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth.

2271 Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law:

You shall not kill the embryo by abortion and shall not cause the newborn to perish.

God, the Lord of life, has entrusted to men the noble mission of safeguarding life, and men must carry it out in a manner worthy of themselves. Life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception: abortion and infanticide are abominable crimes.

2272 Formal cooperation in an abortion constitutes a grave offense. The Church attaches the canonical penalty of excommunication to this crime against human life. "A person who procures a completed abortion incurs excommunication latae sententiae," "by the very commission of the offense," and subject to the conditions provided by Canon Law. The Church does not thereby intend to restrict the scope of mercy. Rather,

she makes clear the gravity of the crime committed, the irreparable harm done to the innocent who is put to death, as well as to the parents and the whole of society.

2273 The inalienable right to life of every innocent human individual is a constitutive element of a civil society and its legislation :

"The inalienable rights of the person must be recognized and respected by civil society and the political authority. These human rights depend neither on single individuals nor on parents; nor do they represent a concession made by society and the state; they belong to human nature and are inherent in the person by virtue of the creative act from which the person took his origin. Among such fundamental rights one should mention in this regard every human being's right to life and physical integrity from the moment of conception until death."

"The moment a positive law deprives a category of human beings of the protection which civil legislation ought to accord them, the state is denying the equality of all before the law. When the state does not place its power at the service of the rights of each citizen, and in particular of the more vulnerable, the very foundations of a state based on law are undermined. . . . As a

This day I call the heavens
and the earth as witnesses
against you that I have set
before you life and death,
blessings and curses. Now
choose life, so that you
and your children may live.
Deuteronomy 30:19

consequence of the respect and protection which must be ensured for the unborn child from the moment of conception, the law must provide appropriate penal sanctions for every deliberate violation of the child's rights."

2274 Since it must be treated from conception as a person, the embryo must be defended in its integrity, cared for, and healed, as far as possible, like any other human being.

Prenatal diagnosis is morally licit, "if it respects the life and integrity of the embryo and the human fetus and is directed toward its safe guarding or healing as an individual. . . . It is gravely opposed to the moral law when this is done with the thought of possibly inducing an abortion, depending upon the results: a diagnosis must not be the equivalent of a death sentence."

2275 "One must hold as licit procedures carried out on the human embryo which respect the life and integrity of the embryo and do not involve disproportionate risks for it, but are directed toward its healing the improvement of its condition of health, or its individual survival."

"It is immoral to produce human embryos intended for exploitation as disposable biological material."

"Certain attempts to influence chromosomic or genetic inheritance are not therapeutic but are aimed at producing human beings selected according to sex or other predetermined qualities. Such manipulations are contrary to the personal dignity of the human being and his integrity and identity" which are unique and unrepeatable.

MARY, THE MORNING STAR



Catholics refer to Our Lady as the "Morning Star" because as that star appears before the dawn as if to herald the rising sun, so did Mary come before Christ to herald the coming of the "the rising sun [that] will come to us from heaven" (Luke 1:78).

This title in no way makes our Lady equal to her Divine Son, because we Catholics know that Jesus is "the Light of the World" (John 8:12). As Blessed John Henry Newman puts it, "She does not shine for herself, or from herself, but she is the reflection of her and our Redeemer, and she glorifies Him."



facebook.com/catholicsknowtheanswerofficialpage

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus Feast Day - July 29

According to Catholic Answers, in 2021, the Holy See announced that a memorial for the Bethany family—Mary, Martha, and Lazarus—was being added to the General Roman Calendar. For those who may not be aware, the General Roman Calendar is the international liturgical calendar used in the Latin Catholic Church, and it is the basis of the calendars used in different countries. On the other hand, a memorial is a liturgical commemoration ranking below a solemnity and a feast but above an optional memorial. Given the prominence of the Bethany family in the Gospels—they are mentioned as friends of Jesus in both Luke and John—it may come as a bit of a surprise that they didn't already have a place on the calendar.

St. Peter Chrysologus Feast Day – July 30

"The man who wants to play with the devil will not be able to rejoice with Christ." - St. Peter Chrysologus, bishop & doctor (380-450)

St. Ignatius of Loyola Feast Day - July 31

"We must speak to God as a friend speaks to his friend, servant to his master; now asking some favor, now acknowledging our faults, and communicating to Him all that concerns us, our thoughts, our fears, our projects, our desires, and in all things seeking His counsel." - St. Ignatius of Loyola, priest, founder (1491-1556)