



THE DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

## Office of Human Life, Family and Bioethics



### THE GIVES AND TAKES OF LIFE – by Deacon Marty McIndoe

We have been very fortunate to have had a pro-life President for the last four years. Whether or not you like President Trump as a person, you have to recognize that he has done a great deal for the Pro-Life cause.

As I write this, the major news stations are projecting him as losing the election. At the same time there are a number of lawsuits alleging voter fraud and it is difficult to say what may happen. **None the less, no matter who is President we must always remember that Jesus is Lord and we must learn to trust in Him. Christianity has lasted for 2,000 years and has outlasted every government it has ever been under.** As Christians we



must live out the Christian message no matter who is our President. A large part of living out the Christian message is fighting to protect life, from its very beginning until its natural end. Sometimes things seem to go well for us in doing this, and sometimes things seem to not go well. I would like us to pause for a moment and give thanks for what has been accomplished during the present administration.

- President Trump has appointed a large number of Pro-Life Federal judges including three Supreme Court Judges.
- He was the first President to speak at the annual March for Life.
- In the first year of his administration he signed a bill that allowed states to de-fund Planned Parenthood under Title X.
- He reversed the Obama Administration policy of forcing states to fund abortion providers.
- He also reversed an Obama policy that blocked states from deciding if Planned Parenthood should be stripped of Medicaid funding.
- President Trump finalized the Protect Life Rule which cut Planned Parenthood's Federal Funding by 60 million dollars.
- He also ended Federal funding of overseas abortions.
- He issued new guidelines for hospitals for care of infants who survived abortions.

He did many other pro-life measures too numerous to mention. In looking at all of this, we cannot help but to give thanks to God for what has been accomplished.

The sad part is that a new administration of the Democratic party will most likely erase many of the above mentioned things and probably add more pro-abortion actions. However, they cannot erase the Supreme Court judges that were appointed and this is very big. We can also hope that a balance in Congress can keep pro-abortion actions somewhat in check. The loss of a pro-life President is a substantial loss but it is **not the end of the battle for Life. It might mean that we may all have to work a little harder to try to get the government to protect Life. But we must also recognize that all good things come with much work.** The other thing that we must realize is that ultimately **God is in charge.** He might have a better plan for us than we could ever imagine. A change of administration might bring about other things that the Lord might want. I believe that God can work through all things, no matter how hard it might seem to us.

Nonetheless, we who believe in protecting Life must continue to work hard at doing that, perhaps harder than we ever had. Protecting the life of the unborn child must be held in the highest regard, but we also must remember that if we are pro-life, we must work hard for the protection and advancement of life in all stages, right up to a natural death. We must fight against those things like poverty and racism and lack of employment and breakdown of the family, etc. that lead women towards considering an abortion. We must do those things that Jesus calls us to do like fighting poverty and helping the needy and treating the downcast with dignity. We must find ways to increase the awareness of the benefits of adoption over abortion. All of this is pro-life.

I truly believe that a major problem in our country today is that people are turning away from God. They seem to see Him as not relevant, as not something that they need or want. There is also a large preponderance of selfishness that is so present in our society. People think of themselves first and do not consider the needs of others. All of this is so UN-Christian and certainly bad for society and for the continuance of our society, of our nation. **I truly believe that if we, as Catholic Christians, were more active in evangelizing we could help stop this. We need to proclaim our Christian faith, not just in words but in actions too.** The more the people in society see us living out Christian ideals, along with the happiness that brings, the more they will see the relevance of God. There is no doubt that there is so much to do. However, we must remember that we are doing this for our God and He will give us the strength to do it.

As I said earlier, no matter who is President, Jesus is always our Lord. We must continue getting closer to Him to better understand what He wants us to do. **We must never lose HOPE because we are on God's side and the battle is His. God will give us all the tools (spiritual) we need to fight for Him. Our God is a God of LIFE and we are His children, made in His likeness who will continue to fight for Life.** We must try to bring a sense of God's presence back in to our culture. Our country, whose motto is IN GOD WE TRUST, seems to be losing its soul. It seems to be turning its back on God and turning inward into selfishness. We, as Christians have the answer and we must proclaim it. It is up to us to continue the fight for LIFE, which I believe is also the fight for the soul of our country. **Mother Teresa has said, "A nation that kills its children in the womb has lost its soul." Let us work together to bring back the soul of our country.**