

THIS IS A BLOG FROM 'FRANCISCAN BROTHERS OF LIFE' A GROUP OF BROTHERS WORKING IN MIAMI, FLORIDA.SEE MORE AT:

www.franciscansoflife.org

This year we remember the landmark decision Roe v. Wade of 1973. For 42 years, the American conscience has grappled with the rightness and wrongness of abortion.

Abortion is a human rights issue. If a human being does not have the right to be born, of what use are the other rights that follow? That's the first problem.

The right to choose does not mean the right to terminate an innocent life. The problem with "it's a woman's right" is that we're saying that a mother has the right to choose to terminate the life of her pre-born child. Should she have the right to terminate the life of a child after he or she is born?

The case of rape does not hold. The father is obviously a heinous criminal, but not the child. He's her child as well, not just the male's child. If a parent feels that keeping such a child would do her harm, there are adoption agencies that help with this. One does not need to kill a child to get him out of one's life.

Another problem with "a woman's right to choose" is that it strips the man of his right to be a father. The child of a good father only has a father if the woman decides to keep the child - only then the father comes into the equation. However, we're saying that a raped woman is carrying a "scumbag's" child. Let's run with that for a moment. If it's a scumbag's child, the child fathered by the good man also has a dad. If the rapist is a parent, so is the good man. What happened to a parent's duty to bring his children into the world?

We can't abdicate duties, because we have the means to eliminate the obligation. Means does not make right. We have the means to blow up our planet too.

It is true that we have a duty to protect and provide for those who have been born, regardless of age, social condition and politics. The duty to protect the voiceless is not rooted in the fact that a person has been born so now we have to provide for him.

Our duty to the voiceless is grounded in our humanity. As human beings we acknowledge that other human beings have the same rights as us. They have the right to be born and the right to succeed in life. The human response is to protect those rights from the moment of conception to natural death. Abortion is not a human response. It is a response of humans. Responses of humans are acts of which a human being is capable, but they are not acts that make us better people.

The bible argument does not hold. The fact that Jesus never uses the term abortion does not mean that he was indifferent to it. Abortions did exist in his time. There were many other forms of evil as well.

The Gospel writers report in concepts. Jesus condemned evil, not specific acts alone. Those specific acts that the evangelists mention in the scriptures are given to the reader as examples of evil, not the only evils in the world.

The Scriptures were written as summaries of the faith of God's people, not as comprehensive statements. If one wants to know what God revealed to man, one must look at the oral as well as the written tradition. Much of what we know about moral truths was passed down from generation to generation through oral tradition. The biblical writings are synopses. We must read beyond the scriptures to fully understand what the early Jews and Christians understood, and understand it as they understood it.

Breathing Space Day on 1st February encourages everyone in Scotland to take some time out to look after their mental wellbeing. For 2015 our theme is 'Stay Connected' and promotes the benefits of keeping in touch with friends, family and loved ones.

Whether it's phoning a relative, making time for a friend, or chatting with a neighbour over a coffee, evidence shows that good relationships with friends, family or the wider community are important for good mental wellbeing. Maintaining and building social connections in your life can increase feelings of self-worth, happiness and self-confidence. If you require emotional support, speak to our Advisors on 0800 83 85 87 or visit www.breathingspace.scot

Calling all 'Young at Heart Retirees'

Our Tuesday Club was launched 20 years ago on the opening of our new Pastoral Centre. A few parish stalwarts, encouraged by Monsignor Burns, set up a Tuesday afternoon activity group for retired and unemployed people, **male and female**. Over the years our membership has grown from six hopeful, hard-working founder members into a vibrant, interesting and happy group of forty **plus** members. Our official programme covers a wide range of activities e.g. outings to theatres, art exhibitions, museums, films, coach trips and lunches. We also invite interesting speakers, demonstrators, charity workers and entertainers. We also enjoy indoor celebrations on special days. Happily, some of our founder members are still with us, but due to erratic memory, creaky joints etc. they can no longer contribute to the working membership as they once did. **That's where you come in!**

We need reinforcements at the front line line to take over from the 'walking wounded' so that we can continue to offer a Tuesday afternoon of friendly, interesting and active socialising, with norequirement to be a parishioner.

If interested or know anyone who is, please come along to our meetings.

For more information telephone 854073

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Movie Night Gonzaga

Where: "The Loft" Holy Family Mossend. 57 Hope Street, Bellshill ML4 1QA

When: 7pm Wednesday the 4th of February.

Good food (Pizza/Chippy) great film and even better company!

Film Choice: 1. The Trueman Show. 2. Bella 3. The Scarlet and The Black
Contact Emmet to confirm attendance.



NIGHTFEVER GLASGOW: 7th Feb

Getting there:

- We meet at Bellshill train station at 4:40pm on Saturday the 7th of February. We get the 4:50pm train to Glasgow.
- You can also get the train from Uddingston at 4:58pm. Emmet will text ahead what carriage the Gonzaga Youth are on. Emmet will also step off the train at Uddingston to signal to where the Gonzaga youth are seated.
- Night Fever starts at 5:45pm with mass at St. Aloysius.
- Meet after mass to see who does what over 18's are free to do the street outreach. Under 18's will help within the church as the welcome team they can only do the street outreach if they are accompanied by a PVG adult.
- Nightfever ends at 11pm we will go and get train home around 10pm ish..
- Come and see night fever is for everyone! Go onto the streets of Glasgow to give a practical gift to the homeless.
- CONTACT EMMET AT ABOVE EMAIL OR PHONE