Another cause of slavery is corruption on the part of people willing to do anything for financial gain. Slave labour and human trafficking often require the complicity of intermediaries, be they law enforcement personnel, state officials, or civil and military institutions. “This occurs when money, and not the human person, is at the centre of an economic system. Yes, the person, made in the image of God and charged with dominion over all creation, must be at the centre of every social or economic system. When the person is replaced by mammon, a subversion of values occurs”. 

Some deeper causes of slavery

Today, as in the past, slavery is rooted in a notion of the human person which allows him or her to be treated as an object. Whenever sin corrupts the human heart and distances us from our Creator and our neighbours, the latter are no longer regarded as beings of equal dignity, as brothers or sisters sharing a common humanity, but rather as objects.

Among [other causes], I think in the first place of poverty, underdevelopment and exclusion, especially when combined with a lack of access to education or scarce, even non-existent, employment opportunities. Not infrequently, the victims of human trafficking and slavery are people who look for a way out of a situation of extreme poverty; taken in by false promises of employment, they often end up in the hands of criminal networks which organize human trafficking. These networks are skilled in using modern means of communication as a way of luring young men and women in various parts of the world.

Office for Human Life-Catholic Charities Diocese of Cleveland

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS
POPE FRANCIS
FOR THE CELEBRATION OF
THE WORLD DAY OF PEACE
1 JANUARY 2015

NO LONGER SLAVES, BUT BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Please help spread the word about this important community outreach. If you’d like more information – and especially if you’d like to volunteer to help, please contact:
John Noall @ 216-245-9744
or email at: clevelandpraysforlife@gmail.com

www.40daysforlife.com/cleveland

PLEAS E CONTACT US TO POST YOUR VOLUNTEER NEEDS AND UPCOMING EVENTS.

Contact Us
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We Use Recycled Paper
If we stay quiet Ohio could build a sentiment of false compassion like other states that now sanction suicide by their residents.

Currently, we have those who feel abortion, ending the life of a child, is more humane than raising a child, adopting a child in need of love and health struggles. Should the beloved sick and elderly be seen in the same light? I know what the Church says. I know what my heart says. God help me to educate and influence others to live fully even in sickness and near death.

Here’s what Pope Francis has to say about comments like this, “How great a lie, on the other hand, lurks behind certain phrases which so insist on the importance of “quality of life” that they make people think that lives affected by grave illness are not worth living!”

This week there was a news report about a young man who visited his hospitalized wife, (just what we are called to do, visit the sick). But this visit went terribly wrong! The husband shot and killed his very ill wife and then turned the gun on himself. Again, people made the comments of great love and courage.

Our Catholic teaching says that great love is shown “in sickness and in health.” We do this by loving, caring, visiting, feeding, praying and more.

So as a society have we forgotten how to love and care for our family and friends? Maybe we need to relearn. We need to live in the reality that life is hard sometimes and the circle of life is the Paschal Mystery of life, death and resurrection. We need not eliminate a portion of someone’s life because it is hard. No, we must be present and care for them in the best way possible to limit their physical hardships including pain.

So what can we do now, before legislation is proposed? I say, GET VOCAL. Talk amongst your family and friends. Dare to disagree with a false sentiment of compassion. Get involved with the corporal works of mercy so that life, even when it’s hard, is experienced fully. When we live in concepts and not reality, real people aren’t even considered in forming our conscience and our ideas about life and death.

At the parish, have a prayer service. Many of you have prayer services or Mass for the unborn, those who have died including children in the womb, and even human dignity in general. What a witness to come together and pray for those who might consider ending their own life prematurely, those whose false compassion might lead them to take the life of a loved one, those who believe we should choose the time and circumstances of our own death and more.

Jean Vanier and L’Arche to Receive 2014 Notre Dame Award for International Human Development and Solidarity

L'Arche and its visionary founder Jean Vanier will receive this year’s Notre Dame Award for International Human Development and Solidarity in recognition of the organization’s groundbreaking work in service of the poor and vulnerable around the world. L’Arche is an international federation of communities for people with disabilities that promotes their human dignity while celebrating the power of positivity and friendship.

True happiness is to “love and be loved,” Vanier believes, and he has incorporated that precept into his philosophy of accompaniment and service. He calls the world to recognize the tremendous gifts of people who have all too often been rejected by society.

The L’Arche journey began 50 years ago when Vanier invited two men with disabilities to move from the institutions in which they were housed into his own home. Beginning with this one house in France, L’Arche has grown to become a worldwide network of over 130 communities committed to sharing the lives of people with disabilities.

“L’Arche is an international federation of communities for people with disabilities that promotes their human dignity while celebrating the power of positivity and friendship,” says Rev. Robert Dowd, CSC, director of the Ford Family Program in Human Development Studies and Solidarity, which presents the Award.

And this is our hope and our prayer, that other parishes will take this program and present it to their communities and it will bring the love of Christ to more and more people throughout our diocese. It was a humbling experience to see how God used us through this program to bring His desire for healing and mercy to all of us who have most assuredly been in some way touched by abortion!
February 8 is The International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking and the Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita and who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery. Once she was freed, she dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering. On February 8th and throughout the year, set aside time to reflect on the experiences of survivors of human trafficking, pray for their emotional, physical, and spiritual healing, and make a personal commitment to combating this evil.

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church. O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free. Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us.

Amen.

Institute officials outline alternatives to in vitro for infertile couples

DAVENPORT, Iowa (CNS) -- For couples struggling to conceive a child, in vitro fertilization has been a medical standard for the past 30 years. The Catholic Church has long opposed the process as immoral, because it separates conception from the marital act and it destroys embryos. With the procedure’s prevalence in the medical world, some Catholic couples are led to believe they are out of medical options after a doctor recommends it. However, officials from the Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction in Omaha, Nebraska, say that in vitro fertilization, or IVF, is not a miracle procedure and they report that more effective options exist. Dr. Kristina Pakiz, associate medical consultant, said couples “do not have to feel trapped in a corner where they are told they will never have a child without in vitro fertilization. The truth is that there is superior gynecologic health care available to them.” She said IVF has a success rate of about 30 percent and increases the risk of high-risk pregnancy and birth defects. About five in six embryos created in the process will die. IVF does not address root causes of infertility; only a detailed workup that helps doctors diagnose and treat infertility as the product of an underlying condition can do that. When infertility is seen as an underlying medical condition and treated accordingly, success rates for conceiving increase.
Philip Johnson, a 30-year-old Catholic seminarian from the Diocese of Raleigh who has terminal brain cancer, has written an article responding to Brittany Maynard, the 29-year-old woman who publicly stated her plan to commit suicide this past autumn and then carried out her plan. Johnson is vocal about his disagreement that suicide would preserve one’s dignity in the face of a debilitating illness. Here are a few thoughts from the seminarian:

I have lived through six years of constant turmoil, seizures, and headaches. I often changed hospitals and doctors every few months, seeking some morsel of hope for survival. Like Brittany, I do not want to die, nor do I want to suffer the likely outcome of this disease. I do not think anyone wants to die in this way. Brittany states relief that she does not have to die the way that it has been explained that she would – she can die “on her own terms.” I have also consulted with my doctors to learn how my illness is likely to proceed. I will gradually lose control of my bodily functions at a young age, from paralysis to incontinence, and it is very likely that my mental faculties will also disappear and lead to confusion and hallucinations before my death. This terrifies me, but it does not make me any less of a person. My life means something to me, to God, and to my family and friends, and barring a miraculous recovery, it will continue to mean something long after I am paralyzed in a hospice bed. My family and friends love me for who I am, not just for the personality traits that will slowly slip away if this tumor progresses and takes my life.

Suffering is not worthless, and our lives are not our own to take. As humans we are relational – we relate to one another and the actions of one person affects others. Sadly, the concept of “redemptive suffering” – that human suffering united to the suffering of Jesus on the Cross for our salvation can benefit others – has often been ignored or lost in modern times. It is perfectly understandable that medication should be made available to give comfort and limit suffering as much as possible during the dying process, especially during a terminal illness, but it is impossible to avoid suffering altogether. We do not seek pain for its own sake, but our suffering can have great meaning if we try to join it to the Passion of Christ and offer it for the conversion or intentions of others. While often terrifying, the suffering and pain that we will all experience in our lives can be turned into something positive. This has been a very difficult task for me, but it is possible to achieve.

Written by Phillip G. Johnson

October 22, 2014

A Catholic Study Guide on Torture

Waterboarding? Electric Shocks? References to torture can be found in newspapers, radio and TV programs, and even in cartoons. What does the Church have to say about torture? This four chapter study guide will offer reflections on torture as a moral issue. Get a group together to discuss this timely issue and what you can do to stop torture. To download the entire study guide as a PDF please visit: http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/torture/index.cfm

Curriculum for Study Guide

Chapter 1 Recognizing Every Person’s God-Given Dignity

Chapter 2 The Problem with Torture

Chapter 3 Do Christians Love Their Enemies Even Now?

Chapter 4 Action Steps To Address Torture

Catholics enter into the public discussion of the great issues their society faces because they hope to contribute—in the light of faith—to resolving these issues. There is, in addition, the confidence that people of faith can contribute in highly positive ways to building up and transforming the world around them.
HELP SAVE LIVES

FEBRUARY 18 - MARCH 29

9,699
Babies saved from abortion ... so far

107
Workers quit the abortion industry ... so far

59
Abortion centers closed down ... so far

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Join the worldwide movement to protect mothers and babies

From February 18 - March 29, our community will join with hundreds of other cities and towns participating in 40 Days for Life, a life-saving campaign made up of three components:

- Prayer & Fasting
- Community Outreach
- Peaceful Vigil

40 Days for Life is the largest internationally coordinated pro-life mobilization in history, involving more than 650,000 volunteers in 559 cities across 27 nations.

With God’s help, 40 Days for Life has achieved proven results: 9,699 babies spared from abortion, 107 abortion worker conversions, and 59 closed abortion centers.

Get involved, and you can help save lives!

Cleveland/Painesville
40 DAYS FOR LIFE:

Locations: Preterm-Shaker Blvd-Cleveland
Planned Parenthood-Rockside Rd-Bedford Hts
Family Planning-So State St-Painesville

Vigil Hours: 7am - 7pm at three sites

Local Contact: John Noall @ 216-245-9744 or
clevelandpraysforlife@gmail.com

Learn More & Get Involved:

40daysforlife.com/cleveland
PROJECT RACHEL OUTREACH

Since there are so many abortions, about 3.4 million in the U.S. each year, we what to reach out to anyone who may need some healing relating to a time past is our life. Women abort for a variety of reasons and from a variety of demographics, so outreach is very fruitful. Due to the limitations of the Office for Human Life staff, we are looking for volunteer assistance.

Possibilities

1. Outreach with brochures in the parishes and businesses closeby.
2. Bulletin art and promotion
3. Creating business cards and disseminating information regarding Post Abortion/Project Rachel
4. Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc)
5. With much discretion, reach out to parish schools and PSR for parents.
6. Possible assistance with new ministry for those incarcerated.
7. What else?

Project Rachel (Confidential) 216-334-2965 pmgerovac@clevelandcatholiccharities.org