

EPIPHANY III  
Holy Spirit Anglican Church  
January 21, 2018  
Sanctity of Life Sunday

How many of you knew, before seeing the bulletin insert that today is Sanctity of Life Sunday?

On January 13, 1984, President Ronald Reagan issued a presidential proclamation designating Sunday, January 22, 1984 as National Sanctity of Human Life Day noting that it was the 11th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, in which, the Supreme Court issued a ruling that guaranteed women access to abortion.

Today we are observing Sanctity of Life Sunday 2018, which makes it an appropriate time to talk about the Anglican Church's understanding and teaching regarding the Sanctity of Human Life.

The Affirmation of St. Louis (1977), considered one of the cornerstones of the continuing Anglican Church, states that every human being, from the time of his conception, is a creature and child of God, made in His image and likeness, and an infinitely precious soul; and that the unjustifiable or inexcusable taking of life is always sinful.

We all know that Science tells us amazing facts about biology, but can't tell us where life comes from. It can even tell us wonderful things about the human body, but it can't tell us why we're here OR what makes us so special.

**Therefore, we as Christians rely on God's word to tell us about the Sanctity of Human Life.**

On September 11, 2001 over 3500 lives were extinguished do the bombing of the world trade towers in New York. The outcry for justice was heard around the world. There was a swift response and action taken, as there should have been.

However, what did NOT make the headlines on September 12, 2001, the very next day, was the 4000 lives that were extinguished through the act of abortion. Each day since 1973 approximately 4000 unborn babies are aborted each day, 28,000 each week, 112,000 each month, 1,460,000 each year.

So, we need to ask ourselves, why is there no anger, and no outcry for justice on their behalf?

Do you know that the penalty for killing an unborn eagle in this country is a fine of up to \$5000 and up to five years in prison? **But, the killing of an unborn baby is not considered a crime at all.**

Consider these statistics: In World War II 407,316 people were killed. In the Korean War 54,246 lives were lost. In the Vietnam War another 56,655 died. The war on the unborn has killed 31,000,000 since abortion was legalized in 1973.

And it continues even though science DOES confirm that within 21 days the baby's backbone, spinal cord, and nervous system are forming. A small heart is present and beating. At one month, arms and legs are present.

There is a head with rudimentary eyes, ears, mouth, and brain. The digestive system has begun. The baby is still only one-fourth of an inch long, but he is ten thousand times larger than when he began.

At 2 months the baby is fully formed. He reacts to stimuli such as tickling. He will try to grasp a tiny instrument with his tiny hand. He squirms or moves around in the amniotic fluid. He has fingerprints.

By the end of the 3rd month, he can kick his legs, turn his feet, curl his toes, makes a fist, move his thumb, bend his wrist, turn his head, squint, frown, and open his mouth.

Despite all that, many of our universities, schools, and unbelievers have taught our young people that they are cosmic accidents, nothing more than time + chance + matter.

Our society has rejected the belief that humans have intrinsic dignity and value because they are created in the image of God. Is it any wonder that we witness innocent people being killed in drive-by shootings, others intentionally run over by vehicles, and 58 killed while attending a concert in Las Vegas?

**That lack of value for life today is the direct result of god-less-ness.**

Here is just some of what the scriptures have to say about the origin and value of life.

In **Genesis 1:27** it says, "*God created man in His own image*".

In **Psalms 139: 13-16**, the psalmist wrote: "*For you God created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*"

**Psalms 100:3** says, "*Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.*"

And in **Psalm 127:3** he writes, *“Behold, children are a gift from the Lord.”*

**These verses tell us that God is the power behind conception.**

Listen to what God told Jeremiah. *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”* (Jeremiah 1:5)

**Ephesians 1:5** says, *“He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his will and pleasure.”*

And **Ephesians 2:10** states, *“We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advanced for us to do.”*

Make no mistake brethren, we are the greatest thing that God ever created.

So, don’t ever convince yourself that you or others are worthless. We are valuable to God and He loves us.

We aren’t here by an accident. We weren’t mass-produced. We aren’t an assembly-line product.

**We were deliberately planned, specifically gifted, and lovingly positioned on this earth by God, Himself.**

In other words, we are a part of God’s eternal plan, and so are unborn babies.

There are other options instead of abortion. The first is to give birth and raise and love the child. The second is to have the child and give them up for adoption. Consider the following examples...

Celine Dion credits her family’s parish priest for convincing her mother not to abort her.

Opera singer Andrea Bocelli's mother was advised to have an abortion after she was misdiagnosed with appendicitis while she was pregnant.

NFL player Tim Tebow was almost aborted after doctors advised his mother to abort him due to her health issues.

An interview with Steve Jobs for his biography revealed that Steve was also almost a victim of an abortion.

Instead two University of Wisconsin graduate students, gave up their unnamed son for adoption. He was adopted by Paul and Clara Jobs. He eventually became the co-founder and CEO of Apple.

He stated in his biography that: *“I wanted to meet my biological mother mostly to see if she was OK and to thank her, because I’m glad I didn’t end up as an abortion. She was 23 and she went through a lot to have me.”*

Pope John Paul II's mother was advised to have an abortion after losing her daughter shortly after birth. His mother decided to defy the doctors' orders.

Sadly, we can only imagine how many of those 31,000,000 aborted babies were potential doctors, inventors, preachers, gifted athletes, talented entertainers, or future leaders whose lives were taken.

**In God's eyes every life matters.**

I would like to leave you with a story that puts all of this into perspective.

A young man was walking along the seashore. In the distance, he saw another man walking towards him.

The man paused every few steps, stooped down, throwing something into the ocean.

As the young man got closer, he saw that it was an old man, and the reason that he would stop every step or two was to pick up a starfish and throw it back into the ocean. It was only then that the young man noticed the hundreds of starfish that littered the beach for miles, stranded there by the tide.

The young man was rather baffled because what the old man was doing seemed so pointless. When he finally came face to face with the old man he asked him: "Why are you doing this?" "You can't possibly save all of these starfish! It's useless! What does it matter?"

The old man paused for a moment, looking down at the crusty starfish he'd just picked up. He turned it over slowly, then answered, "It matters to this one" and he threw it into the water.

**The point is that every life is precious.**

In particular, human life is precious because we are made in the image of God.

From the tiny fetus in the womb to the elderly in their final moments and everywhere in between, life is precious. From the healthy and strong to the weak and infirmed and everywhere in between, life is precious.

From those who haven't learned to talk, to those who can no longer remember their names, and everywhere in between, life is precious.

To be made in the image of God means that human life, ALL human life is precious. And that includes the lives of unborn children. AMEN