

Dear John O'Connell: I am greatly impressed with the abortion entry in the 2013 Image Book edition of your Catholic Dictionary. What particularly impresses me is the recognition that, from the Church's very beginnings to this very day, its continuously consistent teaching condemning equally both procured abortion and providing or supporting access to the same, has always been *independent* of the controverted question of when (if any), in the human gestational process, an "intact" human being/person comes into existence.

We know from faith in the Incarnation that God the Son, a historical human being (but never a historical human person), aka., Jesus of Nazareth, a 1st century backwater Jewish evangelist and doer of Godly things, set aside (in the bosom of his Father) his beatific relationship with his Father and our Father (through Godly adoption) in order to save "us men" for full participation in the Eternal Life of Trinitarian Love. But we do "not" know (and no matter how much we may want this to be so) from any part of our Catholic faith or from any Catholic Church teaching, or from any form of human reasoning whether or not the Son came down from heaven to save also, say, our beloved pet animals or anything else that does not qualify fully as an "intact" human being/person (or as one of "us men"). So, if it be assumed or opined as an objective truth that the prenatal, pre-fetal product of human conception is *not* yet an "intact" human being/person, then it seems to me that supporting a decision to destroy that product through procured abortion is far and away more intrinsically evil than merely supporting the same on the assumption or opinion that this product is indeed an intact human being or person. And I maintain so, because what we have in the former is a willingness to deprive a living being, which/who is in the process of being made into a human being/person – destined, therefore, for "Eternal Life," of his opportunity/destiny to receive "Eternal Life". A victim of actualized homicide retains his or her opportunity to gain Eternal Life. Therefore, it seems to me that so-called committed Catholic pro-choice politicians should be praying and hoping incessantly that the prenatal, pre-fetal product of human conception is, after all is said and done, indeed an "intact" human being/person; since in that situation there is at least no lost opportunity to gain eternal life, which is the very reason why God the Father created us in the first place. It seems also to me that any committed believer in Jesus Christ, who is supportive of access to procured abortion is, unwittingly, standing on its head, his own belief in the Incarnation.

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