

The Gospel of Life (continued)

Presented by: Michael Fetsko

I. Opening Prayer

A. This prayer was given by John Paul II in Rome, Italy at Saint Peter's Church on March 25, 1995.

O Mary,
bright dawn of the new world,
Mother of the living,
to you do we entrust the cause of life
Look down, O Mother,
upon the vast numbers
of babies not allowed to be born,
of the poor whose lives are made difficult,
of men and women
who are victims of brutal violence,
of the elderly and the sick killed
by indifference or out of misguided mercy.
Grant that all who believe in your Son
May proclaim the Gospel of life
with honesty and love
to the people of our time.
Obtain for them the grace
to accept that Gospel
as a gift ever new,
the joy of celebrating it with gratitude
throughout their lives
and the courage to bear witness to it
resolutely, in order to build,
together with all people of good will,
the civilization of truth and love,
to the praise and glory of God,
the Creator and lover of life.

II. *Evangelium Vitae*

A. Culture of death

1. The culture of death is actively fostered by powerful cultural, economic, and political currents, which encourages an idea of society excessively concerned with efficiency.

2. A person who may have an illness, handicap or more simple, just by existing, compromises the well being or life style of those who are more favoured tends to be looked upon as an enemy. This way is a kind of "conspiracy against life." "Conspiracy against life is unleashed.

III. Abortion

- A. If contraception is made safe, then it is available to all and it is the most effective remedy to abortion.
 1. The Catholic Church teaches that it is morally wrong to use contraception.
 2. There is a close connection between the practice of contraception and that of abortion, it is being demonstrated in many alarming ways by the development of chemical products, contraceptives, and using abortion to stop the early stages of the development of the new human being.

IV. Artificial insemination

- A. These techniques have a high risk rate of failure, which was regard to the subsequent development of the embryo. The embryo could be exposed to the risk of death.
 1. The number of embryos produced is greater than that would be needed.
 2. The "spare embryos" are either destroyed or used for research.
 3. This would reduce human life to "biological material."

V. Eugenic Abortion

- A. People can have a choice to have a prenatal diagnosis to identify the medical treatment, which may be needed by the child in the womb. This often becomes an opportunity for proposing and procuring an abortion.
 1. This is justified in the public opinion on the basis of mentality, which mistakenly held to be consistent with therapeutic intervention.
 2. Therapeutic Intervention: This accepts life only under certain conditions and rejects it when it is affected by illness, limitations, or handicap.

VI. Ill/dying

- A. In social and cultural context, it makes it hard to face and accept suffering.
 - 1. The temptation becomes easier to resolve the problem of suffering by eliminating it at the root.
 - 2. The Catholic Church does not agree with this.

VII. Euthanasia

- A. The strict sense is understood to be an action or omission, which its intention causes death, with the purpose of eliminating all suffering.
 - 1. This method is known as "aggressive medical treatment."
 - 2. Medical procedures which does not correspond to any patient situation.

VIII. Methods of Palliative Care

- A. Makes suffering more bearable in the final stages of the illness and it helps a patient be supported through his/her ordeal.
 - 1. The Catholic Church says that as people approach death, they ought to be able to satisfy their moral and family duties, and they must be fully conscious when meeting God.

IX. Suicide

- A. The Catholic Church has always rejected it as a gravely evil choice.
 - 1. This involves the rejection of love of self and the renunciation of the obligation of justice and charity towards a neighbor and towards society as a whole.
 - 2. Suicide represents a rejection of God's absolute sovereignty over life and death.
 - 3. Suicide is always as morally objectionable as murder.