



Reflection from Fr. Garry Richmeier

After the recent Supreme Court ruling concerning abortion, there has been no shortage of opinions and commentaries about it. One commentary particularly struck me. I would give that person credit if I could remember who said it, but I think it is worth sharing.

The unborn are very easy to love. They are pure and innocent, and have none of the irritating human attributes which we find difficult to accept and love. They don't stand on street corners asking for money, they don't speak with foreign accents, they don't use our tax money, and they don't commit crimes. We don't have to figure out how to clothe them, feed them, or get them health care. It really costs us nothing to "love" them. All we have to do (we think) is pass a law that assures they get born. Of course that law is about requiring others to bear the costs of birthing the child and all following care. We may or may not choose to help after birth, but passing the law seems to be the litmus test determining whether or not we are loving. We easily point to the law and congratulate ourselves for being an upright, moral, and loving society.

Before we hurt our arms patting ourselves on the back for being a loving society, we need to take a cold, hard look at how we are treating those who are more difficult to love than the unborn. The true test of being a loving society or person is whether we are willing to pay the price, to sacrifice, to give of ourselves, especially when it is difficult and we may not want to. It is wonderful to love the unborn. But if that does not carry over to the hard work loving the "born," of all ages, we are simply living a lie and fooling ourselves.

Peace,
Fr. Garry