

Ending Abortion - A Battle Plan

By Jim Seghers

The debates that have raged during and subsequent to the recent election highlights the moral confusion that exists in this country regarding abortion. God's command, "Thou shall not kill (literally "murder")" is clear and unambiguous, but when it comes to the helpless unborn there is added to God's certain and absolute prohibition one or more "except."

Any objective observation of the present abortion holocaust reveals a frightening diabolical element that is drowning our nation in a culture of death. Unwantedness has now become a civilly acceptable death sentence for millions of babies. Just how shockingly callous are the reasons used to justify murdering babies was dramatically brought home to my wife and me nine years ago when we were offered the option of aborting our oldest daughter because there was a possibility that she might have stained permanent teeth!

Once the disciples asked Jesus why they were unable to cast out a demon. Jesus replied, "but this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting" (Mt 19:21). I believe we discover in this less on the key to ending abortion.

Prayer

The Apostle James instructs us that "the prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects" (Jas 5:16). The effectiveness of prayer, about which James speaks, doesn't come from the "man," human capability, but from that righteousness which is God's gift (Eph 2:8; Rom 3:24; Acts 15:11). Thus we become temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 3:16; 6:19) and can "abide" in the Eucharistic Jesus (Jn 6:56). This is the context of Jesus' farewell message: "He who abides in me, and I in him [Communion], bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (Jn 15:5). It is at Mass and in private visits with the Hidden Jesus that our prayers will have "great power" (Jas 5:16) to end abortion.

Fasting

Once Jesus was asked why his disciples didn't fast (Mt 9:14). He replied, "the days will come, when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast" (Mt 9:15). Jesus' prophesy fits our day when the heavenly bridegroom has been "taken away" from so many hearts with the result that our world has become a spiritual "wilderness" (Rev 12:6).

Fasting is difficult, but the following is a suggestion how we can begin. Make a pledge to fast for one year to end abortion. The fast should be **once a week, after Dinner on Thursday night until supper on Friday night**. Thus there will be no eating between meals, or midnight snacks. The preferable fast is on bread and water for breakfast and lunch on Friday - fruit or some other suitable sacrifice is acceptable for health reasons.

When the people of God went to war in the Old Testament they were always led into battle by the arc of the covenant. Once again God is using the arc of the covenant, Mary, to lead his people to victory over Satan (Rev 11:19) as she seeks refuge in the desert of our hearts (Rev 15:6). Let us join our prayers and fasting to the prayers of "the woman" who stood at the foot of the cross (Jn 19:26) with her heart pierced through (Lk 2:35).

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