



September 14, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

As we approach the National elections the issue of which candidates are pro-life is important for each of us as Catholics.

I would like to share with you a recent statement from Pope Francis on this matter. As serious and sinful as abortion is, the Pope has made it clear in his teaching that being pro-life is more than just about being against abortion.

The following statement from the Pope makes clear his position on the pro-life issue:

“Our defense of the innocent unborn for example needs to be clear, firm and passionate.” The Pope continued, “Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm, and elderly, exposed to euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection.”

The Pope has made a very strong statement that Catholics must be against Capital Punishment (execution). He has also said that “destroying the environment, creation not taking appropriate and aggressive steps to protect the environment, is in fact a sin.”

What this would imply, according to what the Pope has said, is that to be truly pro-life you must be for the protection of life in all forms, at all stages, from birth to death.

I ask that you please reflect on these teachings of the Church as you form your conscience and decide on which candidates you will vote for in November.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. John O'Connor, O.F.M." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Fr. John O'Connor, O.F.M.
Pastor