

Daily Meditation 05/05/2022

The Hacking by and Stacking of the Supreme Court

Good morning.

In today's meditation and tomorrow's, we will be considering the leaked document from the Supreme Court promising to annul abortions for our citizens. And what I'd like to do in today's meditation is to share with you the article I wrote, called "Moving Beyond the Abortion Fixation: Some Theological Context," in this magazine called *Conscience: The News Journal of Catholic Opinion*.

And it's a fact that two-thirds of American Catholics believe that Roe versus Wade should not be done away with. Of course, these people are not represented by the multiple Catholics on the Supreme Court, who are among those five judges who want to proceed to end abortion as we know it. So I'd just like to bring to your attention some points that I made in this article, which came out in 2020, December of 2020.

First is this: being in favor of Roe versus Wade does not mean someone is in favor of abortion. Roe vs. Wade doesn't tell anyone that they must get an abortion. It's only saying that if one feels the need for an abortion, let's make it as safe as possible.

So that's point number one: you can be in principle against abortion. But if that principle is, in fact, because you respect life in any of its forms, then Roe vs. Wade is not interfering with that. What it is saying is that women will have abortions; they always have and they always will. So let's make it as safe as possible. It's that simple. It is not a theological judgment.

Secondly, there has always been a teaching in ethics, that there is a difference between good law and good morality. Law does not always summarize morality for us. But law protects us from other evils and other negative possibilities. And so we can have a law that is different from one's total moral position. So we live in a pluralistic society, and 75% of women in America who are not Catholic have a right to their conscience and to abortion, because we live in a democracy not a theocracy.

In addition, there is a moral precept, called the lesser of two evils: that, again, you can be against abortion in principle, but you can be even more against male politicians, none of whom shine as saints, telling women what to do with their bodies. This is carrying on a misogynist tradition, so dear to patriarchy, about controlling women.

We thought this was done away with; that we'd moved beyond it in 1973 with Roe versus Wade, but here we are, in 2022, when 70% of current Americans were not alive in 1973. So 70% of Americans have been living with Roe versus Wade and with all it implies: that women have the final say on their bodies, along with good consult, whether that be from doctors or from one's husband or partner or what have you.

Furthermore, Jesus never talked about abortion. And the Jewish tradition on abortion is much more nuanced than on many of these righteous judges on the Supreme Court and righteous judges of religion that think they know all

the answers and know what Jesus thought about abortion. Fact is, the Jewish tradition puts the final decision in the hands of the mother.

So, there are many dimensions to talking about abortion. But these are a few that can easily get lost when the fog takes over, including the fog of ideology, the fog of misunderstanding one's religious tradition, such as we find in many, many righteous, religious judges, including on the Supreme Court and in state houses around the country.

So let's keep our wits about us and our conscience about us and our intellects about us in the midst of this storm.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.