

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

“The word of the Lord came to me, saying: ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you.’”

Jeremiah 1: 4

For the past several years, Saint Anthony’s has hosted a month-long display on our property. White crosses. Each cross represents one million abortions. A million. Per each cross. Why do we do this? Because every abortion is an act of violence. In the womb. Because one of the most profound of all commandments says simply: Thou shalt not kill.”

This has been going on a long time in this country. Forty-nine years. Almost two generations. The entire length of my priestly ministry. An abortion is a tragedy. Each one is. It is a tragedy for the woman who feels that having an abortion is her only real choice. She knows she will live with the reality and the impact of this decision all the days of her life. I know this because women have told me this. Many times. It is a tragedy for the man who was involved with the conception but walked away from any responsibility for what he has done, or any connection to what is going on. I know this because men have confessed this very thing in the sacrament.

It is tragic to the point of death for the little one, no matter how many weeks or months the fetus has been alive. From the beginning science tells us that this is a unique genetic package that is human in its genomic reality. Left alone to gestate this unique genetic package will come to be born as a little boy or girl. Re-read the passage from Jeremiah the prophet at the top of this page. The Prophet speaks from the perspective of Almighty God. It is God who forms the child in the womb. God. That is not a popular perspective for many people today. But if we do not grasp that it is the Lord who gives life, every life, no matter the circumstances of conception, then we do not get the most fundamental reality that goes on on this planet.

And who will stand up for these little ones whose voices are not formed enough to speak for themselves? Is there anyone else you can name who is speaking up for the unborn? If not us, then who? “Lord when did we see you, naked or a stranger or at risk or defenseless and not come to your aid? I tell you as often as you did not do it for one of these least ones, you did not do it for me.” “And as often as you did do it for one of these least ones, you did it for me.”

Did you know that there are some who criticize us for doing this? That is the question of the week.