

A Step Forward and a Step Backward at the Same Time
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Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Imagine you are driving down the road in your vehicle. You see something up ahead of you in the middle of the road. You're not sure what it is, but whatever it is, it's not moving. As you get closer, you notice that it looks like something bundled up in an old blanket, but you're still not sure what that something is. As you get even closer, it hits you. Could there be a person bundled up in that blanket?

What would you do? Hopefully, you would stop and investigate. If it turned out to be just a pile of clothing, or garbage, or whatever, you would hopefully remove it from the road. If it turned out to be a person, you would hopefully call for help. But, even if you chose not to stop and investigate, the one thing you would not do is gun it and drive right over the pile in the road. You would err on the side of caution, driving around the pile in the road, just in case there was a person in there.

As I watched the Presidential Inauguration this past Tuesday, I was filled with mixed emotions. First, there was excitement and joy over the fact that we have elected our first African American President. That is simply wonderful. It is a giant step forward in stamping out ignorant racism in our country. How fitting it was that the day before President Obama was sworn in, we celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Dr. King had a dream, and the fulfillment of that dream was met, at least in part, by the ascension of Barack Obama to the highest office in our land.

But, amidst the goosebumps and warm, fuzzies I felt that day, there was also a sense of sadness and frustration, for even as we took a giant and glorious step forward on the civil rights issue regarding race relations, I could not help but think about the giant and deplorable step backward we were taking on another civil rights issue, that being the protection of the unborn.

During his campaign, President Obama promised that one of the first things he would do as President is sign the "Freedom of Choice Act," which would essentially eliminate all restrictions on abortion in our land. I listened intently to him whenever the subject of abortion came up during the campaign, and he was consistent in his position, always saying that he would love to lessen the number of abortions in our land, but, at the same time, making it very clear that he would do everything in his power to protect and enhance the woman's right to choose. How he expects to lessen the number of abortions by making it easier for women to get them is a mystery to me.

President Obama stated a number of times that he is not sure when human life begins. When asked that question by Rick Warren, he gave the now infamous answer that it was "above his paygrade." This is where the scenario I put forward at the beginning of this article comes into play. If President Obama and others are not sure when human life begins, then how can they possibly support abortion? If it is possible that human life begins at the moment of conception, then how can they justify a procedure that eliminates that possible human life? To do so is equivalent to just gunning it and running over the pile in the road, even though there may be a person lying there. It makes no sense, whatsoever, and it is hard for me to fathom how an intelligent, capable man like President Obama can possibly support the "I don't know if that thing in the womb is human or not, but let's allow it to be killed anyway" argument.

Two days after the streets of Washington, D.C. were packed with record-breaking crowds there to witness the inauguration of President Obama, they were packed, once again, with hundreds of thousands of people marching in the “March for Life,” on the 36th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. I wish I could have been there, for, dear friends, this is the civil rights issue of our day. Just as racism is ignorant and evil, so is killing innocent life in the womb. How can we possibly expect God to bless our land when we legally murder millions of our citizens annually and, most often, for convenience’s sake? How can we possibly expect to be a beacon of light in this dark world when we allow the darkness of abortion to exist in our midst? How can we be an example of freedom to the rest of the world when we refuse to protect the freedom of the most vulnerable and weakest in our society?

I will pray fervently for our new President. I will pray that the Lord will give him the wisdom to lead us well, especially in the face of these difficult and trying times both at home and abroad. But, mostly, I will pray that the Lord will change his heart and enlighten him with the truth that life begins at conception and deserves to be protected at all costs.

Dr. King had a dream. It was a good dream, and what an absolute joy it is to see that dream coming to fruition. I, too, have a dream. It is a dream shared by many others. We dream of a day when all human life is considered sacred. We dream of a day when every single one of our citizens is afforded the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness we promise them in our constitution. May we live to see that dream coming to fruition someday as well. In Jesus’ Holy and Precious Name. Amen.

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