



# Boston Catholic Journal

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## ABORTION The Battle of Our Times

"I came that you might have life, life in abundance" <sup>1</sup>



*"The more we do to you, the less you seem to believe we are doing it."  
(Herr Doktor Josef Mengele, "The Angel of Death" at Auschwitz)*

**The Annual pro-life** celebrations and walks in Washington that we witness or in which we participate each year, are irrepressible cries *by the people* --- to the world --- of the choice for life in a culture that increasingly deals in the commodities of death.

Enormous amounts of individual sacrifice and effort are selflessly contributed by tens of thousands of men, women, and children --- most of modest or little means -against inimical and deeply self-invested politics, unfettered and smugly selfish social attitudes, deep-pocketed media prejudice, and the carefully culled pronouncements of prevailing social scientists --- to say nothing of the weather --- in order to bear witness to the indefeasible value of life ... of life itself!

Did we ever think that a time would come when a single person, let alone vast numbers of people, would have to *defiantly* declare that life has unimpeachable value?

After the incalculable enormities of World War II --- the wholesale slaughter of entire peoples as of so many vermin --- did we ever think that a day would come in which we would be indifferent to *the value of a single life* ... of the life of a generation? Tell me you foresaw it after you plucked the rotted corpses from the mass graves at Sobibor! Tell me that it finally occurred to you after the skulls in the killing fields of Cambodia peered back at you from the glossy magazines on your coffee tables.

Did you not say, "*never again*" after the "*lastest*" genocide in Africa ...

## ***"Wir wussten es nicht ..."*** **We really didn't know ...**



(Click to expand pictures of *other* citizens --- and the victims ---who "*really did not know the nature of what was going on*". **Viewer discretion advised**)



But we pay -- and we pay *well* and in so many ways --- to keep the lids tightly closed as much on our consciences as on the plastic drums into which we toss the remains of our own children! Like every society in every age that we have, *in retrospect*, "deplored" --- always on other continents and in other times --- we hold dearly to the concept of *plausible deniability* --- "we did not, at the time, understand what was really happening despite the gruesome photographs we have all seen ... ("*Wir haben nicht an der Zeit, zu verstehen, was wirklich geschieht, trotz der grausamen Fotos haben wir alle gesehen*") , even though we voted to at least allow such things to happen, or for the political candidates *who we knew would implement them* ... who would make them "policy".

# "Making a Killing" at ... well, Killing



Herr Doktor  
Josef Mengele  
of Auschwitz

President  
Barack Obama  
of Washington

## "But he's such a nice and fine looking young man ..."

Every "soldier" who became a killer --- like every "doctor" who became a mortician, and every "nurse" his apprentice --- was *only following orders* or *hospital policies* despite the fact that every soldier is *obligated to refuse to commit murder*, as every doctor is *obligated* by his or her Catholic Faith, *and* the Hippocratic Oath "*not to procure an abortion*".

*Of course, if one is a politician it is merely a matter of pandering to and then legalizing prevailing attitudes ... much like in Munich in 1933 ... and on January 23, 2009 when Barack Obama in Washington made it a priority on his list of (Final) Solutions. "But he is such a nice and fine looking young man, and has such a gentle manner ..."* Yes, rather reminiscent of Herr Doktor Mengele, articulate, bright, personable --- and incomprehensibly evil. Are we saying that our newly elected President is an evil man? I am inclined not to think so ... but I also cannot "conveniently" ignore the fact that we are either evil or good by virtue of the choices, the decisions, that we make ... and the deeds pursuant to them, *especially if our own choices become policy*. When it is "*correct*" to kill a baby, or a Jew, a Slav, or a Gypsy, by "*policy*", we have legislated murder, and all the nuances that we pour over our decisions will never wash the blood from our hands. It is true that others do the actual killing ... Herr Doktor Mengele for Hitler, and Planned Parenthood for Obama ...but if this is our defense, then Hitler was without guilt and deserves as little reproach as Obama. Both signed, *authorized*, the Final Solution ... even if they never held the scalpel themselves.

## "*Ich habe nur meine Pflicht erfüllt*"

Again and again we heard the same words at the Nuremberg Trials in 1945: "I was only fulfilling my duty", but now with a twist, although no less lethal in consequence:

*"I am only following "the mandate of the people" as President, "of the State" as a federally subsidized Hospital, or of "Hospital policy" as a physician or nurse...*

*"Ich habe nur meine Pflicht erfüllt!" --- and in the case of the "Doktor" who "enlists" in the cause of Planned Parenthood, "What is more, I'm making a killing at it ... this is big business! Do you think I want my kids to grow up in a slum?!"*

So ... who stands in the breach ... that quiet and deadly breach between life and death, between the culture of life and the industry of death? *Jesus Christ Himself*. Holy Mother Church. The woman down the street who has no upscale career ... just beautiful kids. The father next door who cannot imagine life without his children. The parish Priest, who as an *alter Christus* --- *another Christ* --- is a voice in our nation's capitol, a voice proclaiming life in the political and cultural wasteland of this world that lusts after death!

Some of us, for genuine reasons, are unable (not unwilling) to be physically present in Washington – but we must *all* clamor for life over the vast flood of death that yet ripples with the laughter of children unborn!

## **The Battle of Our Times**

This momentous struggle – *which history will record remorselessly* to the shame of so many – between life and death, darkness and light, goodness and evil --- is the battle of our times. There are no sidelines, no neutral grounds, and there is no refuge in doubt.

Genocide in Africa? ... Cambodia? ... Armenia? ... Sobibor ... Auschwitz?

*Not here in America? ... Not now? ... "Never again!"...?*

*Indeed*, how quickly such things come to our door! *"The more we do to you, the less you seem to believe we are doing it."* It is as though Josef Mengele, thrust out of the grave as an obscenity by the millions of victims of his own perspective on "medical care", were addressing us who have grown quite comfortable *with legalized abortion*.

*After all, it was legal for him, too.*

*And the Presidents of both countries were signatory to it! Nicht war?\**

They came first for the Communists,  
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist.

Then they came for the Jews,  
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.

Then they came for the trade unionists,  
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Catholics,  
and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant.

Then they came for me,  
and by that time no one was left to speak up.

*Martin Niemoeller*

(from the *New England Holocaust Memorial*)

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<sup>1</sup> Saint John 10.10

\* "Is it not so?" "Is it not the truth?"



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## RESOURCES:

- **Catholic** Resources: <http://www.catholic-pages.com/dir/abortion.asp>
- **Anglicans** for Life: <http://www.anglicansforlife.org/index/#>
- **Lutherans** for Life: [http://www.lutheransforlife.org/Who\\_Are\\_We/who\\_are\\_we.htm](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/Who_Are_We/who_are_we.htm)
- **Southern Baptists** for Life  
(<http://74.125.47.132/search?q=cache:01M1bGnt28sJ:www.sbhla.org/downloads/766.pdf+baptist+pro+life+organizations&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=6&gl=us>)
- **Presbyterian** Pro-Life <http://www.ppl.org/>
- **Feminists** for Life <http://www.feministsforlife.org/ads/index.htm>
- The National Association of **Pro-life Nurses** <http://www.nursesforlife.org/>
- Association of **Pro-Life Physicians** <http://www.prolifephysicians.org/>
- The *Center for Bio-Ethical Reform* <http://www.abortionno.org/index.html>
- Remarkably, in light of this article and after much searching, we were **unable to find a Jewish Pro-Life Organization**. The only credible site we found appears at [http://prolifefiddlin.org/component/option,com\\_frontpage/Itemid,1/](http://prolifefiddlin.org/component/option,com_frontpage/Itemid,1/) (God bless "Uncle Sol Rudnick") We are *certain* that there are Pro-Life Jewish organizations. Please contact us if you know of one.
- "**Hindu** teachings recognize a fetus as a living, conscious person deserving of protection. Also, according to Hindu Mythology, there are 16 Samskaarams or Sanskaars during the life cycle of an individual (Soul) which starts pre-birth at Garbhadhaan (Conception), thereby denoting that life is considered to begin at conception itself. One of the seven

legendary immortals or Chiranjeevin in Hinduism, Ashwatthama, was cursed by Lord Krishna, avatar of Vishnu to immortality and eternal suffering partly for attacking a pregnant woman so she would miscarry her fetus (later born as Parikshit, grandson of Arjuna) when he was in his mother's womb." (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pro-life>)

- "**Islamic** opposition is based on the concept that abortion is considered murder if done 120 days after conception and disfigurement of the woman's body if done before. According to a hadith (Sahih Bukhari 54:430 and 55:549, Sahih Muslim 33:6390), the fetus is not considered alive until the 120th day after conception[28]. Islam does provide for some exceptions where abortion is permissible, such as when the woman's life is in jeopardy or when repeated pregnancies severely damage her health." (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pro-life>)



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