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"I was only doing my duty ..."



Herr Doktor Josef Mengele of Auschwitz

President Barack Obama of Washington

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

Abortion as "Policy"

"I am come that they may have life, and may have it more abundantly." (St. John 10.10)

"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)

"Never Again ...?"

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

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 all the subsequent *generations* within it? 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.

"Wir wussten es nicht ..." ("We really didn't know ...")

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, in other cultures, 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 ..." — 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

Every "soldier" who became a killer — like every "doctor" who became a mortician, and every "nurse" his apprentice — was, is, *"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 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 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 is it "*correct*" to kill a baby, 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 instigated, vigorously endorsed, signed, *and 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: "Ich habe nur meine Pflicht erfüllt" "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;
- "I am only following the policy of the State" as a federally subsidized Hospital;
- "I am only following"Hospital policy" as a physician or nurse...

"Ich habe nur meine Pflicht erfüllt!" I am only doing my duty. — and in the case of today's "Doktor" who "enlists" in the cause of Planned Parenthood, it is lucrative!"You ask, 'Why I am doing this?' Are you kidding? I'm making a killing at it ... this is big business! Big money! Do you think I want my kids to grow up in want?!"

The Culture of Life vs. the Industry of Death

So, who stands in the breach ... in that quiet and deadly breach between life and death, between the culture of life and the industry of death? *Jesus Christ Himself*. Holy Mother the 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 Remorseless Verdict of History

This momentous struggle — which history will record remorselessly to the shame and disgrace 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? ... Pakistan? ... Cambodia? ... Armenia? ... Sobibor ... Auschwitz?

"Not here!"

Not here in America? ... Not now? — "Never again!", we indignantly declare.

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, vomited from the grave as an obscenity by the earth itself and 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, Boston)

¹ Saint John 10.10

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

Editor Boston Catholic Journal



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