

# The Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

The Mother Church of the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Kingston

The Most Reverend Brendan M. O'Brien, Archbishop of Kingston

# Happy Thanksgiving

279 Johnson Street, Kingston, ON K7L 1Y5

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Web Site: [stmaryscathedral.ca](http://stmaryscathedral.ca)

Parish Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9-5, closed 12 noon-1 pm.

Mass Schedule: St. James Chapel: Mon.-Sat. 7:45 am Cathedral: Mon.-Fri. 12:10 pm

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm; Sunday Masses: 8:00 am, 10:30 am, 7:30 pm

Opportunities for Confession: One half hour prior to every Mass held in the Cathedral;  
Wednesdays 1 pm – 5pm, Saturdays 4 pm – 4:50 pm

## Parish Staff

**Rector:** Father Shawn Hughes,  
[fathershawnjhughes@gmail.com](mailto:fathershawnjhughes@gmail.com)  
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**Adoration:** Karen King,  
[karenking333@gmail.com](mailto:karenking333@gmail.com),  
613-541-5010 ext. 2415

## Please pray for the Sick:

Allen Barclay, Darren Black, Olga Cherniej, Maria Cordeiro, Rene DeBernardi, Romeo Feola, Marieta Freitas deLima, Lidwien Gräfe, Irene Haugh, James Hunter, Theresa Knott, Hermina Lawlor, Brenda Lewis, Earl McDonald, Shirley Schuurs, David Tessier.

## Al-anon and Alateen:

Alcoholism can tear a family apart. Al-anon and/or Alateen can help families/friends of problem drinkers. For info. in the Kingston area, please call 613-384-2134.



# 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 11th, 2015

## UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

**The Bible Timeline: The New Testament** continues Thurs. Oct. 15th at 7 pm.  
**Parish Council meeting** 9:00 am, Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>  
**Oremus: Let us pray** Continues on Saturday, Oct. 17th, 10 am to 1 pm in St. Mary's Parish Centre  
**IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE A DEACON?** The next Diaconal Vocation Inquiry Day scheduled to be held at the Diocesan Centre, 390 Palace Rd., Kingston, on Sat. Oct. 17th, 2015 beginning at 9 am.



**NEXT SATURDAY: Knights of Columbus 728 Fish Fry,** Sat. Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, 5 to 7 pm in St. Mary's Parish Centre. \$15. Eat in or Take out.

**St. Patrick's Napanee Annual Harvest Bazaar:** Sat. Oct. 17, 10am – 1pm in the parish hall, 179 West Street, Napanee.

**19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ST. JOHN BOSCO CRAFT SHOW:** 175 Windsor Drive, Brockville. Sat. Oct. 17, 9am-3pm.

**Come and See! Open House October 17:** In honour of the Church's Year of Consecrated Life, we welcome all to visit us for an open house and to have a cup of tea with our communities and our associates – Congregation of Notre Dame, Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph, Sisters of Providence, and Franciscan Friars. Explore the building and learn about the ministries undertaken



here, as well as future plans. **Saturday, October 17, 1-4 pm.** Providence Motherhouse, 1200 Princess Street, Kingston, ON.

**Comedy & Praise Event for Adults:** on **Sat. Oct. 17th. 7-9 pm** at Holy Cross S.S, Kingston. **Tickets are free** but needed in advance. Ask Father Shawn or call Suzanne in the parish office 613-546-5521 ext. 3. see ad on p. 2.

**St. Mary's Moms and Tots:** Inviting all members in the Kingston area for faith formation and fellowship. Babysitting provided. The first and third Tuesday of each Month, 10-11:30 am, St. Mary's Parish Centre, 260 Brock St. Tues. Oct. 20th. See ad.

**Catholic Women's League** meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in St. Mary's Parish Centre.

**Project Rachel:** Are you hurting from an abortion experience? We can help. Call 416-629-8264 or e-mail [ProjectRachel@StMarysRefuge.org](mailto:ProjectRachel@StMarysRefuge.org). A weekend retreat for women whose hearts have been broken by abortion: **Oct. 23-25, 2015.**

**Theology of the Body Workshop:** The workshop will be held on **Fri., Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sat., Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> & Sun., Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>** at St. Mary's Parish Centre. To register contact Caitlin: [613-766-1246](tel:613-766-1246), [lifelandhopekingston@gmail.com](mailto:lifelandhopekingston@gmail.com) Check out our facebook page: [www.facebook.com/lifelandhopecentre](http://www.facebook.com/lifelandhopecentre). On line registration: <https://tobfall2015.eventbrite.ca>

**Church of the Assumption Erinsville Parish Bazaar;** Sat. Oct 31 at St. Patrick's School Hall from 10am to 1pm. Admission: Morning coffee, tea, juice and muffins for \$3.00; Soup or Chili luncheon \$4.00. Homemade crafts, Christmas gifts, baking, preserves and candy sales. Door prizes & Gift draw. Our Raffle tickets available until 12:20pm and the Raffle Draws: 12:30pm. Tickets \$1.00 each. Prizes: \$500; \$400; \$300; \$200 & \$100.

Masses

Monday Oct. 12th

7:45 am Knights of Columbus  
Venerable James McGivney  
12:10 pm Augustino Bochnia

Tuesday Oct. 13th

7:45 am Rita MacDonald  
12:10 pm Father Shawn Hughes,  
intentions

Wed. Oct. 14th

7:45 am Joseph Healy Patterson, Mary  
Ellen Kelly Patterson, deceased & living  
members of Kelly and Patterson families  
12:10 pm Deceased members of  
Kraan, Kapteyn & Schrama families

Thurs. Oct. 15th

7:45 am Hermina & Werenfried  
Van de Ven  
12:10 pm Victor Duarte, John  
Duarte

Fri. Oct. 16th

7:45 am Hermina & Werenfried  
Van de Ven  
12:10 pm John Jong-Seo O

Sat. Oct. 17th

7:45 am Rita MacDonald  
5 pm Joseph Edward Dupuis Jr.

Sun. Oct. 18th

8 am Carol Shaw  
10:30 am for the people  
7:30 pm Joseph Healy Patterson, Mary  
Ellen Kelly Patterson, deceased & living  
members of Kelly and Patterson families

**Ministries: Sat. Oct. 17th 5 pm**

Altar Servers	Barry M. Glen M.
Lectors	Elizabeth N. Lynn P.
EM of the Eucharist	Anne H.

**Sunday Oct. 18th 8 am**

Altar Servers	Marcel R. Emily R. Betty R.
Lectors	Betty R. Elizabeth S.
EM of the Eucharist	Adora J. Marcel R.

**Sunday Oct. 18th, 10:30 am**

Altar Servers	Nick B. Bohdan Y. Dominic B. Doug S.
Lectors	Gail M. Connie A.
EM of the Eucharist	Betty G. Dianne I. Domenica B. Bob C. Rita F. Marietta M. Natalia A.

**Sunday Oct. 18th, 7:30 pm**

Altar Servers	Students
Lectors	Olivia S. Michelle S.
EM of the Eucharist	Jacqueline O. Catherine K.

# Help Me Thanksgiving Day Prayer

O God, when I have food,  
help me to remember the hungry;  
When I have work,  
help me to remember the jobless;  
When I have a home,  
help me to remember those who have no home at all;  
When I am without pain,  
help me to remember those who suffer,  
And remembering,  
help me to destroy my complacency;  
bestir my compassion,  
and be concerned enough to help;  
By word and deed,  
those who cry out for what we take for granted.  
Amen.

-Samuel F. Pugh

Shinzoo.com

**Comedy & Praise Event for Adults:** As a World Youth Day Faith Event, the pilgrims from our archdiocese are hosting a comedy & praise evening for adults of all ages on *Sat. Oct. 17th, 7-9 pm* at Holy Cross S.S, Kingston. Chris Bray will be leading us in music and performing a short concert. Catholic Comedian Judy McDonald will be our featured presenter and will be sharing a comedic routine about joy-filled faith. Refreshments included. Tickets are free but needed in advance through Nadia at 613-484-2446, [youth@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca](mailto:youth@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca) or at the rectory office, Suzanne 613-546-5521 ext. 3

**Canadian Food for Children:** Canadian Food For Children is a registered charity with the Canadian government. Our goal is to feed the poor. All donations collected go towards feeding the poorest of the poor in developing countries throughout the world. Each dollar that you donate can provide 20 nutritious meals. CFFC is entirely run by volunteers and no one gets paid. Joan and Andrew Simone started working with Blessed Mother Teresa in 1980. In 1981, Mother Teresa requested that they send food to the poor in Tanzania and Ethiopia where people were suffering from malnutrition due to severe drought. Food could not be purchased there and therefore the food they sent was a tremendous blessing. With the approval of Mother Teresa, CFFC became an official charity in 1985 and presently sends food to 18-22 developing countries throughout the world. The teachings of Jesus in the Gospels and their Catholic faith inspire them to do this work. [www.canadianfoodforchildren.net](http://www.canadianfoodforchildren.net).

## **Message from Archbishop O'Brien regarding World Mission Sunday**

Next weekend, October 17<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate World Mission Sunday 2015, when we are called to focus our attention on the needs of the Church in the developing world.

Our prayers and financial support are vitally needed by missionaries serving in more than 1,150 dioceses throughout Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe. Your generosity makes it possible for local priests, religious, and catechists to reach out to communities, families, and children in desperate need, bringing the light of Christ to the darkest of circumstances.

World Mission Sunday does not just happen here in our local Church. It is truly a universal celebration – a worldwide recommitment – uniting Catholics throughout the world to the Church's evangelizing mission. This Sunday provides us with a renewed opportunity to pray in solidarity for the work of the missionary Church.

I encourage you to support this collection and continue to pray that all of us in this Archdiocese may be eager and effective witnesses of Jesus in our world, which is so in need of His love and peace.

**Calling all YOUTH 13 – 19 years of age!** Join us for our annual "Shine Like The Son" Youth Conference. Saturday, October 17th, 2015 from 9 am -5 pm at Holy Cross S.S. in Kingston. The theme is "Fearless". We are excited to have comedian Judy McDonald coming to do a humorous keynote presentation. The day includes praise and worship music with Chris Bray & Band, icebreakers, drama skit, break-out sessions, Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions, Mass and social time. Cost is \$15 and includes lunch, snacks and a t-shirt! To register and for more information visit [www.shineliketheson.com](http://www.shineliketheson.com). Any questions contact Nadia at the Archdiocesan Youth Ministry Office 613-484-2446 or email [youth@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca](mailto:youth@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca)

**Forming Intentional Disciples Workshop:** Sat. Nov. 28th, 2015; 9 am – 4 pm Providence Spirituality Centre \$30 registration fee which includes materials and lunch. This workshop is based on the best-selling book by Sherry Weddell. It will be facilitated by Deacon Mark Cesnik, a member of Sherry's St. Catherine of Siena Institute in Colorado. An interactive day on how we can awaken our personal faith in Christ and become intentional disciples that effectively evangelize others. To register contact Nadia Gundert at [youth@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca](mailto:youth@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca) or call 613-484-2446. This Workshop is sponsored by the Youth Office of the Archdiocese, the Diaconate Formation and St. Mary's Cathedral.

**Kingston Twenties and Thirties' October event:** Sushi and a Movie. Sushi and a movie (we will be making sushi and watching the movie *St. Vincent* <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2170593/>) at 33 Deidrick Drive, Kingston. Feel free to bring a friend or share this email with anyone you know who may be interested. Contact Emily if you have questions about this event or the group in general. [kingston.tandt@gmail.com](mailto:kingston.tandt@gmail.com)

**The Knights of Columbus 4<sup>th</sup> degree Assembly are Raising Money to assist St. Mary's Cathedral.**

**Please read on.** By purchasing baseball, hockey, theatre and football tickets and even some frozen meat in bulk the Knights are leveraging the power of group purchasing to obtain great group rate opportunities to benefit Knights of Columbus members, family, parish communities and those the Knights support. With this program to date the Knights have provided \$4995 in savings for 177 participants. Not only is this a great savings for you, the purchaser, it also provides a modest commission to the Knights which they have decided to be used on work to be done on the cathedral. This money will be given to Archbishop O'Brien to assist the archdiocese in their share of the cathedral's restoration work. For sports events that are out of town there are also buses put on or you can provide your own transportation. For deals on Blue Jays Play Off Games go to [http://jvcleary857.com/pb/wp\\_34ac7325/wp\\_34ac7325.html](http://jvcleary857.com/pb/wp_34ac7325/wp_34ac7325.html). For deals on Ottawa Senators games go to [http://jvcleary857.com/pb/wp\\_fee62415/wp\\_fee62415.html](http://jvcleary857.com/pb/wp_fee62415/wp_fee62415.html). For deals on Ottawa Redbacks games go to [http://jvcleary857.com/pb/wp\\_8440acfb/wp\\_8440acfb.html](http://jvcleary857.com/pb/wp_8440acfb/wp_8440acfb.html). For deals on Kingston Frontenac Games go to [http://jvcleary857.com/pb/wp\\_643c9719/wp\\_643c9719.html](http://jvcleary857.com/pb/wp_643c9719/wp_643c9719.html). For purchasing Lamb in bulk go to [http://jvcleary857.com/pb/wp\\_91f5a263/wp\\_91f5a263.html](http://jvcleary857.com/pb/wp_91f5a263/wp_91f5a263.html). If you are planning an event and would like the Knights to secure you a cheaper group rate contact Sir Knight Peter Scott the coordinator of the Knights Group Opportunities at [grouprates@jvcleary857.com](mailto:grouprates@jvcleary857.com). To date this project has raised just short of \$2,000 for the cathedral. Check it out. Tell your friends. This is not limited to members of the Knights. Anyone, in any city, can take advantage of this group opportunity by emailing, Sir Knight Peter Scott.

**Prayer Requests:** Father Shawn and many of our parishioners will be leaving on the pilgrimage to the Shrines of Italy on October 20<sup>th</sup> and returning October 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have a special intention you wish to be prayed for in Rome and at all the other Holy Places, please place an envelope in the container at the back of the cathedral and I will pray for all of these intentions at the sacred places we will be visiting.



**St. Mary's Moms & Tots:** Inviting all mothers in the Kingston Archdiocese for faith formation & fellowship. Babysitting is provided. 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 10-11:30 AM St Mary's Parish Centre, 260 Brock St. October 20<sup>th</sup>: Social, November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Saints in Catholic Family Life, November 17<sup>th</sup>: Social, December 1<sup>st</sup>: Advent Workshop, December 15<sup>th</sup>: Social, January 19<sup>th</sup>: Social, February 2<sup>nd</sup>: Prayer, February 16<sup>th</sup>: Social, March 1<sup>st</sup>: The Ultimate, Relationship, March 15<sup>th</sup>: Social, April 5<sup>th</sup>: Refugee Project, April 19<sup>th</sup>: Social, May 3<sup>rd</sup>: Theology of the Body, May 17<sup>th</sup>: Social, June 7<sup>th</sup>: Natural Family Planning panel, June 21<sup>st</sup>: Social. Email: [St.MarysMomsandTots@gmail.com](mailto:St.MarysMomsandTots@gmail.com)  
Facebook event: St Marys Moms & Tots.

## St Mary's Cathedral Refugee Sponsorship

As you know from our previous reports, St. Mary's is responding to the international refugee crisis by sponsoring a refugee family from Burundi consisting of two parents, three daughters and six sons. The family is currently living in a United Nations refugee camp in Tanzania. We are committed to providing the family financial, settlement, and emotional support for the first 12 months after their arrival in Canada. This is a big undertaking, which will require many willing hands as well as many prayers.

The meeting at the Parish Centre on September 30<sup>th</sup> was well attended, including volunteers that had not attended the previous meeting. Angela Gambin reported that our application for sponsorship is being reviewed by the government and that we should hear back around All Saints' Day. The family should arrive in Canada anywhere between Christmastime to late February. One thing is for certain – given that the temperature in Burundi generally does not go below 17 °C, the Canadian winter is going to be a big surprise!

The volunteers at the meeting divided into different committees, including Health/Nutrition, Housing, Cultural Awareness, Education (including ESL), Employment, Preparing the Home, and Fundraising/Correspondence. If you would like to participate or to pass on any ideas for help, please be sure to contact Angela at the email address below so that she can direct you to the proper group and we can avoid duplication of efforts.

***Financial donations can be made by marking 'Refugee Sponsorship' on an envelope and placing it in the collection basket. Cheques should be made out to St. Mary's Cathedral with "Refugee Sponsorship" marked on the memo line. Tax receipts will be issued for all financial contributions and donations for goods in kind.***

Our next sponsorship meeting is Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, in St. Mary's Parish Centre. Please direct questions to Angela at [stmarysrefugee@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysrefugee@gmail.com)

**The Natural Family Planning Association** will be holding a Billings Ovulation Method™ Basic Teacher Training Workshop (Part 1) on *October 16 -18, 2015*. The Workshop will be held at the Travelodge Toronto East, 20 Milner Business Court, Toronto, ON M1B 3C6. Friday evening, Oct. 16: Registration 6:30 pm, session from 7- 9:30 pm. Saturday, Oct. 17: session from 8:30 am - 8:30 pm, Sunday, Oct. 18: session from 8:30 am - 3 pm. *There will be no provision for child care; however, nursing babies in arms are welcome to attend with their moms!* **FEES (Including workshop supplies and meals):** Single person rate: \$150 Married couple rate: \$200. For more information **visit here** or contact the Natural Family Planning Association at [\(416\) 481-5465](tel:4164815465).



### **Annual Liturgical Conference: The Jubilee of Mercy: "Merciful like the Father"**

The Holy Father, Pope Francis has announced an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy that will be celebrated from the feast of The Immaculate Conception, 8 Dec. 2015, to the Solemnity of Christ the King, 20 Nov. 2016. In preparation for this special year of grace, the Archdiocese of Kingston invites you to our Annual Liturgical Conference which will focus on the meaning of the Jubilee Year. Please join us on **Fri. evening, 13 Nov. 7-9 pm**, and **Sat., 14 Nov. 9 am-3:30 pm**, at the Providence Spirituality Centre, 1200 Princess St. Kingston. Facilitator: Father John Hibbard, Chair of the Archdiocesan Liturgy Commission. Registration deadline: **Fri. 30 Oct.** Commuters: \$ 35, overnight: \$ 75. To register, please visit the Archdiocese of Kingston website at <http://www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/> , or contact Mariola Gozdek at the Diocesan Liturgy Office, 613-548-4461 ext.114, [liturgy@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca](mailto:liturgy@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca)

## **Guiding Your Conscience: Our Moral Obligation to Vote**

Recently I have been asked by parishioners if they should spoil their ballot or simply not vote in light of their perception of candidates who do not align with Catholic pro-life principles. It has been long standing Catholic moral teaching that we *should not* abdicate the moral obligation to vote. It has also been long standing Catholic moral teaching that when faced with less than perfect candidates one should vote for the candidate who most closely aligns with Catholic moral teaching in order to vote against the candidate who is most opposed to Catholic moral teaching. In this case you are voting for the person who would do the least harm and “voting against” the person who would do the most harm to the common good. We must have a voice in the public square and therefore we should vote. Anything in [ ] brackets is my insertion to the article.

The following article by Steve Skojec quotes Stephen Krason, Professor of Political Science and Legal Studies at Franciscan University, [<https://www.catholicvote.org/the-merit-of-limiting-evil-and-the-problem-with-not-voting/comment-page-1/>] who tackles the moral question of voting for a candidate who doesn't have a perfect pro-life position. It is phrased in light of the American political situation and American candidates for the 2012 election so you must read it in that context. However it is very helpful for us to guide our conscience in the upcoming federal Canadian election.

**The central question for Catholics is this:** Is it morally acceptable to vote for a candidate like Romney who supports abortion rights in some cases when his opponent is a supporter of sweeping abortion rights? After all, didn't both the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) and the U.S. bishops in their documents on Catholic citizenship and political participation say that, “a well-formed Christian conscience does not permit one to vote for a political program or an individual law which contradicts the fundamental contents of faith and morals”?

The answer can be discerned from a statement in Pope St. John Paul II's encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (#73),[see below] which is repeated in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* (#570), about the moral obligations and restraints on legislators. Since legislators are the ones who are most directly involved in lawmaking, what is said about them applies *a fortiori* to the voters selecting them and other public decisionmakers: “when it is not possible to overturn or completely abrogate a pro-abortion law, an elected official, whose absolute personal opposition to procured abortion was well known, could licitly support proposals aimed at *limiting the harm* done by such a law...”

[ ... ]

In his 2004 pastoral letter [*Our Civic Responsibility on the Common Good* <https://www.ewtn.com/library/bishops/burkecom.htm>] when he was Archbishop of St. Louis, Raymond L. Cardinal Burke—who is [was] now the Prefect of Apostolic Signatura (the Church's equivalent of the Supreme Court)—directly addressed the question of the moral obligations of the Catholic voter. He said that a Catholic who “is clear in his or her opposition to the moral evil of procured abortion could vote for a candidate who supports the limitation of the legality of procured abortion, even though the candidate does not oppose all use of procured abortion, if the other candidate(s) do not support the limitation of the evil of procured abortion.” (#41) This is exactly the situation in the Romney-Obama contest. In fact, Cardinal Burke also affirmed explicitly what I have suggested: the standard of *Evangelium Vitae* for the legislator is applicable to the voter.

This isn't very satisfying to most of us, but the moral principles are sound. We have the option of allowing the expansion of government-promoted destruction of human life to go unchecked, or the possibility of limiting that harm without eliminating it. Despite all my misgivings about Mitt Romney, for me that choice is clear.

Still, I understand those Catholics who say that the movement of Republican presidential politics has gone too far left, and that they will vote third party if they have a candidate who they can, in good conscience, support. What I don't understand, and can't support, are those who will choose during this election not to vote at all. The sense of futility they feel is duly noted, but I humbly suggest that it is also illusory.

Krason also notes that Cardinal Burke has something specific to say about those who, in a contest like this, choose to opt-out of voting (my emphasis added):

Some might ask, given the fact that neither candidate in an election like the current presidential one is against all abortion, whether Catholics should just refuse to vote. They might consider the fact that **few U.S. political candidates say they are against all abortion** (they will at least claim the life of the mother exception). That means that such Catholic voters would probably have to sit out every election, or at least all the ones for federal offices. **I can hardly think of a better way to minimize the influence of faithful Catholic citizens in American politics.**

Cardinal Burke framed the decision to not vote in a circumstance where there is a less than ideal pro-life candidate in moral terms: **"the Catholic who chooses not to vote at all, when there is a viable candidate who will advance the common good, although not perfectly, fails to fulfill his or her moral duty."** (#43) The CDF document emphasizes that Catholics may not delegate their political responsibilities to others, which is effectively what happens when one chooses not to vote.

The situation we are faced with is far from optimal. But as Edmund Burke famously said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."

If we are good people, let us do *something*.

[Evangelium Vitae #73

73. Abortion and euthanasia are thus crimes which no human law can claim to legitimize. There is no obligation in conscience to obey such laws; instead there is a grave and clear obligation to oppose them by conscientious objection. From the very beginnings of the Church, the apostolic preaching reminded Christians of their duty to obey legitimately constituted public authorities (cf. Rom 13:1-7; 1 Pet 2:13-14), but at the same time it firmly warned that "we must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). In the Old Testament, precisely in regard to threats against life, we find a significant example of resistance to the unjust command of those in authority. After Pharaoh ordered the killing of all newborn males, the Hebrew midwives refused. "They did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live" (Ex 1:17). But the ultimate reason for their action should be noted: "the midwives feared God" (ibid.). It is precisely from obedience to God-to whom alone is due that fear which is acknowledgment of his absolute sovereignty-that the strength and the courage to resist unjust human laws are born. It is the strength and the courage of those prepared even to be imprisoned or put to the sword, in the certainty that this is what makes for "the endurance and faith of the saints" (Rev 13:10).

In the case of an intrinsically unjust law, such as a law permitting abortion or euthanasia, it is therefore never licit to obey it, or to "take part in a propaganda campaign in favour of such a law, or vote for it".<sup>28</sup>

*A particular problem of conscience* can arise in cases where a legislative vote would be decisive for the passage of a more restrictive law, aimed at limiting the number of authorized abortions, in place of a more permissive law already passed or ready to be voted on. Such cases are not infrequent. It is a fact that while in some parts of the world there continue to be campaigns to introduce laws favouring abortion, often supported by powerful international organizations, in other nations-particularly those which have already experienced the bitter fruits of such permissive legislation-there are growing signs of a rethinking in this matter. In a case like the one just mentioned, when it is not possible to overturn or completely abrogate a pro-abortion law, an elected official, whose absolute personal opposition to procured abortion was well known, *could licitly support proposals aimed at limiting the harm done by such a law and at lessening its negative consequences at the level of general opinion and public morality*. This does not in fact represent an illicit cooperation with an unjust law, but rather a legitimate and proper attempt to limit its evil aspects.]



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