



## Third Sunday Ordinary Time January 22, 2017 A

- ◆ **Roe v. Wade 44 years later**
- ◆ **The “Eleven Commandments” of parenting by Julianne Stanz**
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### **Roe v. Wade 44 years later**

The following article by Archbishop Chaput, O.F.M., appeared in *Columbia* (the Knights magazine) in March 2016.

*The January 22, 1973, U.S. Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision is important for two reasons: its flawed reasoning and its destructive effect. In practice, Roe legalized abortion on demand. It has enabled the killing of tens of millions of unborn children, an entire American generation. Abortion “procedure”—a sanitized understatement worthy of George Orwell—have emotionally scarred millions of adult women and men.*

*Abortion supporters talk a good line about reproductive health care. But there’s very little health care in homicide. There’s simply no way around the living, developing unborn daughter or son—visible on any ultrasound machine—who ends up dead at the end of the abortion industry’s doublespeak.*

*Abortion supporters press the importance of reproductive rights. But they systematically violate the most basic human right of all: the right to life. Americans support abortion rights. But polling data are easily misused or misunderstood. Key information is often overlooked or omitted because it doesn’t fit the preferred storyline.*

*The most recent Marist Poll, commissioned by the Knights of Columbus and released in January, found that 44 percent of surveyed Americans describe themselves pro-life, while 51 percent describe themselves as pro-choice. But the really telling data emerge from beneath those broad labels.*

*More than 80 percent of Americans, including two-thirds of pro-choice supporters, would restrict abortion to—at most—the first trimester of pregnancy. By a 25*

*point margin, Americans believe abortion does women more harm than good. Sixty percent believe abortion is morally wrong. And 77 percent believe that our laws can protect both a mother and her unborn child. Nearly 70 percent oppose public funding for abortion.*

*In an immediate sense, these facts change nothing. Forty-three years after Roe, the abortion industry has grown fat on public money and pious in its own deceptions. Its leaders really don’t care what Americans think, because they’ve been ideologues from the start, playing the long game of changing people’s attitudes through aggressive court action and sympathetic media. It’s an intelligent strategy. It should have worked. So it’s understandable that industry leaders are annoyed and baffled—and increasingly paranoid—that pro-lifers have not gone away. Because they haven’t. Quite the opposite.*

*We see the proof every January. Year after year the March for Life’s pro-life numbers keep coming and keep growing. They also kept getting younger.*

*Here’s why. Abortion is not like other social issues. It’s visceral; instinctively repugnant; and obscenity in the present and a refusal of the future. It can’t be reduced to a theoretical dispute or a smokescreen of laundered language about “reproductive health.” Health can never mean homicide. No matter how good the verbal gymnastics, no “pro-choice” PR firm can escape the flesh and blood violence to mother and child, and the lying to women, that occur in every abortion.*

*The unborn child is alive, innocent and now observable, thanks to the same medical technology that the abortion industry perverts in every killing. Today’s young people may differ from previous generations in many ways, but killing innocent life isn’t one of them. And that simple fact can be the beginning of a new and better culture that respects the sanctity of human life at every stage. May we, with God’s help, make it so.*

[This article appeared in the March 2016 issue of *Columbia* magazine and is reprinted with permission of the Knights of Columbus, New Haven, CN]

The following two pieces are by Julianne Stanz, the mother who gave our parish mission.

## **The “Eleven Commandments” of Parenting**

1. *Thou shalt be consistent: Do as you say you will. Children know where they stand when you are consistent, follow through and mean what you say.*
2. *Thou shalt expect children to contribute (without being paid): Expect children to help at home but don't expect them to do so graciously all the time.*
3. *Thou shalt encourage regularly and persistently: Remember that you will get a lot more with honey than with vinegar. Encouragement and praise will get children a lot further than criticism and punishment so be your child's best encourager rather than his fiercest critic.*
4. *Thou shalt put responsibility where it belongs: Treat children and young people as you want them to be. If you want responsible, capable children then treat them as if they are responsible. The best way to develop responsibility is to give it to children.*
5. *Thou shalt know that children and young people only see one side of any issue. Thou shalt take everything they say with a large grain of salt. Not that children and young people lie, but they have been known to exaggerate or see facts only from their side. (Remember that there are often 3 sides to a story—yours, theirs and “the truth”).*
6. *Thou shalt show love and affection to your children. Thou shalt say you love each of your children at least once a day. Knowing they are loveable is the basis of self-worth, regardless of their age.*
7. *Thou shalt catch children and young people behaving well. Pay attention to your children's positive behavior more than their negative behavior. What you focus on expands so if you focus on the positive behavior, that is what you generally get.*
8. *Thou shalt develop independence in children from the earliest possible age. Never regularly do for a child the things he or she can do for him or herself.*
9. *Thou shalt set limits and boundaries for children and expect that they will push against them. Children and young people need limits and boundaries as they make them feel secure.*
10. *Thou shalt keep a sense of humor when dealing with children. This will help you keep things in perspective.*

## **The 11th (and most important) commandment:**

*Thou shalt be a good role model for you children. Show rather than tell children and young people how you want them to communicate, behave and live. Children learn what they live and, as parents, your actions speak louder than your words.*

## **Six Ways to Pass on the Faith to your Children**

1. **Teach them the basics.** *Your children need to have an understanding of the basics from a young age. Basics such as understanding (as much as they can) the Trinity, the True Presence in the Eucharist, why we have Saints, what the Mass is all about, and the amazing blessing the Bible is to all Christians! Understanding these basic principles is going to help in the future lessons we teach them so they can have a greater understanding of everything later on.*
2. **Saturate the home.** *Fill your home with prayers, love, Christian virtues, and yes, even statues, pictures, medals, and other reminders of our religious heroes. These things can't just exist at church, they need to be in the home.*
3. **Make religion relatable and engaging for children.** *Meet them at their own level! Crafts, activities, and songs are great to reach younger children; older children can enjoy more discussions, starting prayer journals, and reading more books.*
4. **Make sure they really get good Catholic formation.** *This formation should not just come from the school or religious education program; it has to come from you, the parent.*
5. **Weave the faith into your life.** *Do not let the faith be like a puzzle piece in your life that could be plucked out and tossed aside. The faith should be so interwoven into your life that if you tried to remove it, you wouldn't even know where to start, and if you succeeded in removing it, the whole masterpiece would be destroyed.*
6. **Lead by example.** *The whole do-what-I-say-and-not-what-I-do thing? That's not going to cut it! Walk the talk and your children will see and emulate your attitude, actions and behavior.*

[Articles used with permission, Julianne Stanz]

Have a blessed week,

*Je Paran*