

Proclaiming the Gospel of Life

An Urgent Message for Our Time

Prepared by the Pro- Life Apostolate of the Diocese of Fall River

Please see closing slide for important information



PROMOTE THE "GOSPEL OF LIFE"

- Pope John Paul II
- Evangelium Vitae
- All Human Life is Sacred
- Created in the Image and Likeness of God
- Proclaim the Truth

"ECLIPSE" OF THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE

- Cain and Abel
- Conscience is Dulled
- Attack on Life Held Up As "Rights"
- Freedom = Autonomy (Abortion 1-3)

- True Freedom = Love and Serve One Another
(Especially the Weak and Frail)
- Connect Freedom and Truth

The Human Person

Visible Image of God

“ ...the denial of the transcendent dignity of the human person who, as the visible image of the invisible God, is therefore by his very nature the subject of rights which no one may violate – no individual, group, class, nation, or state” (Centesimus Annus 44).

TOTALITARIANISM

"Totalitarianism, arises out of the denial of truth in the objective sense. If there is no transcendent truth, in obedience to which man achieves his full identity, then there is no sure principle for guaranteeing just relations between people." (CA 44)

What happens? People are exploited. "The force of power takes over" and the strong rule the weak.

It "sets itself above all values." It "cannot tolerate the affirmation of an objective criterion of good and evil beyond the will of those in power." (CA 45)

DEMOCRACY

Democracy, to survive and flourish, as our founding fathers knew, needs an authentic foundation, the explicit recognition of human rights, the most important being the right to life. Therefore, it is necessary, for the future of our democratic society, that civil law conform to this objective moral law.

The Supreme Courts Roe vs. Wade decision violated these noble ideals.

THE RIGHT TO LIFE IS DENIED



What's the difference?

I'm the same beautiful child
born or unborn.



Thanks Mom for seeing the truth.
Please help my friends.



"A New Human Being"

- First Moment of Conception (Not After Implantation)
- Unique Separate Human Life
- Value is in Being – Not in Usefulness
- Choice to kill innocent life brings harm to those whose life is taken but also to all who participate and society in general
- Women have suffered greatly, and have been deceived into thinking it was an exercise of their rightful freedom - Later to discover they were anything but free.
- Project Rachel
- We *Must* Bear Witness to the Truth

BUILDING

“THE NEW CULTURE OF LIFE”

- Fast and Pray
- Promote a “new feminism” – give witness to a self-giving love
- Celebrate motherhood, welcome the weak, the stranger, the vulnerable
- Change hearts and minds as well as court decisions and laws
- Re-establish the connection between Life and Freedom
- Assist pregnant woman
- Promote Project Rachel – Heal the wounds of abortion
- Educate
- Restore the family as the “Sanctuary of Life”
 - Attack on Marriage (Divorce and Redefining)
 - Abortion
 - Physician Assisted Suicide
 - Cohabitation

BECOMING A PEOPLE OF LIFE

- Conversion of Self
- Daily Prayer Time (God's Wisdom)
- Be Well Informed – Stay Focused
- Courage to Speak and Teach
with "*Love, Compassion and Mercy*"
- Patience, Patience, Patience
- Be Willing to Act and Suffer

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS BAN ON PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION

This 5-4 decision by the court does not change the legal status of the majority of abortions being done in this country.

It does not reverse the past decisions "claiming" a Constitutional right to abortion.

HERE'S WHAT IT DID DO

1. Recognized that abortion is the taking of a human life and that government does have a legitimate interest in the protection and preservation of human life.
2. That "respect for human life finds an ultimate expression in the bond of love the mother has for her child."
3. Abortion may cause suffering, sorrow and grief for women.
4. This type of practice is difficult to distinguish from infanticide and affects the moral fabric of society itself, as well as the ethical integrity of our medical profession.
5. Congress may play a role in regulating the medical profession in areas of ethics dealing with the human person.

YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED

NOW

MORE THAN EVER

STOP THE

Freedom of Choice Act

(FOCA)

FOCA - A BILL

“To prohibit, consistent with *Roe v. Wade*, the interference by the Government with a woman’s right to choose to bear a child or terminate a pregnancy, and for other purposes.”

Sec 2 (1): “The US was founded on the principles of individual liberty, personal privacy, and equality.”

“ We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.”

Declaration of Independence

[Emphasis added]

FOCA - A BILL

Sec 4 (a): “ It is the policy of the U.S. that every woman has the fundamental right to choose to bear a child, to terminate a pregnancy prior to fetal viability, or to terminate a pregnancy after fetal viability when necessary to protect the life of the woman.”

Sec 4(b): “ Prohibition of Interference – a government may not –

(1) deny or interfere with a woman’s right to choose

(A) to bear a child

(B) to terminate a pregnancy prior to viability; or

(C) to terminate a pregnancy after viability where termination is necessary to protect the life or health of the woman.

(2) discriminate against the exercise of the rights set forth in paragraph (1) in the regulation or provision of benefits, facilities, services, or information.”

[Emphasis added]

WHAT IF...?

- All laws removed- States will be forced to have PBA and late-term Abortions
- All Taxpayer Funded
- No Parental Rights of Minors
- Removal of all conscience clauses for all medical personnel
- Non-physician abortions
- Remove regulations that Protect women from unsafe clinic
- Endanger informed consent

How will FOCA impact laws ensuring informed consent?

Because informing women about abortion and alternatives involves some delay, and may lead some women to change their decisions, laws ensuring informed consent would likely be seen as “interfering” with the abortion right.

Note – nothing in *Roe* prevents a law requiring that a women’s consent to an abortion be informed.

(Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, USCCB web site)

“FOCA is a radical measure. It would, by its terms, go well beyond *Roe*.”

Michael F. Moses
Associate General Counsel

How will FOCA impact laws that currently protect women from unsafe abortion clinics?

Roe permitted “regulation of the facility in which the [abortion] procedure is to be performed” to protect women’s health, and permitted other regulations after the first trimester of pregnancy when “reasonably related to maternal health.” (410 U.S., at 163,164). Later Supreme Court cases clarified that laws protecting maternal health are permissible throughout pregnancy.

The current version of FOCA actually removes language found in previous versions of the bill to permit regulations that are “medically necessary to protect the life or health of women.”

(Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, USCCB web site)

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Will FOCA require taxpayers to pay for abortions?

The current version of FOCA removes language found in previous versions of the bill ensuring that taxpayers will not be forced to pay for abortions, declaring instead that government may *not* “discriminate” against abortion in publicly funded programs.

(Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, USCCB web site)

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What about “partial birth” and other late-term abortions?

Roe allowed states to ban abortions after viability (when a child can survive outside the womb) if they included an exception for the mother’s “health”. Later decisions have upheld laws placing various limits on late-term abortions, and upheld a federal law banning “partial birth” abortions even before viability and without a health exception.

FOCA’s insistence on a “fundamental” right to abortion throughout pregnancy would set the clock back on these gains, and its sponsors say it is specifically intended to invalidate the partial-birth abortion ban that was upheld this year within the bounds of *Roe*.

(Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, USCCB web site)

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Will FOCA require states to allow abortions by non-physicians?

Roe permitted a state to “proscribe any abortion by a person who is not a physician.” (410 U.S, at 165) FOCA does not authorize such laws and would likely result in their invalidation.

(Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, USCCB web site)

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How will FOCA impact laws protecting a right of conscientious objection to abortion?

Roe cited, with approval, an AMA resolution that no “physician, hospital nor hospital personnel” shall be required to violate “personally held moral principles.” (410 U.S., at 143 & n.38) The current version of FOCA removes language found in previous versions of the bill to permit regulations to protect conscience.

(Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, USCCB web site)

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*Michael F. Moses
Associate General Counsel*

Will FOCA deny parents the opportunity to be involved in their minor daughter's abortion decision?

Roe expressly declined to rule on laws ensuring that parents may be involved (410 U.S., at 165 n.67) and later Supreme Court cases held that nothing in *Roe* prevents such laws. The current version of FOCA removes language found in previous versions of the bill permitting such laws; instead it states absolutely that any law which would “interfere” with the individual’s decision making is invalid.

(Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, USCCB web site)

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Michael F. Moses

Associate General Counsel

USCCB Office of the General Counsel

August 15, 2008

On balance, then, FOCA is a radical measure. It would, by its terms, go well beyond *Roe*. It would have an immediate effect on a wide range of state legislation regulating abortion...It would impose upon the entire country an abortion regime far worse than anything wrought by *Roe* or cases decided against it...It is difficult to recall any other single piece of legislation that, in a single stroke, would have such a comparable destructive impact on the government's ability to regulate abortion."

Michael F. Moses

Associate General Counsel

Why Act Now?

“The first thing I’d do as President is sign the Freedom of Choice Act. That is the first thing that I’d do.”

Barack Obama

Speech to Planned Parenthood Action Fund

July 17, 2007

www.frcaction.org/videos

HOW CAN YOU HELP ?

- **Volunteer** to help stop the FOCA Bill
- **Collaborate** With Us and Each Other
- **Arrange** for Group Presentations
- **Contact** Family and Friends
- **Notify** Legislators
- **Send** Us Your E-Mail Addresses
- **Pray and Fast**

**“You have formed my inmost being,
you knit me in my mother’s womb.”**

Ps. 139:13



**“Whatever you did for the least of
your brothers, you did for me.”**



**Thank you and God bless
from the Pro-Life Apostolate.**

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Please note that FOCA information begins on slide 14.

CREDITS

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