

‘Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you,’ Jer. 1:5

is the lead off to Archbishop Cordileone’s letter.

I would say – this letter is rich with a wealth of teaching and multiple points that need to be addressed to the Catholic & Christian on morality and love and compassion for life.

Action items for discussion

This letter (17 pgs.) is Four main subjects basically broke down into these sections:

- 1/ The necessity for all people of good will to understand how gravely evil abortion is;
 - 2/ How to avoid sinful cooperation in this evil;
 - 3/ How these principles apply to the question of Catholics and the reception of Holy Communion;
 - 4/ The special responsibility that Catholics prominent in public life have with regard to the common good.
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Additional talking points

THROW-AWAY CULTURE

He says, “This throw-away mindset also fuels the serious damage inflicted on the environment, which especially adversely impacts the poor. But when it is an innocent human being’s very existence — a moral absolute — that is thrown away, it is a sign that a society has truly become severely disordered. Such is the plight of the unborn and the state of our society.”

The saying I referenced in the email you responded to – **Abortion is the axe laid to the roots of the tree of human rights: when our culture encourages the violation of life at its youngest and most vulnerable condition, other ethical norms cannot stand for long.**

My words –

He cleverly and accurately calls this a throw-away culture. We have been calling it a culture of death, but these words less abrasive, yet a better description because it

brings out more of the real problem of laziness, selfishness and overextending of man's hunger for greed of time, desire, possession, and lifestyles beyond their means. So much so, they don't even take care of all the things they have; and either throw them away when the newness wears off or anything goes wrong with them. They have to hire workers to maintain their property whether home, land, vehicle, animals, food, garden or any other commodity they procured for themselves. So many are living this way in the USA (and around the world). They are so consumed with the worlds gadgets and technologies that they have not Adventured further to find the true source of all things because they are so overwhelmed with what is in front of them. Parents are so worried about getting their children involved in activities, for many reasons. Some because they think getting their children into activities like baseball etc. keeps them away from drugs. Some think that they want their children to pursue anything they like so that they don't miss anything in life. Some want their kids to follow in their footsteps. So many ways, we fail to look to the Lord and show our children all things through God, so that they realize that Jesus goes good with everything and He is involved and a part of all the decisions we make.

Adults and younger all have found instant gratification and entertainment in TV, sports, news and any communication, computer, phone and it has left them ignorant and have abandoned God and the call for the virtues of life. No need to serve God, they are being served by all the things around them and have forgotten what we are here for and who has given us all that we have. They are believing that it is really they who have provided for themselves and put distance on this far off God in another universe in the cosmos. They don't believe that our God is here now and is involved in everything around them and is and wants to be a personal God and live with us.

*In the intro, he also brings up the idea of the damage and trouble it causes the woman after the fact, **"Abortion not only kills the child; it deeply wounds the woman."***

How could it not? The maternal instinct is very powerful: a mother will go to great lengths to protect her child. Indeed, how often have those of us in Church ministry heard the lament from post-abortive women, "I didn't want to go through with it, but I felt like I had no choice"? This lament exposes the lie of the "pro-choice" slogan.

At the start of his 4 sections, he starts by explaining –

Section 1 **principles of law and Science**

- Fundamental human rights are not bestowed, they are inherent and must be acknowledged as such.

- The Teaching of the Church—Then:

“You shall not murder a child by abortion nor kill that which is born”
(Didache, ch. 2).

“You shall not kill the child by obtaining an abortion.
Nor, again, shall you destroy him after he is born”
(Epistle of Barnabas, ch. 19).

*Dated between AD 70 and 130, these two documents
are considered by many scholars to be among the
oldest surviving extra-biblical Christian texts.*

- The Catholic Church offers a variety of outreaches to women who are grieving their abortion, as well as others affected by it. Project Rachel is one such example. The Church also offers life-giving assistance to women trying to cope with a pregnancy for which they are not prepared. For more information, inquire at your local parish.

Section 2 **Cooperation in Moral Evil**

- Repentance is the first step in healing for everyone involved, for the mother to be sure, but also for all others who are guilty.
- The widespread practice of contraception and abortion has created a tremendous burden for a pregnant woman.

Section 3 **The Question of Reception of the Holy Eucharist**

- To receive the Blessed Sacrament in the Catholic liturgy is to espouse publicly the faith and moral teachings of the Catholic Church, and to desire to live accordingly.
- The Teaching of the Church — Now:
“Among the vulnerable for whom the Church wishes to care with particular love and concern are unborn children, the most defenseless and innocent among us.... This defense of unborn life is closely linked to the

defense of each and every other human right. It involves the conviction that a human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development. Human beings are ends in themselves and never a means of resolving other problems. Once this conviction disappears, so do solid and lasting foundations for the defense of human rights, which would always be subject to the passing whims of the powers that be.” Pope Francis / *Evangelii gaudium*, n. 213

- More from Pope Francis

“Sad to say, some countries and international institutions are also promoting abortion as one of the so-called ‘essential services’ provided in the humanitarian response to the pandemic. It is troubling to see how simple and convenient it has become for some to deny the existence of a human life as a solution to problems that can and must be solved for both the mother and her unborn child”
(Video Message to the United Nations, September 25, 2020).

“It is painful . . . to note that under the pretext of guaranteeing presumed subjective rights, a growing number of legal systems in our world seem to be moving away from their inalienable duty to protect human life at every one of its phases” **(Speech to the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See, February 8, 2021).**

Section 4 Catholics in Public Life

- If they do not amend their lives they must answer before the tribunal of God for the innocent blood that has been shed.

Last section / The conclusion should be read for yourself as a polish of his intent and direction and comments.