

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

WHAT THE GOVERNOR COULD LEARN FROM A GOOD JEWISH LADY...

I don't know if Governor Andrew Cuomo reads the New York Daily News but he should! On Monday, July 16th there was an excellent letter in the opeds from a Jewish lady from Rego Park by the name of Mira Chase.

Her letter was so moving that I would like to quote it in full: "So Governor Cuomo and New York State's Legislative Democrats want to codify the Roe VS. Wade provisions that the state passed two years before the Supreme Court ruling in 1973. In 1972, I had an abortion in New York City, and not a day goes by that I don't cry about it. I regret with all my heart that I deprived my child of a life and I am haunted with guilt over it. I go to sleep with it, I am consumed by it, I fall apart whenever I see a small child. Abortion ruined my life, and there are no words to describe my inconsolable grief. Every day I say the Kaddish (Jewish mourner's prayer) for my lost child. I do not wish this on anybody. When I had my abortion, I thought it was something I needed to do, but it was the biggest mistake I ever made, and I have been paying for it ever since."

What a great affirmation of the horrors of abortion. As a priest, I could attest to the truth of what Ms. Chase states in her letter. Many women still feel terrible guilt and remorse over their abortions even after confession and after many years. Advocates of abortion often speak of it as a "choice." But it is a wrong choice all around. Governor Cuomo professes to be a Catholic but by his actions, he denies his faith. I think he could learn a lot from that touching letter in the Daily News.

What Ms. Chase makes reference to is the Governor's approval and endorsement of "The Reproductive Health Act." This is a radical pro-abortion proposal that would remove any barriers to abortion, including late term ones (beyond 6 months). This bill would also permit non doctors to perform abortions. How the Governor could champion such a piece of horrific legislation is beyond me.

Cuomo's father, Governor Mario Cuomo was a strong adherent of a dubious philosophy that has come to be known as "Personally opposed but publicly in favor." This is what we call "Double talk." If as a Catholic and Christian I believe that abortion is a tremendous wrong, then how could I violate my conscience and say that it's ok for other people that don't share my convictions? Mario's son Governor Andrew has gone much further than his dad. Back in January of this year, he stated that people who oppose abortion and same sex marriage "Have no place in the state of New York."

That kind of language is very disturbing and threatening to faithful Christians and Jews. After all, our morality is based on the Ten Commandments. The commandments are the rules given to us by God and not man! One of those commandments, the fifth is "You shall not kill." It's very easy to understand except for politicians who seek election!

Our Declaration of Independence spoke about "The right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The Roe VS. Wade decision of the Supreme Court which legalized abortion back in January 1973 was a horrible opinion which has caused immeasurable harm to our society and to many women-just ask Ms. Price!

*Sincerely in Christ,
Father Jerome*