

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

## SANITY VS. INSANITY ON LIFE...

*During the week at Mass, I usually like to give a short homily. If I can, I try to preface the homily with a short story or joke. Last Thursday, I told the story of a priest who desperately needed money for repairs in his parish. So he stood up just before the Mass and said to the congregation: "My dear people! I have in my hand three sermons. A \$1,000 sermon that lasts five minutes, a \$500 sermon that lasts for fifteen minutes and \$100 sermon that goes for one whole hour...Now, we'll take the collection and see which one you would like!" Well I think most of us would take the shorter sermon but maybe not that price!*

*Delivering a homily or a sermon is not always easy. It requires time, preparation and prayer. Most of us priests do try our best and we try not to talk about money! We had one Professor in the seminary who used to advise the students, "Preach with the Bible in one hand and the Daily News in the other!" That's not such bad advice because the Daily News or the New York Post gives us a lot of material for sermons.*

*Take for example this past week. Over my morning coffee and cereal, I was reading about our Governor here in New York, Andrew Cuomo. The paper quoted the Governor as saying that President Trump and his administration are "insane" for their opposition to the Roe VS. Wade decision. "Roe VS. Wade" if you remember was the decision taken on January 22, 1973 by the United States Supreme Court that made abortion legal in the United States. That was a dreadful decision that had no recognition of the law of nature and human life-a decision that has caused immeasurable harm to our society.*

*In the 56 years since Roe VS. Wade, there has been over 60 million abortions in the United States. Although the number of abortions performed has been steadily declining, this is still a tragedy. In our own state of New York and also in California, the rate of abortion is higher than in the rest of the country which is easy to explain.*

*Here in New York, Governor Cuomo who claims to be Catholic(?) has championed what is called the "Reproductive Health Act." This is an abortion expansion bill that will make late term abortion legal in our state among with many other awful provisions like letting non doctors perform abortions.*

*As a priest, as a pastor, talking about moral issues in a homily is never easy, but it's absolutely necessary at times because people are so badly confused in our own times. In extension, by calling President Trump insane because of his opposition to legal abortion, Governor Cuomo is in effect saying that all people who oppose abortion are insane as well.*

*What does the word "insane" really mean? If you take the original Latin meaning of the word it means "not healthy." But it is abortion that is not healthy to everyone all around-physically, mentally and spiritually. Physically to the child in the womb it is not healthy for abortion destroys its very life! Then mentally, abortion is not healthy to the mother. As a priest, I have witnessed the anguish of women who have had abortions and suffer profound anguish from that bad choice. Spiritually abortion is unhealthy and deadly to the soul because it is a serious sin. The Catechism reminds us: "Direct abortion is gravely contrary to the moral law." (Catechism #2271)*

*So, rally the proponents of legal abortion who are the insane ones! True sanity consists in loving God and keeping His commandments-a sermon that is not long but very powerful!*

*Sincerely in Christ,  
Father Jerome*