

# The Deacon's Corner By Deacon Ron Desmarais

After a long Christmas break...

...I'd like to resume my Deacon's Corner. I've had a lot of time to think about Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. That period of time we refer to as the: *Twelve Days of Christmas*. I can't help but think of some of the events of Christmas and how that relates to us as Christians.

At the beginning of Advent we celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation. Now we all can't have angels appearing to our mothers to tell them they are "with child." However, God has allowed women to recognize the changes they are undergoing within their bodies to recognize their pregnancy. Upon confirmation they will "announce" to their spouse they are pregnant. If they already have a family they will tell their children, soon after family members and friends are told the "good news." All will rejoice at the prospect of a new member of the family and the children will wonder if they will have a new brother or sister. So you see we all experience an "annunciation" of sorts, but on a lesser scale. This sharing of the joy of a new life is further emphasized by Mary going to see her cousin Elizabeth who is also expecting. The greeting between the two women reinforces the joy we experience, and the celebration of new life as a wonderful event for a practicing Christian. As a Christian we understand that all things come from God and we rejoice at his blessing us with a child.

The journey to Bethlehem is also a time to reflect on the hardships our parents endured within their own lives prior to our arrival. Some journeys are easier than others, but our faith is founded on the strength God provides for us. Our parents are not always prepared for our coming, yet they welcomed us anyway. Rejoicing in our birth, the new life they created, celebrating our arrival with friends and family. In spite of the difficulties our conception brought; the disruption of the honeymoon, the impact to job and finances, the need to find a bigger place to live, etc. Our parent's choice to welcome us into this world as best they could, despite any reservation they had. As good parents and providers they trusted in God to help them. Just as Joseph and Mary trusted in God on their journey to and upon arrival in Bethlehem so our parents did the same.

We celebrate the arrival of Jesus, God's son, just as we celebrate the arrival and birth of our own children. The Magi celebrated Jesus' arrival as Lord of Lords, and King of Kings presenting him with Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh. We follow their example when our own friends and family celebrate by bringing gifts or in some case having "baby showers."

Yet, during this peaceful and joyous time, evil enters the picture. Herod sends his soldiers to Bethlehem to seek out, find, and destroy the male children. ***"When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi."*** (Matthew 2:16)

We too suffer from the evil of this world today, after 2000 years we continue to have the same results that happened in Bethlehem. Millions of children have been destroyed because it would be inconvenient to have a child or would interfere with plans to have material possessions, better jobs or any other reason that can be justified to one self.

This started with contraception to prevent unwanted pregnancies. This was the first break with God from our marriage vows not only to love, honor, and support (obey) one another, but to break with God on an affirmation to be open to children and procreation. Procreation means: "to bring forth offspring or children." But actually it is a conjunction of the Latin: PRO meaning "for" and creation: meaning "to create" giving us the word: **FOR CREATION**. We celebrate life just as God celebrated life. In Genesis when God created the world each day of creation ends with "and God saw that it was good."

***"Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness...God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it....And so it happened. God looked at***

**everything he had made, and found it very good.”** (Genesis 1:27-31)

The Didache or Teaching of the Twelve an early church catechetical document and almost placed in the Bible states: *“And the second commandment of the Teaching; You shall not commit murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not commit pederasty, you shall not commit fornication, you shall not steal, you shall not practice magic, you shall not practice witchcraft, you shall not murder a child by abortion nor kill that which is begotten...”*

Yet today instead of being PRO-CREATION following the God’s words to be fruitful and multiple we follow the lies and deceit of the Lucifer by being Anti-Creation through contraception, by being Anti-Life through abortion. Just like Adam and Eve we try to hide our shame by using names like a fig leaf calling it birth control and pro-choice. Yet it isn’t our birth we are controlling nor is it the child’s choice to be aborted. Still we delude ourselves by using names that obscure truth. We have learned well the lessons the Evil One taught us in the Garden.

At the end of last month we celebrated the birth of Christ now at the end of this month we celebrate Roe versus Wade. A case that was built on lies and deceit and we continue to perpetrate it to this day by our silence.

Scripture tells us at the beginning of Exodus: *“Then a new king, who knew nothing of Joseph, rose to power in Egypt. He said to his people, “See! The Israelite people have multiplied and become more numerous than we are! Come, let us deal shrewdly with them to stop their increase...The king of Egypt told the Hebrew midwives...when you act as midwives for the Hebrew women, look on the birth stool: if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she may live.”* (Exodus 1:8-10, 15-16)

There are two key concepts we take from this scripture: *“The Israelite people have multiplied and become more numerous than we are! Come, let us deal shrewdly with them to stop their increase.”* We have heard this before from the Eugenics movement in the early 1900’s espoused by Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood. She stated in her own words the same philosophy many

repeat today. *“More children from the fit, less from the unfit – that is the chief aim of birth control.”* (Birth Control Review, May 1919, p. 12) Or even more telling is her quote: *“The most merciful thing that a large family does to one of its infant members is to kill it.”* (Women and the New Race, Eugenics Publ. Co., 1920, 1923)

Eugenics was also embraced by Adolf Hitler and used to exterminate not only 6 million Jews, but Gypsies, those with down syndrome, and others that did not meet the criteria of **“FITness”**. At the Nuremberg Trials the Nazi’s used the excuse, “We were only following orders.” The Tribunal disregarded that excuse and condemned them to death. The Geneva Convention allows for disobeying a direct order if it was unlawful to combat this excuse. Yet, we are no better than the Nazi’s if we do not raise our voice against an unjust law. We allow the Supreme Court (the new Pharaoh) to tell us a lie (Roe versus Wade) and we accept it with a whimper.

The second part of that scripture from Exodus is: *“The midwives, however, feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt had ordered them, but let the boys live.”* (Exodus 1:17)

Obviously we don’t fear God because we allow not only boys to die, but girls as well. We can look back on Pharaoh and tell ourselves that they weren’t civilized. We can look at King Herod or Adolf Hitler and say that they were evil men. We can say all of those things for the Pol Pots, the Stalin’s, and the Saddam Hessian’s of this world, but we won’t add our own name to the list even though we allow thousands of babies to die every day because we don’t raise our voice in protest.

Our own Declaration of Independence says: *“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.”* (July 4, 1776 penned by Thomas Jefferson.

We know in our hearts that the words stated in our Declaration of Independence are true. We know in our hearts that scripture is true, yet, because we do not fear God we remain silent and thus condemn ourselves.