

Homily based on the readings from January 22, 2026 (Isaiah 49.1-6; Ephesians 3.14-21; Luke 1.39-56)

It is a sad reality that almost every era of human history can be identified by its own distinctive horror – a trauma that *permanently* marks that time period within our collective consciousness. The seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries, for example, were marred by the scourge of slavery. The twentieth century will always be remembered as the age of genocide – with victims ranging from Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, to the Jewish population of Europe, to the Tutsis of Rwanda. In our own day and age, there can be no doubt that the *defining* evil is the atrocity of abortion. Abortion is not just the murder of an innocent human being – although it certainly is that. In its own way, abortion encompasses *every* form of depravity and wickedness that afflicts our modern world.

- First and foremost, abortion represents our society's total devaluation of human life. The practice is *predicated* on the *insidious* falsehood that

a person's inherent worth depends on *physical* strength or *mental* ability; that anyone who does not meet whatever *arbitrary* criteria we establish – whether it be an infant in the womb or an invalid in a hospital bed – is ultimately *disposable*.

- Abortion represents the utter degradation of sexual morality – turning what is supposed to be a sacramental, self-giving union into a grotesque parody of itself. For decades, society has been telling young men and women – *particularly* young women – that sex is either a harmless form of physical entertainment or, even worse, that promiscuity is a type of liberation or empowerment. Pregnancy, which is both the purpose and the natural consequence of all sexual activity, is treated as nothing more than an inconvenient side effect. Our society has made the *deliberate* decision that killing a *million* babies every year is an acceptable price to pay for an unlimited number of meaningless, irresponsible sexual encounters.

- Abortion represents the complete corruption of our society's political and legal system. The sole purpose of our government is to safeguard human life and to protect our inalienable, God-given rights. Not only is abortion a *heinous* violation of these principles, but it is perversely misrepresented as being a *right* in and of itself. The fact that so many politicians – particularly here in Connecticut – view their support for abortion as being a political *asset* demonstrates how much damage has been done.

- Abortion represents the *unspeakable* violation of the uniquely sacred relationship between a mother and her child. Think about any expectant mother, tenderly awaiting the birth of her baby. Think about today's Gospel reading – about the joy experienced by Saint Elizabeth and the Blessed Mother as they carried John and Jesus in their wombs. How could any woman in that position be convinced – or coerced – to murder her own unborn child? No explanation is conceivable, apart from the direct influence of Satan himself.

In a civilized society, it would be unacceptable *ever* to discuss the possibility of aborting an infant – *even* as a hypothetical option. The fact that this practice is *celebrated* by at least half of our population is an utter abomination. Fifty-three years ago today, Satan *ripped* out the heart of our nation, and has been *gnawing* on it ferociously ever since. The situation may appear hopeless – and, in a human sense, it definitely is. We need to remember, though, that there is *always* an opportunity for healing and rebirth – both for our country and for the people dwelling here – as long as we entrust ourselves *unreservedly* to the intercession of our Immaculate Mother, the patroness of our nation, and to the *undefeatable* love of our Risen Lord and Savior.