

January O3

" Change and More Change By Eugene A. Santoro December 16, 2011



I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and I wish you all a very happy New Year.

I was watching a Christmas season story on television one Monday morning in early December. The story was so traditional; it got me to thinking about the way things used to be. Thinking about tradition brought me to the changes in the Catholic Liturgy of the Mass. I am struggling with the changes; I notice others are also having a difficult time. Some priests are also having difficulties with the changes. I understand that parts of the Mass were left out.

I have told myself that I should not lose track of who I am glorifying at Mass. When I have to think about what I am supposed to say, I lose track of who I am saying it to.

I feel like I am being forced to read from a teleprompter instead of from my heart. I have decided that who I am praying to is more important than the changes in the prayers. I stay focused on God; I pray with the words I have been using most of my life. I am 77 years old, I can handle change, I just don't like being changed again.

We are in the season of Advent; it is the beginning of the New Year, it seems logical to start these changes at the beginning.

What bothers me is, I feel, that when we should be concentrating on the birth of Jesus, we are focusing on the liturgy changes. What is so wrong with "and also with you"? instead of "and with your Spirit." Do you feel that the lay person understands the word "consubstantial" more than "one in Being with the Father"? Why change the words "Lord I am not worthy to receive you but only say the word and I shall be healed" to "Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed." This is supposed to be an invitation to Communion; "Lord I am not worthy to receive You" vs. "I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof"? To me, there is a hint of removing the real presence of

Christ from the Eucharist. This is just my opinion. Stay focused on the birth of Jesus for Christmas and the Holy Family for as long as you live. Pray from your heart not from a teleprompter. God Bless us all everyone.

Welcoming the New Mass for Human Life

Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life With the start of Advent, Catholics begin using a new translation of the Mass. Along with this there are two brand new texts for a Mass "For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life." This is the result of a long process that actually started with Cardinal John O'Connor of New York over twenty years ago. The opening prayer for the first of these masses reads as follows:

God our Creator,

we give thanks to you, who alone have the power to impart the breath of life as you form each of us in our mother's womb; grant, we pray, that we, whom you have made stewards of creation, may remain faithful to this sacred trust and constant in safeguarding the dignity

of every human life.

Drawing images from Genesis 2:7 and Psalm139, the prayer affirms that only God can create. Parents cooperate with his creative power, but the conception of each new life is a direct choice and act of God. He alone owns human life -- not parents, nor doctors, nor government -and he alone can take it.

Our role, as the prayer indicates, is to carry out a "sacred trust" as "stewards." In "The Gospel of Life," Blessed John Paul II said it this way: "Yes, every man is his 'brother's keeper', because God entrusts us to one another" (EV, 19).Some think it's none of their business to defend the life of someone else's child. But God Himself makes it our business. The child scheduled to be killed today by abortion is our brother, our sister, our sacred trust.

We safeguard human life in a variety of ways, including speaking words of encouragement, teaching, assisting parents, and shaping public policy. This mass text is especially appropriate to use in pro-life gatherings of those who work in the legislative and political arena. The opening prayer for the second of these masses reads,

O God, who adorn creation with splendor and beauty and fashion human lives in your image and likeness, awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands, and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of human life.

Echoing the imagery of Psalm 104 and drawing from Genesis1:26, this prayer focuses on how human life itself reflects the image of the Creator, and therefore should evoke in our hearts a reverence and awe which should outweigh any fear in welcoming or defending human life.

This Mass is especially appropriate to use in gatherings of those who assist moms and dads in pregnancy centers, and who do spiritual and educational work in the pro-life movement. The reverence for the work of God's hands feeds the love which is expressed in that "readiness to nurture and sustain" human life. As Blessed Teresa of Calcutta said, "The mother who is thinking of abortion, should be helped to love, that is, to give until it hurts" (Prayer Breakfast, 1994). Let's use these new Mass texts often!

Planned Parenthood Closes Four Abortion Referral Clinics

Citing the economic downturn and a decrease in taxpayer funding, Planned Parenthood officials closed four abortion referral clinics in two states, giving pro-life advocates an early Christmas gift. The Planned Parenthood center at 137 S. Pugh St in State College, Pennsylvania, home to Penn State University, will close tomorrow after operating for more than a decade. A press release from Planned Parenthood of Northeast and Mid-Penn indicated it came about because of the economic climate.

The decision to close is a difficult one, and one that we regret having to make, said president and CEO Kim Custer. "The combination of reduced reimbursements for services and increased costs has made it impossible for Planned Parenthood to sustain the services in this location."

The center did not do abortions but referred students and oth-

ers in the city for them. One employee at the center took another Planned Parenthood position while a second left the abortion business to find employment elsewhere. Meanwhile, Kristen Glundberg-Prossor, spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest, says the Washington state-based abortion business will close its center in Silverdale because of less taxpayer funding from the federal government and the recession in the state. Planned Parenthood centers in Oak Harbor and Forks will close as well. Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest (PPGNW) will be closing its Forks health center located at 231 Lupine Avenue, effective December 31. Also, PPGNW will be downsizing operations in Sitka, Alaska. The Forks closure will impact 71 patients who will be referred to the Planned Parenthood health center in Port Angeles.



Obama Makes Ex-Planned Parenthood Board Member Appeals Judge Last week, the Senate confirmed the nomination of Alaska Supreme Court Justice Morgan Christen to become a member of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals one of the most left-wing federal appeals courts in the nation.

The confirmation has President Barack Obama adding yet another pro-abortion judge to the nation's judicial system. Although Christen had to wait months to be confirmed, she will now serve on a court that will decide pro-life legislation coming from Pacific Coast states usually declaring it unconstitutional.

In May, the White House announced Obama had named Justice Morgan Christen to the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. She has served as an Anchorage Superior Court Judge for seven years before pro-life former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin named her to the state Supreme Court having to choose between two pro-abortion candidate given to her by a judicial selection panel. When she submitted her application to become a state Supreme Court justice, Christen made no mention of the fact that she is a former board member of Planned Parenthood and served the pro-abortion group in the mid 1990s. Knowing that information, Jim Minnery, the director of the Alaska Family Council, a pro-life group, opposed her nomination because she would become another activist on the Court."

Top Five Most Influential Pro-Life Celebrities of 2011

by Jennie Stone | Washington, DC | LifeNews.com | 12/19/11 2:50 PM

These celebrities have greatly impacted the pro-life movement, especially in 2011.

5—Ray Comfort

Living Waters released Ray Comfort's <u>180 Movie</u> in September. In this award-winning documentary, Comfort interviews people on the streets about their knowledge of the Holocaust and compares it to the modern-day holocaust that is legalized abortion. The majority of the interviewees admit to having their views swayed to favor life after the short, pithy interviews. The 180 Movie in which Comfort stars is quickly approaching <u>2,000,000 views on YouTube</u> and thousands of DVDs have been distributed on college campuses around the nation. It has been <u>endorsed</u> by pro-life heroes such as Abby Johnson, Jill Stanek, Randy Alcorn, and Dr. Alveda King. Ray Comfort's 180 Movie has caused one of the most impressive waves in the pro-life movement in 2011. **4—Kathy Ireland**



This year, we have seen over \$60,000,000 stripped from the largest abortion provider that thrives off the onslaught of over 332,000 unborn children annually—Planned Parenthood. <u>Kathy Ireland</u>, a former supermodel and now outspoken prolife activist, voiced her support for the defunding of this deplorable organization. "To force people who don't agree with some of the practices, I don't believe in that. I don't think taxpayers need to fund something as controversial as [Planned Parenthood]," she said during an interview on Fox News in May. Although she was once in favor

of abortion rights, her view changed after she did some research. "I spoke to top scientists throughout our country asking, 'Would you please just show me some shred of evidence that the unborn is not a human being?' and no one has been able to show me any," she stated. She proclaimed that she will "continue to fight for those human rights" of the unborn.

3—Eduardo Verástegui



This July, the star of the pro-life movie Bella founded a nonprofit pro-life organization in Los Angeles, California. The Mantle of Guadalupe strives to "defend life from conception to natural death" and "serve the poor in our local communities and around the world" and it works alongside pro-life pregnancy resource centers and clinics in the area, and has been dedicated to St. Gianna, whose daughter attended the grand opening of the pro-life center. Verástegui held a benefit called Unidos por la Vida ('United for Life') for the center after its opening, where Live Action president Lila Rose was a guest speaker. 2—Justin Bieber



February, the then 16-year-old pop star <u>Justin Bieber indicated</u> that he was pro-life when a Rolling Stone interviewer questioned him about his stance on

abortion. His simple, short response, "I really don't believe in abortion. It's like killing a baby," drew the attention of pro-life and pro-abortion rights groups alike, because both sides know this teen celebrity's fan base consists mostly of young teenage girls. Labeled the "anti-choice Bieber Fever," pro-abortion rights blog Feministing stated that Justin Bieber's statement will make young women "feel ashamed for choosing to terminate their pregnancies" and pondered if he would become the new "anti-choice poster boy" of the year, simply for stating the fact that abortion does, indeed, kill a baby.

Renowed pro-life activists applauded Bieber for speaking the truth. "We encourage all of his fans to spread the pro-life Bieber Fever," said Lila Rose.

"Justin, I give you mad props for being willing to voice your opinion and speak the truth. Don't back down," said <u>Bryan</u> <u>Kemper</u> of <u>Stand True</u>. "LifeNews.com thanks Justin for his willingness to publicly proclaim that abortion destroys lives...he should be applauded," Steven Ertelt of <u>LifeNews</u> stated. I may not care much for his music, but for his bravery in speaking the truth with the simplest statement which subsequently caused commotion on both sides, Justin Bieber is absolutely deserving of being on the Top Five list.

1—Tim Tebow



The Heisman Trophy Winner and now starting quarterback of the Denver Broncos is probably my favorite pro-life celebrity of all time. A successful, moral, good-looking professional football player that shines as a positive influence to our nation, Tim Tebow became a pro-life icon last year with his and his mother's Super Bowl XLIV commercial that very briefly depicted hardships she endured during her pregnancy with Tebow and pressure she faced to abort him.Proabortion rights advocates are well aware of Tebow's pro-life story and convictions. That's

why the "Abortion Gang" blog has called on pro-abortion rights counterparts: "For every touchdown Tebow throws next week (when the Broncos play against another famous QB, Tom Brady), donate \$5 or \$10 to your local pro-choice organization." This tells us two things: 1) pro-abortion rights groups are starting to realize they are lacking community support and they're hurting financially, and 2) Tebow is incredibly influential and they are scared of that. say we turn this around for the benefit of life-affirming organizations: for every touchdown pass Tebow makes on December 18th, every pro-lifer watching the game donates just a few dollars to their local pregnancy resource center. If successful, Tebow could be an ancillary in raising end-of-the-year funds for these centers that offer free financial, material, and emotional support to women facing unintended pregnancies, and this is why I deem him the number one most influential pro-life celeb of 2011. LifeNews.com Note: Jennie Stone writes for the Live Action blog and this column is reprinted with permission.

MAYBE GOD HAS NO FAVOR-ITE TEAM HE ROOTS FOR; BUT DID YOU NOTICE TEBOW THREW FOR ZERO TOUCH-DOWNS . E.A.Santoro

Choices

1 - First Important Lesson -Cleaning Lady. During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions until I read The last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?" Surely this was some kind of

joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50's, but how would I know her name?

I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade.

"Absolutely, " said the professor.. "In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant.. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do Is smile and say "hello." I've never forgotten that lesson.. I also learned her name was Dorothy.

2. - Second Important Lesson -Pickup in the Rain One night, at 11:30 p.m., an older African American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rain storm.. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped to help her, generally unheard of in those conflict-filled 1960's. The man took her to safety. helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab. She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his address and thanked him. Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console color TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached. It read: "Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Then you came along.

Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's' bedside just before he passed away... God Bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving Others." Sincerely, Mrs. Nat King Cole.

3 - Third Important Lesson -Always remember those who serve.

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10year-old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him.

"How much is an ice cream sundae?" he asked.

"Fifty cents," replied the waitress. The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it. "Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?" he inquired. By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient..

"Thirty-five cents," she brusquely replied. The little boy again counted his coins. "I'll have the plain ice cream," he said. The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on The table and walked away The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left.. When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies.. You see, he couldn't have the sundae, because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.

4 - Fourth Important Lesson.. -The obstacle in Our Path. In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the King's' wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it.. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way. Then a peasant came along carrying a load of Vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the

peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand! Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

5 - Fifth Important Lesson -**Giving When it Counts...** Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare & serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes I'll do it if it will save her." As

the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheek. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away"? Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.

Most importantly.... Live with no regrets, Treat people the way you want to be treated, Work like you don't need the money, Love like you've never been hurt, and Dance like you do when nobody's watching.

Legislator: Kermit Gosnell Killed My Cousin in Failed Abortion

Last week, when the Pennsylvania state legislature approved a bill that would hold abortion facilities accountable for following basic health and safety standards, a state legislator gave an impassioned plea as to why she supported the bill. State Rep. Margo L. Davidson, an African-American first term Democratic legislator from Upper Darby explained why she strongly supported the legislation to better monitor abortion centers like the one Kermit Gosnell ran in Philadelphia, even though some Democrats and pro-abortion groups opposed it.

According to the Philadelphia Inquirer, Davidson said her 22year-old cousin was one of the women Gosnell killed in a failed abortion."

Semika Shaw was "just coming into her own as a young woman, Davidson said, when she died in 2002 from an infection caused by a botched abortion in Gosnell's West Philadelphia clinic.

I honor her memory by voting for this bill, Davidson told her colleagues Wednesday after the controversial measure was approved. "So women will no longer walk into a licensed health-care facility and be butchered as she was."

Is your pro-life group or pregnancy center looking for an affordable speaker? Need a speaker for a conference, convention, church presentation or on short notice? Consider LifeNews.com Editor Steven Ertelt. Email us for details.