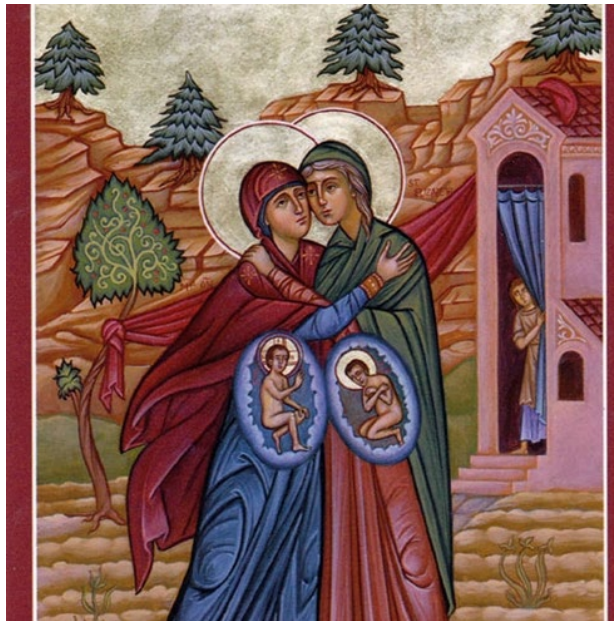


# THE BIBLE, CHURCH TEACHING, AND SCIENCE: ON ABORTION

## SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE:

Science has proven that life and personhood begin at conception. As stated in the Knights of Columbus publication, "Columbia" (January 2019 issue): "Every human being has a unique DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid). **At intercourse, with the fertilization of an egg, a copy of the father's DNA combines with a copy of the mother's DNA to instantaneously produce a new person with his or her unique DNA, never to be modified. This is the moment of "conception", the beginning of life in a new human being, complete with everything needed to develop and grow until he or she is ready to leave the womb.**"



*"The babe leaped in her womb" – Luke 1:41*

**The New Testament** documents that the good doctor Saint Luke knew that a pregnant woman is carrying a person in her womb from the very beginning of her pregnancy. In his account of Mary's visit to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-44) just a few days after Jesus was conceived, Saint Luke records Elizabeth's acknowledgment that baby Jesus, our Lord, was present in Mary's womb, calling Mary, "the mother of my Lord". Next, Elizabeth tells Mary, "The babe in my womb leaped for joy", proof that John was a person (not a "blob of cells") and that John sensed, rejoicing, that he was in the presence of the Second Person of God, Jesus, in Mary's womb.

**The Old Testament** states, "you do not know how the spirit comes to the bones of a woman with child" (Ecclesiastes 11:5). The phrase, "Woman with child", speaks for itself. David sings that God "knit me together in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13).

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHING:

**The Catechism of the Catholic Church ("CCC")** (available at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)) states:

- I. "Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of its existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person, among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life." (CCC No. 2270)
- II. "Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law." (CCC No. 2271)

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**The Catechism of the Catholic Church ("CCC")** contains warnings for Catholic legislators who are publicly pro-abortion, which constitutes "scandal" as defined in the CCC. CCC No. 2284 states that scandal is "*an attitude or behavior which leads another to do evil*" and is "*a grave offense when by deed or omission it deliberately leads others to sin*". As quoted above, the CCC identifies abortion as "moral evil", thus the support of abortion by Catholic government leaders is scandal, leading others to sin. Scandal is addressed in CCC No.'s 2284 to 2287. For related information, refer to CCC No.'s 2270 to 2275, No. 2319, and No.'s 2322 to 2324.

**The documents of the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops** ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)) state the following:<sup>1</sup>

- ❖ "Inviolable human dignity is present in each person from the moment of their conception."
- ❖ "Human abortion is the direct and intentional killing of a child in the womb."
- ❖ "Abortion is an intrinsic evil, meaning that it is never permitted or morally justified."
- ❖ "Many political leaders work actively to increase access to abortion. Some falsely describe it as health care and even as a basic human right. People of good will must boldly stand up against this intrinsic evil."

**Pope Francis** has stated: "*Abortion is murder*"; "*There is a human life there and it is not licit to eliminate a human life to resolve a problem*"; and "*Every child who is condemned unjustly to being aborted bears the face of Jesus Christ*."

## **ACTIONS CATHOLICS ARE OBLIGATED TO TAKE TO COMPLY WITH CHURCH TEACHING:**

We have a moral obligation to learn candidates' positions and records regarding abortion. "*Knowingly voting for someone who is pro-abortion*" is identified as a mortal sin in the reconciliation guide, "Examination of Conscience"<sup>2</sup>, however, if there are two candidates and one, for example, promotes abortions at any time up until birth while the other is against any abortions after 6 weeks from conception, **voting for the latter is a means of lessening evil**, saving many babies from a horribly painful death, and providing hope for future improvements in laws to protect the unborn. Catholic exorcist Father Chad Ripperger, states, "***your obligation is to vote for the lesser of two evils... to preserve the good that would be lost if the other candidate got elected***". (Witness Father Ripperger making this statement in this video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxiOY\\_VOAVI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxiOY_VOAVI) )

**Neglecting to vote is not an option:** The Catechism of the Catholic Church states (No. 2240) that it is "***morally obligatory to pay taxes, exercise the right to vote, and to defend one's country***".



*"As you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me."* – Matthew 25:45

**HAVE YOU HAD AN ABORTION?** Our loving and merciful God forgives mothers (and fathers) whose babies were aborted when they later learn the facts outlined above and repent. There are wonderful ministries helping these mothers, such as [www.RachelsVineyard.org](http://www.RachelsVineyard.org), with healing retreats held at 375 locations. Here is one woman's testimony about her Rachel's Vineyard retreat: "*This retreat was completely filled with God's love. It's a place where I was understood and there was no judgment. I've never felt so loved and accepted as I did on this retreat. It's a place where healing occurs, where God moves, and freedom happens.*" Also, ask your pastor or Diocese office about local Roman Catholic counsellors who offer such help.

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<sup>1</sup> "Priorities at the Polls", "Dignity of the Human Person" and "Respect for Unborn Human Life" on [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

<sup>2</sup> Author: Father Robert J. Altier, with the Imprimatur of Harry J. Flynn, D.D., Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis  
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