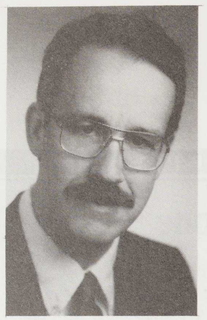
Just play it forward



by Joseph Foreman

If you are pro-life you may as well be Catholic. You do so much penance and reparation as a regular part of your job that you may as well get credit for it.

No, I'm not talking about jail time and police brutality; that is nothing compared to fellow Christians who force you to listen to their pet ideas about what the "true root" of abortion really is, and how until that "true root cause" of abortion is addressed, rescue or picketing or political action or Crisis Pregnancy Centers are just dealing with symptoms.

I've been wanting to get this off my chest because I have spent months — if you add all the lectures together — patiently listening to these roots. And I had to listen. Really, it is a delicate business to get people to discuss the "A" issue at all. But the straw that broke my camel's back was a statement I read in a recent *Life Advocate*.

I knew as soon as the author said, "The root cause of abortion is spiritual rebellion against the Creator," that he would conclude, "...strategy willed by humans alone cannot succeed," and go on to say, "...tactics without the Holy Spirit will fail," and that he would finally conclude by questioning such protests and rescues by saying, "Those who really know the Author of Life should clothe themselves in prayer," instead.

Isn't that convenient? People, real people, are murdered minutes from where this "root cause" prayer advisor lives, and all he would generally do is assume that those who try to stop it have never consulted God in the matter — surely if they had, they would not try to stop it.

The American Church is cursed with brilliant analysts like those who want to prove rock music is satanic by playing it backwards and searching for satan's secret messages. Just play it forward, it's even more satanic that way. In this same obscure spirit that so cripples other Christians in the peanut gallery, we hear, "The root cause of abortion is spiritual rebellion..."

Wait! Stop! Just play it forward! It's a lot easier to see the demonic that way. Played forward so the clear meaning of abortion is made plain the quote runs, "The root cause of tearing the arms and legs off of a helpless child at a publicly announced time and place that is easily accessible to approximately 10,000 to 50,000 Christians is spiritual rebellion." Indeed, this is so true it is beyond dispute, so true it makes us wonder who the spiritual rebels are, the abortionist-killer or the Christians who out number him 30,000 to one, yet do not stand against him.

But actually, the statement was only the straw, as I said. Over the years I've listened to more "root-causes" of abortion — murder of children — than I can remember. Spiritual rebellion is only one. Lack of church discipline is another. Going to hell is another, as is the acceptance of evolution, the breakdown of the family, the sexual revolution, sex education, and birth control.

Do not think that I disagree with the writer in spite of my scathing comments on his backward masked reasoning. I not only agree with the relationship of these roots to abortion, I agree that there is not enough spiritual warfare. So, why is my camel lying there with a broken back? (Remember, I said the statement was the straw that broke it.) Because for most people, when they discover the relationship between one of these "roots" and abortion — surprise! They discover there is nothing they can do about that root.

How does a normal person actually do something about society's acceptance of evolution for instance? Or sex-ed in schools? Or the breakdown of families all around? The average person can't. And what a wonderful discovery for the spiritual Einsteins in the Church: since there is nothing you can do about these mega-roots — they are usually too vague, or have no concrete appearance in society — you can go back to life as usual, satisfied that there is nothing you can do of lasting value.

As the author of the statement so aptly summed up the matter for all of the root-causes: "Unless this spiritual root cause of abortion [and you could as appropriately say, evolutionary, birth-control, sex-ed., church discipline, familial breakdown] is confronted...nothing lasting will be accomplished."

Those who think this way can take comfort; they have many companions who think like this, differing only on which root is the true reason that they do not need to stop a murder down the street. "Nothing you can do is of lasting benefit," is the key refrain.

THE AMERICAN CHURCH IS CURSED WITH BRILLIANT ANALYSTS LIKE THOSE WHO WANT TO PROVE ROCK MUSIC IS SATANIC BY PLAYING IT BACKWARDS AND SEARCHING FOR SATAN'S SECRET MESSAGES. JUST PLAY IT FORWARD, IT'S EVEN MORE SATANIC THAT WAY.

But, I think not! If you save even one person from murder, you have changed history forever. Is that lasting enough? People have completely turned around the issues at stake. So, far from needing to address these root causes first (apart from child murder) could it be that the murder of an innocent child is so vile that to address it by physically preventing it addresses in one simple assault the entire network of roots? In other words, I do not have to be an expert researcher, author, prayer warrior, etc., to attack all these root-causes of abortion (and many other evils in this world). All I need to be is a simple Christian who loves my neighbor as himself and I address every root evil by saving even one child's life.

This is because each life saved proves to the world that every root-cause of that attempted murder is a lie. And the converse is equally true: each child we permit to be murdered strengthens the blood-bond of our community to these roots of death until it is no longer just abortion that is the result of these roots, but the very shape of our society, nation, families, churches, and personal lives.

To let them kill with impunity is to affirm and cement these very roots into our hearts. Each time we save a child's life, we attack at the root, broken families, the appalling state of Church discipline and the lies of evolution, birth control, and sex education.

So, do your penance. Listen carefully and faithfully as the spiritual people tell you how futile and worthless it is to save a life. These people would rather debate issues than take action to save a life. So ask them, "If a baby's life is this worthless and insignificant to you, who cares about 'root causes.'"■

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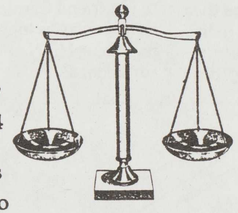
THE PROBLEM...

"None call for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth." -Isa. 59:4



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