

## Life Matters - Part 2

...Continued from Part 1

Last month, we introduced where abortion fits in as a matter of Catholic social justice. We left off after listing three of the six characteristics that illustrate the uniqueness of abortion as a matter of social justice. We pick up where we left off with the other three:



4. Abortion creates an arbitrary division of human beings into those worthy of life and those unworthy. Abortion is not random killing, but instead defines an entire class of human beings (the unborn) as non-persons and excludes them from the basic rights and protections accorded to other human beings.

5. Abortion is different from related questions of medical ethics, such as euthanasia and assisted suicide, by the absence of any possibility of informed consent. Unborn children have no way of speaking for themselves.

6. Finally, abortion differs from other major social ills because it is relatively invisible, taking place behind closed doors and ignored in public. As in the case of slavery, ending the social injustice of abortion relies on the courage and willingness of persons and institutions not directly involved in abortion to speak out.

Just as a mother or father dedicates a disproportionate amount of time and energy to a child who is sick, without loving their other children any less, Christians are called to focus their efforts preferentially toward the most needy and defenseless among us.

**Applying this principle to contemporary society, the social injustice that most cries out to Christian conscience is the deliberate and massive attack on the most vulnerable members of society, the unborn.**

In its venerable tradition of standing up for society's most defenseless, the Catholic Church is uniquely qualified to speak out authoritatively on the abortion issue. This, as Saint John Paul II so clearly taught, is the number one priority for Catholic social justice, which must be expressed not only as social thought, but as social action.

(Summarized from "Abortion and Catholic Social Teaching" which can be found online here:

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/abortion/upload/Abortion-and-Catholic-Social-Teaching.pdf>)

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