

A well formed conscience in the Truth of the Catholic Church's Teachings is necessary to guide us in our decision making.

**Facts are important!      What are the Facts?**

**Too many times people are acting out on their emotions and feelings without knowing all the facts!**

**Mercy** - The Latin word for mercy, is *miser cordia*, is derived from the two words *miserere* (pity or misery) and *cor* (heart). In seeking to ask God for mercy, we are essentially asking God to relieve us of a heart that is in misery. Think of mercy as "**relieving someone from a heart of misery**". Archbishop Fulton Sheen stated that, "The principle is, that *mercy is the perfection of justice*. Mercy does not come first, and then justice; but rather justice first, then mercy.

The Church is all about healing and helping those who may be suffering or who have a heart of misery.

Sometimes the truth is hard to hear or accept. That doesn't change the reality of the truth.

**The Hard Truth, not soothing lies!** Just because there might be a topic that can be sensitive to certain people, doesn't mean that it should not be talked about or discussed. In no way is it meant to offend anyone, but rather to discuss the nature of the reality, the truth! This also doesn't make an issue "political", and therefore, that it should not be discussed.

Sometimes people might think that bishops and priests should not talk about things that they consider to be "political". A topic or issue in and of itself is not political, but rather, some people may choose to make it political. Some people again may say that bishops and priests should not talk about politics from the pulpit. Well, the day that politicians stop talking about moral issues can be the day we stay out of politics. However, my faith should not exclude me from being able to have a discussion on any topic. My faith is meant to guide me, to have a well informed conscience, so that, I can make decisions that do not contradict my faith. Otherwise, I would be a hypocrite in saying that I believe one thing but my actions are the opposite of what I say I believe.

**Fact:** Abortion is NOT a choice, it is MURDER! (CCC)

**Mercy:** The bishop has granted to each priest of the diocese, in the first case instance, that the priest can, through the Sacrament of Confession, absolve the sin of abortion which is normally reserved to the bishop of the diocese. The Church, bishops, and priests want to relieve the suffering heart of one who has had an abortion.

**Fetal Microchimerism**

**Vaccines:** Many of the procedures to create a vaccine use aborted babies in there development process. **Fact:** Using aborted babies to develop a vaccine is immoral.

**Politics:** Knowing the facts of where a candidate stands on certain issues is important!

“Finally, we need to ensure that women have access to all health services during this crisis,” he said, adding that “abortion is an essential health care service.” April 29, 2020

Bishop Thomas John Paprocki, of the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois.

- **With specific reference to abortion laws and voting, Pope St. John Paul II wrote, “In the case of an intrinsically unjust law, such as a law permitting abortion or euthanasia, it is therefore never licit to obey it, or to take part in a propaganda campaign in favor of such a law, or vote for it.”**
- Pope Francis has called abortion a “very grave sin” and a “horrendous crime.”
- **To say that an issue is “preeminent” does not mean that it is the only issue, but that it surpasses all others in importance.** It is preeminent in that **it is the basic human right on which all other rights depend.** After all, if a baby is killed before birth, that person will never be able to exercise any other human rights.
- **“The threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed.”**
- **We are a nation founded on ‘life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,’ but the right to life itself is not fully protected, especially for unborn children, the terminally ill, and the elderly, the most vulnerable members of the American family.”**