

Problem with pro-choice movement is that it always leads down a path of destruction – Ms. Loonan is at forefront

Dear Editor,
As a Catholic, I am grateful to Rep. Dave Schultheis for pointing out the logical inconsistencies in Ms. Peggy Loonan's heated attack on the Church's teachings on the sanctity of human life in light of the recent scandals involving sexual abuse by priests and the failure to take appropriate action by some bishops.

I would like to point out that the same column that appeared under Loonan's name in *The Colorado Statesman* on June 28 appeared with slight alterations in the *Greeley Tribune* on July 23 under the byline of "Julie Maslowski," also of the group "Life and Liberty for Women." (copy attached.)

I thought it was interesting that Rep. Schultheis's column defending the Church appeared above a column by James Mauck, president of Catholic Charities. It is not just Catholics, but friends of the Church like Rep. Schultheis who respect the Church's tireless work for human dignity in American public life.

Since *The Statesman* is the

newspaper of record for public policy in Colorado, I think it would be helpful to clear the air about the differences

between the pro-life and pro-choice positions. I have a degree in philosophy and for many years served as editor of the *Denver Catholic Register*, so I have a pretty fair grasp on this issue.

Pro-choice people see themselves as defending the freedom of the individual. While it has ancient roots, this movement essentially began just over 100 years ago with the fascinating philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche.

Nietzsche famously declared that "God is Dead" and said that anyone who thinks that there is an "Old Man" sitting on a throne somewhere who cares about our actions is deluding themselves. He said that the "truly modern person" will cast off traditional values and move beyond all concepts of "good and evil."



Like Marx, Nietzsche saw religion as a system used to control people. He urged people to use their

"will to power" to overcome those who would use traditional values to control them. Every individual, therefore, needed to be "free to choose" good and evil for themselves. Those who advocate for traditional values are seeking to oppress others and should be resisted or destroyed.

In many ways, the pro-choice movement makes a lot of sense. It is wrong to impose values by "converting people at the point of the sword," and Christians also believe in the primacy of the freedom of the conscience.

Why then the disagreement?

Christians believe that we are not "free to choose" to do things that are wrong or immoral. While this is seen as a sign of weakness in our culture, remember that Nietzsche held in utter contempt those who declared themselves "free to choose" good and evil outside God, but still wanted to live in a world where moral values existed.

If I truly believed that God did not exist and our actions on earth had no consequences, then I can assure you that I would lie, cheat, steal, manipulate and even kill to make sure that I had the best time possible during this short, meaningless, life.

But I do believe in God, and as a result do my best to be honest, fair and generous. I am intrigued by other people and other cultures, because I see within them a divine light.

But those who have seen the videos the murderers at Columbine High School created to describe their plans know the contempt they felt for the false values held by our society. Even in its weakened state, our society describes their actions as being evil, but Nietzsche would have called them "supermen."

The problem with the pro-choice movement is that it always leads down a path of destruction. One out of every ten people who should be alive today is dead because of abortion, and for those born after 1973, the percentage is even higher.

The pro-choice movement wraps itself in the guise of "separation of church and state," but even my nine-year-old now knows that that term does not appear in the Constitution.

In fact, the whole basis of our government is that our rights come not from monarchs or dictators, but from God (We are endowed by our Creator, etc.).

Now that the folly and destruction of the pro-choice movement are painfully obvious, I look forward to a restoration of the sanctity of life during the next legislative session.

Peter Droege
Via e-mail