

Church lacks authority to condemn abortion

To the editor:

Joyce Atayde's July 1 letter says, "The problems in the Catholic Church and the argument for abortion haven't anything to do with each other." But, Life and Liberty for Women's executive director, Peggy Loonan, wasn't making an argument for legal abortion in her June 27 letter; she was challenging the Catholic Church's moral authority to speak and act against legal abortion.

Moral authority is based on the principle of right conduct and involves the right to speak and take action on a moral issue precisely because one is right in conduct, principles and standards. Priests preach the sacredness of all human life from church doctrine, denouncing abortion and birth control while sexually abusing born children. Church hierarchy becomes co-conspirators enabling molesting priests while saying no to a zero-tolerance doctrine against the sexual molestation of born children. It's hypocritical for Catholic leadership and Catholic doctrine to preach the sacredness of all human life, while both enable the sexual abuse of born children. It should be obvious that such behavior negates the Catholic Church's moral authority to ever again speak against legal abortion.

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Atayde didn't condemn the sexual abuse by Catholic priests nor the church's hypocrisy, and Erika Bruning characterized, in her July 11 letter, abusing priests as having simply made a mistake and the hierarchy as merely mishandling the priest's criminal behavior. Bruning also said sinners ask for forgiveness then don't repeat the wrong they committed, but Loonan quoted the Dallas Morning News that said two-thirds of bishops in charge of a diocese have allowed sexually abusing priests to continue working, and Boston's Cardinal Bernard Law knew for 17 years that Father Geoghan was abusing children, and now he may face criminal charges. Where's the outrage? Unborn human life in the womb is sacred, but once born, their life isn't any longer sacred.

This hypocrisy is also part of the broader Christian "pro-life" community, as Bruning reveals, saying that while sexual abuse is evil, abortion is a greater evil.

Bruning is wrong. There's nothing unconscionable, ludicrous or even hypocritical about opposing the sexual molestation of born children and supporting safe legal abortion, because pre-viable human life has absolutely no right to life over a born woman. God agrees, and Bruning has never proven otherwise. In fact, Bruning has never challenged Life and Liberty for Women's previous evidence presented in this forum, proving legal abortion isn't "in contempt of God's law." (That evidence can be found at www.lifeandlibertyforwomen.org, They Said ... We Say ... Loveland Reporter-Herald.)

Julie Maslowski,
board member

We Say ... Loveland Reporter-Herald.)

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