

## Abortion law clarifies moral authority

To the editor:

Barbara Martin and John Abegg's recent letters reflected no understanding of moral authority or a concern for the pervasiveness of sexual abuse of children within the Catholic Church. For Abegg's edification, the book "Betrayal" said the names of 90 abusing priests were turned over to Mas-

sachusetts's law enforcement by the Boston archdiocese alone. That's one city, one state. And two-thirds of bishops in charge of a diocese conspired with priests. Had Abegg done his homework, he wouldn't have used words like several molesting priests or one person breaking the law.

Moral authority involves the right to speak and take action on a moral issue because one's right in conduct and principles. Martin's attempt to divorce moral authority from church teaching is disingenuous. Moral authority by definition is intertwined with church teaching. Because priests and hierarchy preach one thing then do another regarding church teaching on the sacredness of all human life, they aren't right in conduct.

This isn't about who's ignoring them when they speak; it's about the Catholic Church's moral right to a place at the table in the debate about legal abortion, a place they've now forfeited.

As long as Roe's the law, women will never be forced by the state to have an abortion. However, if an injunction hadn't been lifted, issued recently in violation of Roe by a Pennsylvania judge on behalf of a boyfriend trying to force his girlfriend to carry to term, the stage would've been set for what Abegg fears. Either a woman has total autonomy over her reproductive decisions or she doesn't. If she can be forced to carry to term by law, she can be forced to have an abortion.

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Paul Boyne, Aug. 2, deliberately misleads readers passing off his personal beliefs as an accurate rendering of the law. The law says abortion isn't wrong, murder or a criminal act. Abortion isn't horrible or immoral under Roe either. Considering Boyne's personal beliefs about abortion we'd expect him to remain abstinent or correctly use a condom every time he has sexual intercourse in which fatherhood isn't his goal, even inside marriage.

Perhaps parental guidance could help this young man understand that rape is strictly an act of violence, involving power and control issues, not the availability of sex without babies.

Finally, Life and Liberty for Women is about life and liberty for all. Women shouldn't have a right to life over unborn human life conception to birth no exceptions, God's way. Nor should unborn human life have a right to life over born women conception to birth no exceptions, the way of anti-abortion extremists. While God discriminates against children and anti-abortion extremists discriminate against women; Roe recognizes and respects both.

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