

St. Anthony of Padua R.C. Church

160 Court Street, Buffalo, New York

TRADITIONALLY SPEAKING by S. Casarotto 3/1/09

MORALITY and PUBLIC LIFE

There is the misconception that abortion, divorce and social justice are only moral issues open to personal interpretation and subject to a democratic choice. Many people (including several Catholic politicians) say: "I am personally against abortion, but I can not impose my opinion on others." The fallacy of this argument is based on the belief that any opinion is as valid and respectable as any other. Moral relativism is particularly appealing when democracy is based only on numbers. We should not forget that Hitler was democratically elected and the economic collapse we are suffering was caused by people who were empowered by greedy investors and supported by legislators democratically elected who claimed that "business regulates itself."

Recently, the media voiced the anger of many people in the case of octuplets born to a single and unemployed mother. The pro-abortion forces jumped on the band wagon, conveniently ignoring their own principle of "freedom of choice." However, little attention has been given to the real issue of the morality of "in-vitro" fertilization. In fact, once man becomes the ultimate arbiter in the creation and disposal of human life, there is no logical boundary to anything.

There is also the mistaken notion that the 10 Commandments (natural law) is only for Christians and they have nothing to do with the good of society and of the individual. The fact is that, when we take away the 10 Commandments, we return to the law of the jungle where "*homo homini lupus (est)*," man becomes a wolf to man. The natural law is written in the heart of every man and is reflected in a sincere human conscience, irrespective of religious or political affiliation. Ultimately, without this foundation any human law becomes arbitrary and subject to the "*tyranny of the majority*" (John Paul II).

YOUNG PEOPLE

"Last night a diocesan priest (who is also a musician/composer/singer) gave a talk to parents and young people of our parish. His subject was the media and how we allow ourselves to be hypnotized by it. The church was crowded with over 600 people, also from nearby villages, squatting in the sanctuary, the sacristy and down the isles. I was sitting on a kneeler with some teenagers. There were also people standing outside, even though the temperature was about 25F. The priest did not sing one note! He kept the audience spellbound for one and half hours, drawing several rounds of applause. It seems that there are charismatic people today who can effectively preach the Word." (*e-mail from my sister, a Salesian nun, working with the youth of the parish of Due Carrare, Padua, Italy*)