

Saint Anthony of Padua Parish

With the Eucharist at the centre, we are a community desiring to be saints, sent out to love like Jesus and proclaim Him in every circumstance.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

FEBRUARY 2, 2020

Why Euthanasia is Wrong

The 2016 film *Arrival* asks the question if we would accept life knowing that it will involve suffering. The great Canadian psychologist Jordan Peterson asks why women would bring children into the world knowing they're going to suffer. Other questions of life include: "Why do you have so many children when you're short on money?" "Why not choose a dignified death, euthanasia, rather than let someone suffer?"

These kinds of questions could be posed to our mother Mary, who in the Gospel hears that she and her son will suffer. On the fortieth day after Jesus' birth, she and St. Joseph take Jesus to Jerusalem, to the Temple, so that the first-born son would be offered to God and she ritually purified. After an elderly man, Simeon, takes Jesus into arms and praises God for being able to see the Messiah before he dies, he prophesies sober words: "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too" (Lk 2:34-35). [...]

Simeon also says that 'a sword will pierce your own soul too,' referring to the fact that Mary will watch her Son suffocate and bleed to death for three hours. So, why would Mary accept this? Why not try to get out of it? When doctors ask us, "Do you want to carry this pregnancy to term?" because our children will be autistic, disabled, or even die soon; or when they ask, "Have you thought about all your options?" when our parents are suffering but not dying, they don't see the point in someone living who's suffering. And the answer is: **Because life, even when there's pain, is better than no life at all. It's still precious, still a gift.**

Why? Because the human person is made for love, and love can actually grow stronger in relationships when we're suffering. [...] We grow in love when it's hard to love. We grow in patience when it's hard to be patient. When our children or our parents are suffering, our love for them grows! When there's pain in life, life is still precious, a gift, because we love each other more than ever. People who don't love give up: They don't try to save a life, don't visit their parents, and don't suffer with their loved ones. You know what happens when someone we love is suffering? It breaks our hearts. But that's not actually what's happening. Our hearts are expanding. [...]

"Are you going to leave me?" is the question that every person asks. It's the question beneath the choice of abortion or euthanasia. It's asking: Do you still love me? Is my life still precious? Will you suffer with me? God has never left us, even when we, humanity, were suffering, but entered into our suffering. Jesus could have avoided His Cross, but St. John's Gospel says, "Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end" (13:1). Mary also never left her son but suffered with Him. When we feel like our hearts are breaking, they're actually expanding in love.



Simeon the Righteous by Yegorov

Now here are three reasons why euthanasia and assisted suicide are morally wrong. Thanks to Stephanie Gray for her impeccable reasoning here.

1) It goes against the natural human intuition to save life. Whenever there's a virus that kills people or a natural disaster, all humans rush to help and preserve life, even at their own risk. How do we react when someone tells us that they're pregnant? Joy, because life is good! How do we react when someone says they have terminal cancer? Sadness, because even though death is natural, it's not something we run to.

2) What are the standards of a civil society? Think of the opposite, a barbaric society: Nazi Germany, genocide in Rwanda, ISIS—what's the common thread among them? They kill people, treating people like objects that are disposable, instead of as persons that are irreplaceable and unrepeatable. In barbaric societies, there is no inherent, inalienable right to life; it's conditional: Some lives are protected because they're from a certain race, look a certain way, belong to the right religion, or can perform at a certain level. But a civil society holds to the truth that everyone has an inalienable right to life. If you belong to the human family, you have this right. Euthanasia and assisted suicide go against this inherent right to life.

Objection: What happens when persons want to die? Response: Just because someone wants something doesn't make it right. For example, what if someone has BIID, Body Integrity Identity Disorder, a condition where people with healthy limbs desire to amputate their limbs? If a doctor amputated these people's limbs

...continued inside

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 School Email: office@stanthonypaduaschool.ca

Parish Registration

Our parish family warmly welcomes new parishioners.
 Please register by filling out a registration form located in the
 vestibule or the Parish Office. If you are registered and moving,
 please advise the parish office.

Sunday Masses

Saturday 5:00 pm
 Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm

Weekdays	Masses	Confessions
Monday	8:15 am	8:00 to 8:10 am
Tuesday	7:30 pm	
Wednesday & Thursday	8:15 am	8:00 to 8:10 am
Friday (school months)	8:00 am	7:45 to 7:55 am
Saturday	9:00 am	9:45 am

Confession

Saturday afternoon 3:45 pm to 4:45 pm
 1st Saturday each month 9:45 am to 1:00 pm;
 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm;
 7:00 pm to 9:45 pm

Eucharistic Adoration enter at 1365 West 73rd Avenue
 Daily: 6:00 am to Midnight

First Friday of each month: 8:45 am to 10:00 am in the church
 followed by **Benediction**.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) Please call the parish office for more information on RCIA classes and other Sacraments.

Weekday Masses & Intentions

Monday, February 3	Ferial	Gaspare Leone †
Tuesday, February 4	Ferial	Remembrance Tree
Wednesday, February 5	<i>Memorial</i> St. Agatha	Ronualda & Remedios Saclayan †
Thursday, February 6	<i>Memorial</i> St. Paul Miki & Companions	Doris Joseph
Friday, February 7	Ferial	Robert Voreis †
Saturday, February 8	Ferial	People who suffer from anxiety & depression

Prayers for the Sick At Holy Mass we remember the sick including:
 Nita Carvajal, Nung Chum, Isobel Clancy, Elaine dos Remedios, Kathleen Francis, Feli Hempl, Yvonne Kharoubeh, Susan Panlican, Huguette Piché, Christina Sayo, Teresa Tche, Cynthia Wing.

The 2020 Collection Envelope Boxes can now be
 picked-up at the Parish Office, Tuesday to Friday,
 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. If you would like to be assigned a
 box of envelopes, please complete a parishioner
 registration form at the Welcome Booth, or at the
 Parish Office.



Upcoming Homily Themes

February 8 & 9
Stopping 42 Million Murders

February 15 & 16
Receiving Healing & Mercy

February 22 & 23
Judgemental + Gentle = Perfection

* NEW SEASON: *Loving the Liturgy*

February 29 & March 1
God Gives Us an Opportunity to Grow

March 7 & 8
Three Ways to Transcendence



ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Life is a Gift” Season

Wednesday, February 5, 6:30 PM
Fire Side Chat on Euthanasia
with Stephanie Gray & Fr. Justin

For more information:
annieinvan@yahoo.com or
call the Parish Office, 604.266.6131



Looking for a vibrant, supportive Catholic community of women who love God? CFC Handmaids of the Lord invites all women in the parish to attend Christian Life Program (CLP) every Monday at 6:30 pm, February 3 to April 6 in the church hall. For more information, contact Zeny, 604.261.7077.

A live-in weekend at Seminary of Christ the King in Mission will take place February 7 - 9. The weekend is for young men and boys who are interested in the priesthood or religious life. Registration forms for those in high school and at college level and above, are at the Welcome Booth. For more information, please visit vocationsvancouver.ca/events/pray-and-play/.

CWL Movie Night: Wednesday, February 12, 7:00 pm, in the Church Hall, the CWL will present the International Film Festival's movie “Conviction” which brings to light prison reform through the eyes of women who are incarcerated. Everyone is welcome!



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just because they wanted it, that would be wrong.

Also, if suicide is morally right because people want it, why does society and the media get shocked when teen suicide rates increase? Why stop them? Because they're healthy and have their whole lives ahead of them? So, at what point does someone become unhealthy and qualify for suicide? At what point is someone too old to live? Now we're in the moral game of deciding where to draw the line. So, advocates for euthanasia add that we need to be suffering in order to commit suicide. But, at what point of suffering? Some teens suffer horribly and truly want to die. It would still be wrong to help them kill themselves.

3) What's the nature of medicine? To preserve life. That's why some doctors and pharmaceutical companies don't want to participate in executions of certain prisoners in the U.S. even when it's legal, because it goes against their essence as health professionals and erodes public trust.

In spite of this, most people, including 70% of Catholics, support euthanasia. Subconsciously, the main reason is because we want control: “This is my life.” (But Martin Luther King, Jr., said, “Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”) When people kill themselves, we're left with their absence. And now that it's legal in Canada to ask doctors to kill us, many are being guilted into dying when they don't want to; there will be pressure on them to give up early, because we need their bed in the hospital, or because it's a lot of work taking care of them.

Besides control, there are five other reasons people want euthanasia:

1) Fear of pain. The response to this is that regular pain

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medication can control up to 97% of pain. But let's be honest: We can't control 3% of pain. In these cases, we need to suffer with them. A video at the end will demonstrate how this works.

2) Emotional pain. In these cases, we need the gift of counselling.

3) Some people feel like they're burdens. In such situations, we need to help them change their perspective. Diseases are burdens, not the persons. The suffering they carry gives us an opportunity to love them!

4) Some people feel useless. These days, our worth is unfortunately rooted in what we do, not in who we are. We're special and have dignity not because of what we've achieved, but because of who we are. Even if you feel useless, you're still special to us.

At the Intergenerational Learning Centre in Seattle, there's a daycare in a seniors' home. The seniors play with the children, teaching them, while the children give the seniors life and joy. Both groups of people are, in the eyes of some people, useless, but both groups praise God and bring joy.

5) Fear of a bad death: alone, scared, in pain. The solution to this is not euthanasia but palliative care which supports the person in the natural process of dying. [...]

Life is about the choice to never leave others. [...] God never left us, Jesus never leaves us, and Mary never left Jesus. Life, even when there's pain, is better than no life; it's still beautiful, a gift! Let's embrace it!

- excerpt from Fr. Justin's homily, February 2, 2020

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