

Dear Sisters and Brothers, Peace!

I want to reprint a letter that I wrote you last summer. I will make a further comment at the end.

Human life, in whatever form or whatever place we may find it, is definitely precious. Because of its value, the Church teaches us that the protection of human life, whether in the womb or on the executioner's gurney, is nonnegotiable. The Church opposes war, abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem-cell research, and capital punishment because each action says that the value of human life is not absolute.

As horrifying as all these attacks on human life are, there are other equally heinous but more subtle. All we must do is look at the world's poorest countries. Some of them attempt to maintain military forces while at the same time failing to provide adequate sustenance for their citizens, especially the very old and the very young. Sudan has, for instance, left its region of Darfur bereft of food supplies. Refugees pour over the border with Chad while international agencies make valiant but sometimes weak attempts to halt this assault on human life.

Let us always remember that being "pro-life" means that we will never cower when it comes to proclaiming the value of human life. The unborn, the young, the old, the innocent, the guilty all deserve to have their lives guarded as precious.

The other night a young man told me, "I'm pro-life across the board." He is right, of course. It is impossible for a Catholic to pick and choose. Children are innocent and are very appealing candidates for "pro-life" work. Heinous mass murderers, on the other hand, are not at all appealing. Yet all human beings deserve the same protection in the sight of God.

In our Lord,
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Pastor