"The thought is unbearable to imagine."

A good afternoon to you and to each of my esteemed listeners! Welcome to EWTN's Open Line Tuesday edition. I'm Barbara McGuigan, alive and forever grateful to be your host each Tuesday. We live in very precarious times; I don't need to remind you of that. But when I think of these days that sometimes make the bravest of us tremble, the beautiful quote comes to my mind, "A newborn baby is God's sign that the world should go on." Life is so precious! Would that all God's children might embrace this truth! God's airwaves are open and here are the numbers:

In North America call 1-800-585-9396
Outside North America call 1-205-271-2985
Our email address is always Openline@ewtn.com

We've all watched the utter devastation and gripping sadness of the people affected by the terrible oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. One wonders if that region of our great nation will ever recover from such a catastrophe. A great friend of mine emailed me quite a poignant article written by Jeannie DeAngelis on the American Thinker website on June 26, 2010. I was stunned by the point she made, as so few people today would be able to see such an analogy, much less write about it.

Jeannie De Angelis begins:

> **Aside from the threat to the coastline, the indigenous wildlife inhabiting the Gulf of Mexico has suffered the most from the mounting environmental disaster. It is deeply disturbing when living beings are injured, let alone fished from the water after being immolated by fire.**
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> **As the damaged oil rig spews millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf, BP is conducting "controlled burns to get rid of the oil." It is either that or the gooey substance will slather the coast line and throttle everything in its wake. In order to deter the slick from reaching shore, and in an effort to contain the sludge within a certain radius, fire boom wicks are burning off the oil.**
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> **According to sea wildlife rescuer Captain Mike Ellis, many species, especially slow and cumbersome sea turtles, have been caught in the wake of the fire booms and literally burnt alive. The process works like this: "They drag a boom between two shrimp boats and whatever gets caught between...they circle it up and catch it on fire. Once the turtles are in there, they can't get out."...**
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> **Hard choices are being made, and in the pecking order of priorities, protecting pelicans from being reduced to ash just doesn't rise to the same level as urgent coastline conservation and crude oil containment.**

Says Jeannie De Angelis:

> **The thought is unbearable to imagine. Sea turtles coated with oil struggling for the shore ensnared between two boats, lit on fire, and cremated alive. Yet one can't help but notice the similarity that scorched Gulf sea turtles have to babies aborted within the womb. The only difference is that incinerated turtles can be seen with the naked eye while the preborn are hidden from few.**

How thankful we must be, not only for the mind of Jeannie De Angelis and her capacity to reason, but for her heart with such a capacity to love! Surely, we cringe when we watch an oil-drenched pelican trying to make its way through the sludge, but how many turn a blind eye to the blood-drenched unborn baby, in a silent scream, torn apart limb by limb and then obliterated in a human garbage disposal?

Jeannie De Angelis goes on:

> **Captain Ellis said, "most of the turtles seen are Kemps Ridley turtles, a critically endangered species. Harming or killing one would bring stiff civil and criminal penalties and fines of up to $50,000 against BP."**
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> **Human fetuses can be legally killed, turtles cannot. If you destroy a turtle you pay a hefty fine. If slaying an unborn baby, the government both funds and supports your right to do so.**
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> **Environmentalists are demanding action on behalf of Gulf wildlife citing the tragedy in the following way: "When you consider all of the endangered turtles that have been killed either by the oil itself or...burned alive in the oil, somebody needs to pay for it. Is anyone going to do anything about it?**
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> **America weeps over the oil rig disaster as untold gallons spew into the water, coat the coast and rain oil from heaven. To make matters worse, it seems juvenile turtles, hiding in sargassum seaweed together with aggregated crude are being trapped and torched alive.**
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> **Yet while tears for the turtles flow each day, thousands of innocent babies suffer the same excruciating demise, a plight that largely goes unnoticed and is defended as a right.**
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> **America sympathizes with dead turtles and oil-soaked pelicans. However, it's time to address the more pressing issue: "When you consider the 50 million unborn children that have been killed... who will pay? And is anyone going to do anything about it?"**

My brothers and sisters, many moons ago, I found myself asking the same questions. Does anyone see what I see? Does anyone even care? But somehow I knew who was going to pay for it. Every last one of us. Sin affects every last one of us. And mortal sin affects every last one of us, deeply. Abortion, which is the willful and deliberate taking of an innocent human life, not the life of a pelican or turtle, but a human being's life, happens to be murder. To be willing to commit murder, especially under the sick guise of "reproductive rights," is sufficiently weighty matter for mortal sin...a deadly transgression against love.

Abortion rests on despair, lies and incredible and sometimes willful ignorance. Abortion is the opposite of love. It destroys love. It destroys a woman's motherhood. It destroys a man's fatherhood. It causes deep wounds in every way: spiritually, physically, emotionally, psychologically, intellectually, and socially. It betrays the most dependent of us all, an innocent unborn child. It subverts medicine, law and government. And I believe it is applied atheism, even though so many committing it have no idea what that means. You've heard of attempted suicide? Abortion is attempted deicide. An attempt to destroy God by destroying His own image and likeness.

The fundamental fact of the matter is: Every human life is sacred because of its origin and its destiny. Every baby comes from God. Every baby is a Gift from God. Every baby is made in the Image and Likeness of God. Each and every baby has a mission from God to complete. Which explains why abortion is a spiritual problem. You see, long before a woman submits to the physical act of abortion, she has committed a spiritual abortion. Her spirit submits to murder. And any other human being who promotes or supports or celebrates her act also has a spirit that is submitting to murder.

But you see, no sin is out of the realm of God's forgiveness. No person is out of the realm of God's forgiveness. So spiritual problems, like abortion, partial-birth abortion, in vitro fertilization, euthanasia, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, etc. spiritual problems all, need spiritual solutions. So what can we do? First of all, we get down on our knees and we ask God to give us sorrow, true compunction, as we cannot even be sorry for our sins without God's grace. Then we ask for the grace to face the reality of our sin, which takes great humility, flawless honesty, steadfast courage and boundless hope in God's mercy and love.

Then we say a sincere Act of Contrition. If you can't remember that prayer, I'd be happy to email it to you. We should also ask the Blessed Mother to help us go before God equipped with sorrow, humility, honesty, courage and hope in God's mercy and love. With a sound mind and a true, contrite heart we make a beeline to the Sacrament of Confession, which Jesus Himself instituted. The priest takes the place of Jesus Himself in that confessional, and we don't have to worry – the priest has heard every sin before, and his *joy* is to help us receive forgiveness and mercy.

We humbly say, "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been so many weeks or months or years since my last confession. I am guilty of the following sins." After you confess your sins, and listen to the counsel of the priest, he will give you your penance, have you say the Act of Contrition and then pronounce you absolved.

Brothers and sisters, this is the spiritual solution to any spiritual problem. We then pray for the power of grace to give us a firm purpose of amendment. We will be vigilant to stay away from the occasion of sin and prayerful to keep our mind, heart and body constantly focused on the Presence of God.

No sin is too great for God to forgive, including abortion and all attacks against life. As Pope John Paul the Great said in his encyclical letter *Evangelium Vitae*, the Gospel of Life, #18:

> **Decisions that go against life sometimes arise from difficult or even tragic situations of profound suffering, loneliness, a total lack of economic prospects, depression and anxiety about the future. Such circumstances can mitigate even to a notable degree subjective responsibility and the consequent culpability of those who make these choices which in themselves are evil. But today the problem goes far beyond the necessary recognition of these personal situations. It is a problem which exists at the cultural, social and political level, where it reveals its more sinister and disturbing aspect in the tendency, ever more widely shared, to interpret the above crimes against life as legitimate expressions of individual freedom, to be acknowledged and protected as actual rights.**

While the thought of sea turtles and pelicans dripping with oil is unbearable to imagine, the thought of an innocent, weak, defenseless and trusting unborn baby in the womb of her mother should cause us not only to recoil but to actively defend her right to exist and to be born. Why? Because life is always a good. Pope John Paul, in the Gospel of Life, #34, writes:

> **Why is life a good? This question is found everywhere in the Bible, and from the very first pages it receives a powerful and amazing answer. The life which God gives man is quite different from the life of all other living creatures, inasmuch as man, although formed from the dust of the earth, *is a manifestation of God in the world, a sign of His presence, a trace of His glory.* This is what St. Irenaeus of Lyons wanted to emphasize in his celebrated definition: "Man, living man, is the glory of God." Man has a sublime dignity, based on the intimate bond which unites him to his Creator: in man there shines forth a reflection of God Himself.**

Did you ever wonder, had God ordained that pelicans and sea turtles, dolphins and baby seals, spotted owls and bald eagles, be made in His image and likeness, with the ability to think, to choose and with a memory to love, did you ever wonder

if they might dissolve into tears over the unspeakable, wholesale, legal slaughter of man in the womb? Somehow, I think they would.

What think you, my brothers and sisters? I welcome your comments and questions. Here are the numbers: 1-800-585-9396 and 1-205-271-2985.

Closing: A thousand thanks for your excellent calls and emails. I constantly thank my God for you!

I pulled up an old sermon of Fr. Frank Pavone, a great defender of the babies. He ended this powerful sermon, "We Are the People of Life," by saying:

> **God created us not for the graves, but for the skies, not for medical waste, but to share a seat on His throne. The greatness of human dignity, eternal life, to see beyond this world is so necessary for the people of our times to regain their bearings about life. If death is the final word of the last sentence in human history, then people will frantically try to make human life as efficient and productive as possible and suffering will lose all its meaning. And death and suffering will be things only to be avoided. The Gospel of Life reminds us that these are not meaningless. Suffering and death are not the last words of human life. Resurrection is. Life is.**

Until next week on Open Line, Blessed be the Lord and Giver of Life, and may God abundantly bless you with His mercy and peace. Bye for now...