"Poke Holes in the Darkness"

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 grateful to live in the cultural madhouse! Why? Because it is a "giant saint-making machine." So many powerful people are in total darkness. So what are we called to do? We are called to "poke holes in the darkness" with the light of truth and always with charity. Pure and simple. God's airwaves are open. Here are the numbers to call:

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

Brothers and sisters, I'd like to refer to my "Buck up or stay in the truck" file by hailing a fearless warrior bishop by the name of Thomas Doran of Rockford, Illinois. Here are some excerpts from his September 24 column in the *The Observer*, Rockford's diocesan newspaper:

> An old story has it that a priest/professor once mounted his pulpit to preach on suicide and he began: "Suicide is not only a mortal sin, but is very dangerous." One could say with some justification the same thing about procured abortion; it is a mortal sin and is very dangerous. At least practicing Catholics know that it is sinful and many other Christians do as well.
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> In our devolving and decaying morally relativistic society, there are many people who regard the killing of a pre-born child as of no consequence whatever. What is hidden from the eyes of the unsuspecting, however, is that not only for its victims but also for its perpetrators and for societies that permit it, allow it and license it, it is extremely dangerous.
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> All of us are aware of the perilous financial condition into which corrupt politicians of both parties have cast our country. Particularly vexing to our congressional overlords are the so-called entitlements: Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and other such things as unemployment compensation and various types of government relief.
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> What we are never told is that the reason these entitlements are becoming unbearable for the taxpaying public is that there are fewer and fewer people contributing funds by way of their taxes to support these needed benefits upon which many people in our society have come to rely. Ours is a rapidly aging population because the number of children born into it becomes smaller and smaller and smaller, relative to the size of our country.

Brothers and sisters, my friend Fr. Paul Marx, the great worldwide pro-life missionary whom Pope John Paul II called “The Apostle of Life,” was a real prophet. Fr. Marx, who died this past March 20, warned everyone for 40 years that societies everywhere would become "top-heavy" – that because of the impact of contraception, abortion and sterilization, America and other nations would end up having more people over the age of 25 than under the age of 5. Hellllloooo!

In his newspaper column, Bishop Doran continues:

> Since a pagan Supreme Court, overriding the Christian conscience of centuries, chose to kill children in 1973, millions of them have been butchered without ever seeing the light of day, even for a moment. Abortion… coarsens our moral discourse and brutalizes our people.

Brothers and sisters, case in point: Maybe you have heard that a British newspaper columnist and television commentator, Virginia Ironside, recently said on the BBC's Sunday Morning Live show that “it is the act of a loving mother” to abort preborn babies whom doctors say have a disability. Not only that, Virginia Ironside advocated killing children outside the womb, too. She said, "If I were a mother of a suffering child, I would be the first to want - I mean a deeply suffering child - I would be the first to want to put a pillow over its face. And I would with any suffering thing." How do you like that terminology – she calls a child a “thing.”

Virginia Ironside added that she backs aborting babies because "my feeling of horror at suffering is much greater than my feeling of getting rid of a couple of cells, because suffering can go on for years." Time out!! What kind of pathology are we dealing with here? She continued, "Abortion can often be seen as something wicked or irresponsible but in fact it can be a moral and unselfish act.”

Unfortunately, brothers and sisters, this is not the first time we've heard this sick argument. Remember Professor Peter Singer from Princeton? Same sickness, different year.

Oh, yes, and then there's Bill Gates, the Microsoft billionaire, a major philanthropist, unfortunately in the wrong camp, the anti-life camp. He has pumped hundreds of millions of dollars into new vaccine efforts, and this past February he spoke at the 2010 TED conference. TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) is where prominent thinkers and doers gather to share ideas they think are worth spreading. So are you ready for the latest idea from Bill Gates?

Speaking about CO2 emissions and their effects on climate change, read global warming, Gates presented a formula for tracking CO2 emissions: CO2 = P x S x E x C. P equals people, S = services in person, E =energy per service, and C = CO2 per energy unit. Got that? I couldn't begin to make this up! He said that in order to get CO2 to zero, "probably one of these numbers is going to have to get pretty close to zero."

Gates then told how he sees the first number, P for people, might be reduced. He said, "The world today has 6.8 billion people... that's headed up to about 9 billion. Now if we do a really great job on new vaccines, health care, reproductive health services, we could lower that by perhaps 10 - 15 percent. "

Part of Gates's thinking apparently is that vaccines against HIV, malaria, TB, polio, pneumonia, and dysentery would reduce the child mortality rate in Third World countries. Parents then supposedly would no longer think they need to have many children so a few will survive and take care of them when they get old. Of course, who would argue with fighting death by disease, especially in children?

However, as I see it, his logic and conclusion is fairly flawed. It would seem to me, the healthier the children of poor people, the more they would have, because that would mean diseases would be eradicated. But not only that, Bill Gates could also, in his "humanitarian" efforts, dump the same millions instead into pure water, better nutrition, and healthy moms to give healthy breast milk. This is not rocket science; but keep in mind, the motive of Bill Gates is not to save the babies of the Third World, but to reduce their carbon footprints by reducing the patter of their tiny feet!

Another point: Unlike with many in the First World, poor people in the Third World know their children are their treasures. Yet Gates's term, "reproductive health services," is *always* the anti-lifers' and population controllers' code word for aborting babies and for sterilizations and for sometimes abortifacient contraception. Gates is saying he wants to eliminate a *billion* people from the world!

Holes can be poked in this darkness, but no one can be forced to see the light peeking through. As Victor Frankl said, "No one is so blind as he who refuses to see."

Brothers and sisters, we are already living in a "demographic winter." The barren world of tomorrow is clearly evident in the Europe of today. Virtually all of Europe, from England in the West to Russia in the East, is aging and dying.

My friend, Steve Mosher, President of the Population Research Institute, wrote an article for the March 19, 2008, issue of the journal *First Things*, entitled, "The Demographic Winter and the Barren Left." He said:

> Unlike the Black Death of the Middle Ages, which filled up the graveyards of the continent, the new epidemic of voluntary infertility empties out the maternity wards. And it is not the result of bacteria that infect our bodies but rather anti-natal thoughts that invade our minds. These are reinforced by an economic system that puts a premium on expanding the workforce at the expense of maternity, as well as a political system that weakens families, putting those with children at a financial disadvantage that is both unjust and shortsighted. The peoples of Europe, along with those of every other developed nation and many as yet underdeveloped, for some time now have been refusing to provide for the future in the most fundamental way—by providing the next generation. Following in the

> footsteps of the Europeans, many other peoples around the world seem to be committing a slow form of collective suicide.

So, brothers and sisters, Bishop Thomas Doran of Rockford, Illinois, clearly hit the nail on the head when he wrote, "It is said that even Nazi Germany was not quite as callous with regard to nascent infant life as our unelected judges have made our country... In short, procured abortion may well be the death knell of our society."

My brothers and sisters, how do *you* poke holes in the darkness? I'd love to talk to you about it. We need to be brave, resourceful, prudent and charitable. After all, we are already equipped, as 2 Timothy 1:7 states: "For God did not give us a cowardly spirit but rather of power and love and self-control." What is your answer to the Virginia Ironsides and the Bill Gates of the world? Waiting to hear from you...here are the numbers: 1-800-585-9396 and 1-205-271-2985.

Closing: I'm filled with thanks, appreciation and gratitude for your calls and emails. Open Line would not exist without your excellent questions and comments.

Fr. Simon Tugwell, an English Dominican priest, author and member of the Dominican Historical Institute, helps us to understand Christian patience and suffering.

> Christian patience comes from a depth of joy which is strong enough to contain suffering. Our Lord did not want to suffer; he said, before his passion, "my soul is disturbed" (John 12:27), which is most comforting and reassuring for us when our soul is disturbed. True faith does not mean that we shall never be upset, even profoundly upset. What it does mean is that underneath the disturbance there is something even more profound, which is not disturbed. The letter to the Hebrews (12:2) tells us that it was for the joy that was set before him that our Lord endured his passion, and it was this joy that sustained him and made it possible for him to say that, in another sense, he did want to show his love by sacrificing himself in this way, he did long to consecrate himself for the sake of his brethren.
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> Our sacrifice of thanksgiving is the celebration and commemoration of the death of Jesus, and for us thanksgiving and suffering do belong together in a strangely intimate way. This is why some writers have ascribed such a definite priority to thanksgiving which is made in suffering. Suffering is, we may say, the test of our thanksgiving; if it is robust enough to persevere when, humanly speaking, all is lost, then it is truly Christian thanksgiving.

Until next week on Open Line, Blessed be the Lord and Giver of Life and may he mightily bless you! Bye for now!