

UNNECESSARY DESTRUCTION OF HUMAN LIFE

It is very difficult to ignore what occurred on the campus of Virginia Tech at Blacksburg, Virginia, on April 16. The massacre that took place on that Monday has been termed as the worse in United States history. That is a very worrisome fact. Moreover, we as a Diocesan Church have been affected by the killing, as one of our own was among the 32 victims.

The first phase of reporting centered on what happened. Then, it moved into identifying the person or persons responsible. This was followed by analyzing what might motivate a person who would perpetrate the destruction of human life on such a grand and wanton scale. There was the fascination on the effects with which those surviving have to deal. At the time of this writing, the focus appears to be on the victims.

One cannot help but wonder how much better a number of our communities (perhaps, our whole country) might have been had these individuals lived. As it is, one person snuffed out their lives in a matter of a few minutes, with no apparent cause other than some interior conflict that prompted a lashing out at society. I cannot imagine that there are very many who do not mourn this waste of life and the suffering that it has caused.

Two days later, the United States Supreme Court upheld the ban on partial birth abortions. This procedure has been termed as “utterly grotesque.” To quote an Associated Press release, “It involves dilating the cervix and removing the fetus. The head of the fetus is crushed or a catheter is inserted and brain matter removed so the head can pass through the cervix.” In other words, the baby is partially born, killed, and then completely taken out.

On a particular Website, I read an eyewitness description of a baby’s reaction to its being killed. The person described the responsive movements of the child’s hands, fingers, legs, and feet. All this was visible, of course, since the baby was partially born. And, because part of the child was still in the mother, killing it was within the law until the ban. It is estimated that there are between 4,000 and 5,000 babies killed in this manner within the United States. I consider this killing as another type of massacre.

Many in our society and government see the Supreme Court ruling as troublesome. They consider it a violation of a woman’s rights that should be protected by the constitution.

Pardon me; but, I am confused. Is not all human life precious, - whether it is on a campus, having just been born, or is in the process of exiting the womb? Does where you are make a difference as to whether or not you are a human being? It is no wonder that a good number of nations do not want anything to do with us. We are not consistent in our moral values. More and more we appear to have a troubled national soul.

I grieve over the loss of life on the campus of Virginia Tech. I grieve over the loss of life before birth. No doubt, among their number are individuals who would have made a wonderful difference in our society if someone had not made a difference in their life first.