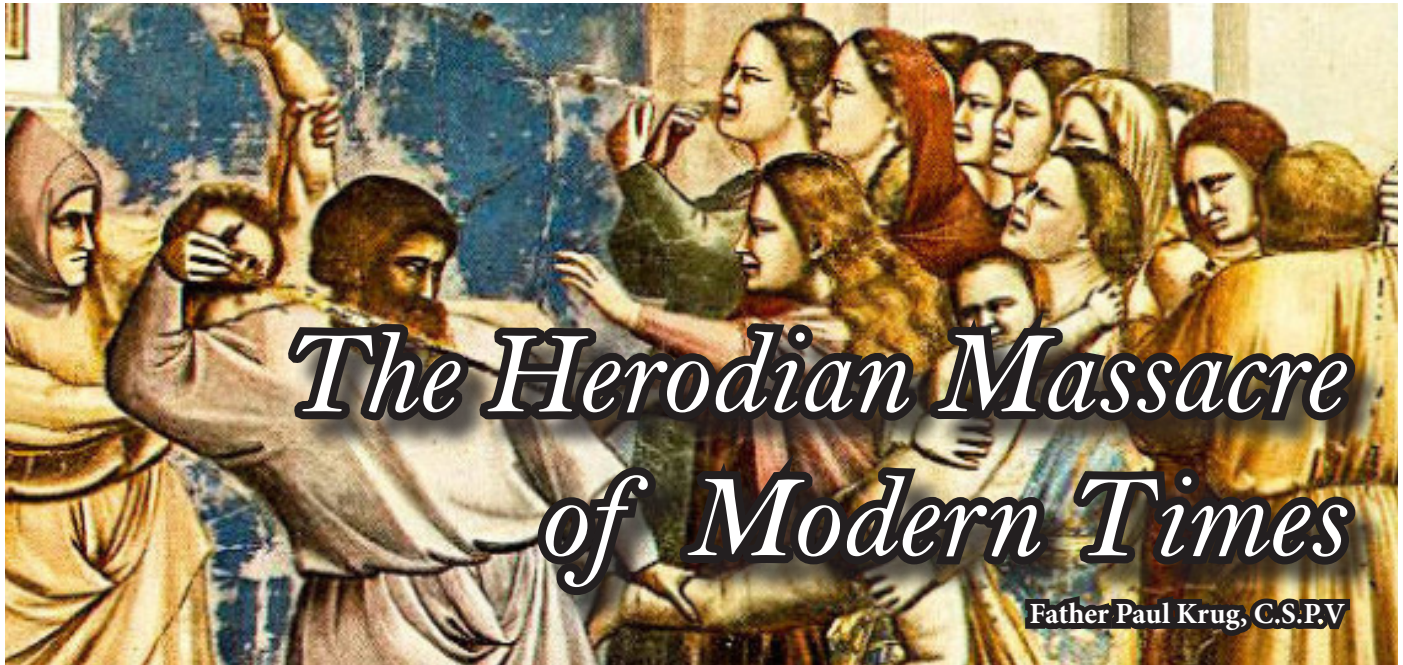




# Dolorosa

SPECIAL EDITION

FEBRUARY 22, 2019



Just under three years ago, NPR (National Public Radio) published a report titled “Colorado Mother Fights Off Mountain Lion To Save Her Son.” As the title indicates, the article describes how one mother saved the life of her 5-year-old son from the attack of a mountain lion. The boy was playing outside with his brother when the mountain lion entered the yard. His mother heard screaming outside and went to see what was the matter. What she saw when she stepped outside was her little boy pinned to the ground by a violent mountain lion.

Without a moment’s hesitation and with little regard for her personal safety, the mother darted towards the animal and ripped away one of its paws only to discover that her son’s head was in its mouth. Employing all the strength she could muster, this mother was able to pry open the cat’s jaws and pull her son to safety, all the while fighting off the animal’s retaliation. The boy sustained injuries to his face, head, and neck, but survived the ordeal. The heroic mother received minor injuries to her legs and hands—a small price she lovingly paid for the life of her son.

To some people this might seem like a rare occurrence. It’s not every day that one hears about a mountain lion attack. However, according to the hunting website *Got Hunts*, mountain lion attacks are on the rise. In North America there have been 125 attacks in the last one

hundred years. Twenty-seven of those attacks were fatal, and most of them have occurred since 1970. “70% of mountain lion attacks were on children,” the *Got Hunts* report continues, “and in recent years, that figure has climbed to 90%” (“What to do if you are attacked by a mountain lion.” *Got Hunts*. 14 February 2019. *GotHunts.com*).



While it is quite startling that 90% of mountain lion attacks are on children, there is another attack, 100% of which targets children: the attack on the unborn. What is so sad about this violence is that it is perpetrated not by a mountain lion, not by some brute animal, but by men who have understanding and free will—human beings who can reason and who know what they do.





—The Massacre of the Innocents. Duccio di Buoninsegna. 1308-1311.

By now most of you have surely heard of the terrible evil that took place in New York one month ago on January 22. The New York governor Andrew Cuomo, a self-professed Catholic, signed a bill into law for New York State that allows a woman, or even a girl, to have an abortion all the way up to the time of childbirth. While the bill does contain certain “stipulations,” still, when all is said and done, the expecting mother can kill her unborn child for any reason whatsoever. This is not just monstrous; it is completely diabolical. What is more, the applause and celebration of the lawmakers that ensued after the passing of this inhumane law was truly a scene from hell, for to applaud and celebrate murder is something only Satan could instigate.

How many of these politicians and judges, doctors and nurses, men and women think that they will not be punished for this wicked crime? How many are convinced that they are safe because it is a quote-unquote “law”? How many feel certain that they will not be discovered for the murderers that they are? If this is how these people think—and it would surely seem so—they are sadly mistaken, for in the end they will be punished for shedding the blood of the innocent. How much we should pray for them!

Over 2,000 years ago, King Herod was also responsible for spilling the innocent blood of children. Fearing that the King who was newly born in Bethlehem would threaten his power, Herod devised a plan to ensure that this would not happen. To achieve his goal, this despicable man ordered his soldiers to go to Bethlehem and to all the surrounding towns and villages with one mission: to execute all of the male children aged two and younger. The soldiers thus marched through the streets of Bethlehem and the surrounding area, and they invaded the homes to enforce the edict of Herod. Newborns were snatched from the arms of their mothers and were cruelly put to death. In the end thousands of innocent children were ruthlessly murdered. In fact, it is the common opinion of Scripture scholars that about 14,000 infants were put to death. This massacre, ordered by King Herod, was truly among the most sickening acts in history. So despicable was it that if it were not recorded in the Gospel, it would seem too horrible to believe.

Horrific as the Herodian massacre was, the slaughter of the unborn children today makes the murder of the Holy Innocents seem like nothing. This is true especially when we consider that King Herod slaughtered 14,000 innocent children, while in the United States alone an average one million unborn children are put to death each year.

According to the American Life League, since 1973—the year of the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision—over 60 million unborn children have been murdered in the United States. There are nearly 3,000 abortions every day in the United States alone. That’s over 120 every hour and one every thirty seconds (Abortion Statistics. *American Life League*. 14 February 2019. All. org).

Sadly, the United States is not the worst country in this regard. According to statistics provided by the pro-life website *Abort 73*, in the span of just four years, 35 million abortions were performed in Asia. In Africa 8.3 million unborn infants were put to death; in Latin America, 6.5 million; in Europe, 4.4 million. Between the years of 2010 and 2014, there were over 56 million abortions done annually worldwide (Worldwide Abortion



**Gov. Andrew Cuomo Signing Bill Allowing Abortions Up To Time Of Childbirth**

Statistics. *Abort* 73. 14 February 2019. Abort73.com). Today, the heinousness of these crimes has reached an unprecedented level in New York State, and I fear that perhaps other states are not far behind.

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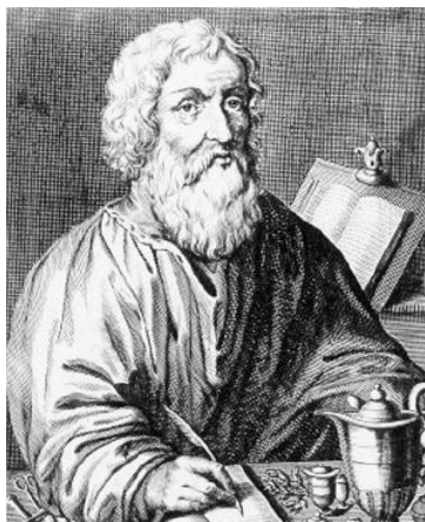
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This wicked practice of murdering the unborn is not something new. It goes all the way back to ancient Greece. In its article “Abortion” the 1908 Catholic Encyclopedia states that “history contains no mention of . . . abortions [before] the period of decadent morality in classic Greece.”

The Catholic Encyclopedia goes on to tell us, in so many words, that at the time of Moses the practice of abortion was virtually unknown among the Jews and pagans. The first reference to abortion is found in books attributed to the Greek physician Hippocrates. Hippocrates lived about 400 years before the birth of Christ. He required physicians to bind themselves by oath not to give women a drink that could be fatal to the child in the womb. This he did because at his time the Greeks had been so corrupted by their impurity and immorality that women began seeking ways to murder their unborn children. Thus, Hippocrates took action to protect them.

The Catholic Church, however, was the first to call abortion what it is—murder. “The early Christians are the first on record,” the Catholic Encyclopedia tells us, “as having pronounced abortion to be the murder of human beings. . . .” The Fathers of the Church maintained this in the early centuries and have unanimously condemned abortion as such. Then, at the Sixth General Council, which opened in 680, the Church determined that anyone who procured abortion should bear all the ecclesiastical

—Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine, 460-370 B.C.



—Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen 1895-1979.

punishments inflicted upon murderers. The practice of abortion, therefore, ceased wherever Catholicism became established. Consequently, during the middle ages it was rare, as was divorce. However, like divorce, abortion has again become a grave danger to society.

Over sixty million innocent children have been put to death in the last 46 years, and, sad to say, the majority of them have been willful murders. Some are certainly forced, as is the case in some Communist countries, but the majority of abortions are chosen. How many unborn children there are who at this very moment are in danger of being aborted? How many are in danger of being put to death today? In this very hour? At this very minute?

The Colorado mother who saved her child from the clutches of a mountain lion was truly heroic. She spared nothing in order to save her boy's life. In our time countless unborn children are, like that 5-year-old, in the clutches of death. Our world thus stands in need of people like that mother—people who are willing to do something to help save a child's life. Each one of us can be that person. We have it in our power to help save the unborn. This we can do by our prayers and sacrifices on their behalf. In fact, the late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen encouraged and promoted this pious practice.

Father Fulton J. Sheen was appointed the Auxiliary Bishop of New York in 1951. Later, he was named Bishop of Rochester, NY, and some years after that, he received the title of Titular Archbishop. He is best known for his preaching, writing, and especially for his work on television and radio.

In 1973, after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion, Archbishop Sheen composed this little prayer: “Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I love you very much; I beg you to spare the life of the unborn child that I have spiritually





adopted who is in danger of abortion.” (A holy card with this prayer is attached to the email.) It was thus through the intercession of the Holy Family that Archbishop Sheen sought protection for unborn babies in danger of being aborted.

He encouraged Catholics to “spiritually adopt” an unborn child in danger of abortion by saying this prayer each day for nine months in the name of the baby that his life be spared. Archbishop Sheen believed that by means of this spiritual adoption, the anti-life push in the United States could be stopped one life at a time. In this way we, too, can be instrumental in saving the lives of unborn infants. Let us, therefore, say this prayer faithfully each day. Let us spiritually adopt an unborn baby that is in danger. We can even give him a name if we so choose. Then, once the nine-month period is over, let us adopt another unborn child. While it is true that we will probably never meet on this earth the children whose lives were spared by our prayers, nonetheless, we will know in eternity how many children we saved, and, please God, we will meet them in heaven.

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*“Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I love you very much; I beg you to spare the life of the unborn child that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.”*

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As we pray that the lives of these innocent children be spared, let us also pray for the conversion of those responsible for abortions today—for the mothers, the fathers, the doctors who perform the crime, and the government officials who promote and support it. “[God desires] not the death of the wicked,” the Holy Ghost tells us in the Old Testament Book of Ezekiel, “but that the wicked turn from his way, and live” (33:11). We must thus pray for the conversion of these poor sinners and make reparation for this most grievous sin.

If there were ever a time that called for greater reparation, that time is now. Never before in history has

so much innocent blood been shed in such a short space of time—so much blood that cries to heaven for vengeance. Abortion is murder, and murder is a sin which calls down the wrath of God upon the person who commits it and upon the people or nation who sanction it. It has often been rightly said that a nation cannot be punished in the world to come because nations cease to be. Souls are punished in the world to come, but not nations. Nations are punished in this world. And so, those nations that turn their backs on God, those nations that raise their fist to His face by their immoral and unjust laws, those nations that kill the innocent will meet with the just fury and vengeance of Almighty God before the world ends. When will this punishment be inflicted? That we do not know. Saint John Chrysostom does tell us, though, that the longer God waits to punish a nation for its sins and crimes, all the worse will that punishment be.

Indeed, it seems that we are living at a pivotal time in regard to abortion—a time that could shape the future of America. Pro-life politicians and lawmakers are finally beginning to take a stand. This is evident in the rejection of Virginia’s attempt to follow in New York’s footsteps and allow abortion up to the moment of birth. We must continue to do our part by prayer and sacrifice.

On this day, the birthday of our great Founding Father George Washington, let us get down on our knees, as he once did at Valley Forge, and beg Almighty God to spare the United States. Let us beseech Our Lady to cover our country with her mantle of motherly protection. And, let us do this—let us storm heaven with great hope and confidence. May we be ever confident that the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary will hear our prayers, that our sacrifices will appease the just anger of God, that we will obtain many graces for the conversion of poor sinners, and that we will, by our prayers, save the lives of countless unborn children and make the United States, once again, a nation deserving of God’s choicest blessings.

—A General Before His King.. Tim Davis.

