

Human life is precious

I came across this speech by Sister Deirdre Byrne POSC the other day which she gave at a political convention in America. It is a very inspiring speech and has a message not just for politicians, but also to Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Religious and all Catholics. I think it is very obvious that her faith shines through and that she is unequivocal in her commitment to the sanctity of human life.

She makes three really important statements:

First, 'As Christians we first meet Jesus as an embryo in the womb of his mother Mary and St John the Baptist, also in his mother's womb, leapt for joy.' She reminds us of what scripture says about the sacredness of human life before birth, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you through and through. You knit me together in my mother's womb'.

Secondly, 'I am not just pro life I am pro eternal life. I want all of us to end up in heaven.' Isn't the goal of life to get to heaven by loving God and obeying his commands?

Thirdly, 'You'll find me here with my weapon of choice, the rosary.' Sister Deirdre then held up the rosary for all to see. Imagine that, holding up a rosary at a political convention, could you see it happening here?

Sr Deirdre Byrne, POSC previously served as a surgeon, retired army officer, and missionary. My edited version of her speech is below:

"Good evening. I am Sister Dede Byrne, and I belong to the Community of the Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Last Fourth of July, I was honoured to be one of the president's guests at his Salute to America celebration. I must confess that I recently prayed while in chapel, begging God to allow me to be a voice, an instrument for human life. And now here I am, speaking at the

Republican National Convention. I guess you'd better be careful what you pray for.

My journey to religious life was not a traditional route, if there is such a thing. In 1978, as a medical school student at Georgetown University, I joined the Army to help pay for my tuition, and ended up devoting 29 years to the military, serving as a doctor and a surgeon in places like Afghanistan and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

After much prayer and contemplation, I entered my religious order in 2002, working to serve the poor and the sick in Haiti, Sudan, Kenya, Iraq and in Washington, D.C.

Humility is at the foundation of our order, which makes it very difficult to talk about myself. But I can speak about my experience working for those fleeing war-torn and impoverished countries all around the world. Those refugees all share a common experience. They have all been marginalized, viewed as insignificant, powerless and voiceless.

And while we tend to think of the marginalized as living beyond our borders, the truth is the largest marginalized group in the world can be found here in the United States. They are the unborn.

As Christians, we first met Jesus as a stirring embryo in the womb of an unwed mother and saw him born nine months later in the poverty of the cave.

It is no coincidence that Jesus stood up for what was just and was ultimately crucified because what he said was not politically correct or fashionable.

As followers of Christ, we are called to stand up for life against the politically correct or fashionable of today. We must fight against a legislative agenda that supports and even celebrates destroying life in the womb.

Keep in mind, the laws we create define how we see our humanity. We must ask ourselves: What are we saying when we go into a womb and snuff out an innocent, powerless, voiceless life?

As a physician, I can say without hesitation: Life begins at conception.

While what I have to say may be difficult for some to hear, I am saying it because I am not just pro-life, I am pro-eternal life. I want all of us to end up in heaven together someday.”

Sister then goes on to say that in America the political parties are quite polarised on the issue of abortion and with many Democrats wanting very liberal abortion laws while Republicans tending to favour a more restrictive regime. She holds up her rosary with a promise to pray for all politicians to respect life and bring to an end the horrors of late term abortions and infanticide.

May the Lord bless our efforts to preserve life and Our Lady protect us.

Deacon Kevin