

TEACHING ON ABORTION FROM OUR CHURCH FATHERS

DIDACHE – Teaching of the 12 Apostles

2 [2] “You shall not procure abortion, nor destroy a new-born child.”

ST. HIPPOLYTUS OF ROME (222A.D.)

396A [12] “Women reputed to be believers began to take drugs...and to bind themselves...to expel what was being conceived.... See what impiety that lawless one (Callistus) has proceeded by teaching adultery and murder at the same time.”

BASIL THE GREAT (349-379)

919a [188, 2] “A woman who has deliberately destroyed a fetus must pay the penalty for murder.”

919f [188, 2] “Those who give drugs causing abortions are murderers themselves, as well as those who receive the poison which kills the fetus.”

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

EASTER CANDY SALE

The Social Ministry is taking orders for Colebrook candy for Easter. Order forms are in the back of the church or in the handicapped side entrance. Orders are due by March 15, 2020 and pickup is scheduled for the weekend of April 4-5, 2020. Thank you for your support of this church fundraiser.

BAKED GOODS NEEDED – Anyone willing to donate baked goods for the 15th Egg EggStravaganza/Easter Craft and Bake Sale (Sunday, March 29, 2020 from 12 NOON – 5 PM.) would be most welcome. Your delicious baked items are excellent as a fundraiser for our church events. The profits from this event will be used toward a matching funds project by GCU Lodge # 81 which will be used for church renovations. Baked items may dropped off at the church social hall during the week before the event Wed. March 25 between 8-11AM, Thurs. March 26, 8AM – 1PM, Fri. March 27, 9AM -1PM, and Sat. March 28, 10AM -3PM or before 5:30 Divine Liturgy (donated baked goods will be packaged and priced on this day), or Sun. March 29 (the day of the event), before or after 9AM Divine Liturgy. Monetary donations will also be welcomed to help defray the cost of kitchen expenses. Thank you as always for your generosity.

EASTER RAFFLE BASKET- St. John Social Ministry has put together an Easter/Spring Themed Raffle Basket to be awarded on Sunday, April 7 which is Palm Sunday. This basket includes many food and decorative items for Easter and Spring. Tickets may be purchased at Thursday Pirohi making, Friday Pirohi lunch and sales, at the upcoming coffee social (Sunday, March 15), at the 15th Egg EggStravaganza (Sun., March 29), or by contacting a St. John Social Ministry member. Thank you for your continued support.

K of C - The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others and defend values in a busy changing world. Our local council Uniontown # 1275 will be holding a membership drive at the Masses on the weekend of March 15th and 16th. Whether you become an individual member or a member of our council you will find that Knights of Columbus membership brings Catholic men together in a powerful way. If you would like to join today simply go to KofC.org/joinus and enter our council #1275 for local information.

The Forty Martyrs of Sebaste Feast day March 10

After 316, the emperor Licinius decreed a persecution of Christians in the East. He threatened **death** if they failed to renounce their faith. In 320, forty young Christian Roman soldiers refused to sacrifice to idols and were tried before the tribunal at Sebaste, Cappadocia. The governor tried threats, bribery, and torture to persuade the young men, but they stood firm. He put the forty in prison, where it is said that Christ appeared and encouraged them to persevere.

Incensed by the soldiers' obstinacy, the governor ordered that they be stripped and left to die standing on a frozen lake. He arranged a fire and warm bath on the shore to tempt them to apostatize. All forty signed a will, drafted by St. Meletius, the youngest, that expressed their faith, unity, and courage:

The young men did not wait to be stripped, but removed their clothes themselves. And together they prayed, “Lord, we are forty engaged in this **contest**. Grant that forty may receive crowns and that we may not fall short of that sacred number.” After one night's ordeal, however, one soldier caved, but died of extreme heat in the bath, losing his martyr's crown. But an off-duty guard, prompted by the martyrs' courage and a dream, professed himself a Christian and took his place, thus preserving their number.

After three days the governor had the survivors' limbs broken and their bodies burned. Officials hoped that young Meletius would save himself, but his mother herself lifted him onto the wagon, not wanting him to lose his prize. The governor had the ashes of the forty martyrs scattered into a river, but Christians secured some that became treasured relics, inspiring many throughout the Middle Ages.

The young martyrs of Sebaste have fascinated me since my youth. And their idealism and brotherhood may also intrigue today's young people and invite them to consider seriously a commitment to Christ. “Young people,” says journalist Paul Lauer, “have enough energy to climb tall mountains of faith, hope, and love. If all we offer them are little molehills, they'll simply go elsewhere for their challenges.”

(From Lives of the Saints)