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Message From the Spiritual Advisor

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Message From The Spiritual Advisor . . .

A Question of the Imposition of Values

Dear Friends:

As a *people* we are caught in a controversy that is most serious. The abortion issue strikes at the very heart of the quality not merely the quantity of human life. Where quality is concerned — values are implied. "YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO FORCE YOUR VALUE SYSTEM ON ANOTHER," pro-abortionists will claim.

Who says?

First, is it really a question of "imposition of Values"? Or is it rather pointing to values already imposed? Is LIFE valuable? What is its value? Is it possible to add to its value by its destruction? Is the fifth commandment an imposition? Whose?

Would we stop a suicide attempt? Would we call a halt (even forcibly) to a cannibalistic banquet? Would we chase a thief? Are we imposing values? Is it then a question of imposition of values on others? Or isn't there a point somewhere beyond which individuals have not only the right but the obligation to speak out and to act out (peaceably) in favor of what is clearly right and against an allowance which would be seriously detrimental to the common good, as well as destructive to the individual life.

Laws are written for the common good. It may not be an individual matter at all. No more than promoting suicide would be. No more than legalizing cannibalism would be. No more than licensing stealing would be. The abortion issue will have repercussions at a "people level" and our nation itself may be well nurturing the seed of self-ruination. Though it may never be right to impose values, is this not certainly always wrong: the failure to make values known and heard? For us to remain silent or inactive would be to contribute to COMMON EVIL. And should legislation be enacted over our voice — should we fail to be heard — wherein is the failure? They alone have truly failed, who have failed to speak.

If the creation is to move ever toward the perfection of the Creator, it is for some to point the way . . . not "their" way but a way clearly made known by *Him*. Continue to make your voice (rather, His voice) heard. May the Spirit direct!

Father Charles Scherer