

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA



Monday 28 January, 2019

Cathedral of Christ the King

2019 Mass for the Unborn Homily

✠Wilton D. Gregory
Archbishop of Atlanta

One of the ways that popular movies manage to keep audiences riveted and enthusiastically engaged in the narrative is by going back in time to see how many characters developed or projecting forward into the future to see how these individuals end up. We usually call those kinds of movies "prequels" or "sequels." George Lucas' Star Wars series is a prime example of this type of media entertainment.

People like to know what happens to our heroes and heroines — especially at the very beginnings of their lives and well into their futures. The book of Genesis tells us our story from its beginning — in fact, the name Genesis means "the beginning." We learn in this first book of God's Word how life in all of its expressions began.

God Himself is the author of all of creation — including the author of our very life itself. The Genesis story does not oppose any theories of scientific evolution, as some folks might like to suggest. It simply states that God Himself starts all life. It is from that beginning from the very first moments within the womb, that human life secures its dignity and its sacredness — because it comes from the precise hand of God. We know how life begins and why it is sacred. We also believe that we are destined to live forever with God when our life concludes at God's command. Would that everyone had seen that movie, understood that story, and believed that theory.

Unfortunately, we currently live at a moment in time and within a society when people choose not to view the "prequel" and therein to discover that no human life ever begins in any fashion other than from the very hand of God. Every human life is endowed with dignity from its first moments until its final moment when God summons us to Himself.

We have read and listened to the story of God's creative goodness in the Book of Genesis before. This morning, we heard once again how every part of creation

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC

ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA



comes from God's creative goodness. All of our life stories begin because of God's purpose and to halt even a tiny person within the womb is to thwart the gift that God bestows on every life.

We are Pro-Life because we know how the story begins and how it is supposed to conclude. Every chapter of life's story is precious and belongs to the design of God's narrative of creation.

Genesis is the beginning chapter and heaven is the final scene. All of the characters are invited to star in the entire story — infants within the womb, those in prison, those who are seeking a new life in a new country, those who are elderly and frail, those who live on the margins of society — because God has written this narrative of life and He planned it to be enacted always according to His original design.