

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA



Monday 23 January, 2017

Cathedral of Christ the King
Atlanta, Georgia

Pro-Life Mass

✠ Wilton D. Gregory
Archbishop of Atlanta

God's Wisdom and Our Folly

God's wisdom has succeeded in bringing each one of us into life – and God accomplished all of this without our consultation or treasured advice. Even lacking our sage guidance, the Lord God began to knit us together in our mothers' wombs. As Saint Paul reminds us in the first reading, God's Wisdom is always greater than our own. The circumstances of our creation whatever they might have been belong to God's Providence. Yet we all now benefit from that Divine decision. We are young and old, White and Black, left-handed and right-handed but each of us is the gift of God's design. To see and value each other as a product of God's Wisdom is to understand the true meaning of Sacred Scripture that praises God's design of creation.

Nonetheless, God's providence in creating human life is not limited to just us or to those who are like us or pleasing to us. God's wisdom is also to be found in the lives of those who are not like us in any fashion, even those who may have done terrible things to other people or who are just inconvenient or unattractive. God's Wisdom and Providence is to be found in every human life He has fashioned. A dated phrase from my youth once reminded people – that *God doesn't make junk!*

44 years ago, a disappointing Supreme Court decision contradicted God's Providential Wisdom and ruled that the Lord does on occasion make junk and that some human lives are worthless. This decision dared to suggest that God's Wisdom was mistaken. The Pro-Life Movement must be a constant reminder that God's Wisdom is always perfect and that it is we who must acknowledge our misjudgments in ever suggesting that human life is not valuable and the result of Divine Providence.

That decision 44 years ago has spawned other flawed decisions like the reintroduction of the death penalty in 1976 and the hostile treatment of our immigrant neighbors. One flawed decision has managed to seriously damage our

society in many other ways as it suggested that God was wrong and that we know better! It was an arrogant decision that suggested that we knew better than God who is the author of all human life.

Each year since that sad moment 44 years ago, people of faith and good will have paused to reflect on the implications of that judgment. We have witnessed the increasing violence that has haunted our world in the slaughter of innocent lives within the womb and the hostility of violence that have occurred in the wake of that decision. We do so once again this year as we pray that our society will come to its senses and realize that God's Wisdom in creating human life is far superior to our decisions to destroy life and degrade life.

Saint Paul got it right in our first reading: *Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!* May our nation restore the respect that all human life deserves because it always comes from the hand of a God who is far wiser and more loving than any one of us might ever dare to consider themselves.