The only honest thing that a Catholic politician can do is to uphold the Catholic teachings in his public and private life, or not pretend to be Catholic and declare himself so. If he insists upon holding publicly what is contrary to the teaching of his Church, he should not be surprised if there are public consequences to his action. He should also understand that abortion is not a negotiable question for the Catholic Church and that he is obliged, as a Catholic, to give it the moral weight it deserves. If he cannot or is unwilling to do this, he, in a sense, cuts himself off from the body of the Church.”

The Catholic position on the intrinsic evil of abortion is not merely a religious judgment. It is a judgment that the Catholic Church has shared with every major culture and all civilized peoples. The Church for its whole history has been opposed to abortion and euthanasia. In the Holy Father’s Gospel of Life, he says this in paragraph 73, “Abortion and euthanasia are thus crimes which no human law can claim to legitimize. There is no obligation in conscience to obey such laws; instead there is a grave and clear obligation to oppose them by conscientious objection. From the very beginnings of the Church, the apostolic preaching reminded Christians of their duty to obey legitimately constituted public authorities (cf. Rom 13:1-7, 1 Pet 2:13-14), but at the same time it firmly warned that “we must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).” (31) The Holy Father reiterates and summarizes his teaching in the following: “In cases of an intrinsically unjust law, such as a law permitting abortion or euthanasia, it is therefore never...