

OBAMA AND BIDEN MUDDY ABORTION ISSUE

Appearing yesterday on ABC-TV's "This Week," Sen. Barack Obama was asked to comment on his recent quip that he could not say when life begins because it was "above my pay grade." He called that response "too flip," offering, "All I meant to communicate was that I don't presume to be able to answer these kinds of theological questions."

On yesterday's "Meet the Press," Sen. Joseph Biden was also asked about abortion. "I'm prepared to accept the teachings of my church," he said. Biden stressed that "as a matter of faith" he accepts the position that "life begins at the moment of conception," but that he did not want to impose his religious judgment on others. He also referenced St. Thomas Aquinas, saying that the great theologian did not believe that life began "until quickening, 40 days after conception."

Catholic League president Bill Donohue jumped on this today:

"Obama and Biden have muddied the abortion issue further by pretending that it is not, first and foremost, a human rights issue. When life begins is a question answered by science, and that answer is not in doubt: life begins at conception. That's why atheists like Nat Hentoff are against abortion—because it kills! By casting abortion as a matter of religion, Obama and Biden are seeking to take an issue which has universal significance and turn it into a parochial quarrel.

"Biden would do well not to invoke Aquinas as giving support for his views. It is true that St. Thomas believed that ensoulment did not take place until 40 days after conception, but at no time did he ever seek to justify abortion—he knew it was a grave evil.

"Obama, who calls himself a Christian, yesterday referred to

his 'Muslim faith.' Why he said that is not known, but it is indisputable that Catholicism and Islam are both right on the scientific question of when life begins. It's time Obama and Biden saw abortion for what it is—the most fundamental civil rights issue of our time.”

PELOSI DENIES CATHOLICISM OPPOSES ABORTION

On yesterday's NBC-TV show, “Meet the Press,” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was asked to comment on when life begins. Here is what she said: “I would say that as an ardent, practicing Catholic, this is an issue that I have studied for a long time. And what I know is, over the centuries, the doctors of the Church have not been able to make that definition.”

When Tom Brokaw told her that the Catholic Church “feels very strongly” that life begins at conception, Pelosi said, “I understand. And this is like maybe 50 years or something like that. So again, over the history of the Church, this is an issue of controversy.”

Catholic League president Bill Donohue responded as follows:

“Here is what the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says: ‘Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception.’ It also says, ‘Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable.’ Looks like Pelosi didn't study the subject long enough. But not to worry: We are sending her a copy of *Catholicism for Dummies* today (the *Catechism* is like maybe a bit advanced).

“Whether Joe Biden is as ignorant of what his religion teaches remains to be seen. What is not in doubt is the enthusiasm which NARAL showed when he was selected to join the ticket. The radical pro-abortion group was delighted, as were the radical pro-abortion delegates to the Democratic convention: as reported in today’s *New York Times*, 64 percent of Americans reject abortion-on-demand, yet only 23 percent of the delegates do. It is only fitting, then, that NARAL’s president will speak today at the Convention and Planned Parenthood’s president will speak tomorrow.

“So there we have it: the man running for president on the Democratic ticket supports selective infanticide, his running mate is a pro-abortion Catholic, the delegates are wildly out of step with Americans on abortion and the Speaker of the House hasn’t a clue what her religion teaches on the subject.”