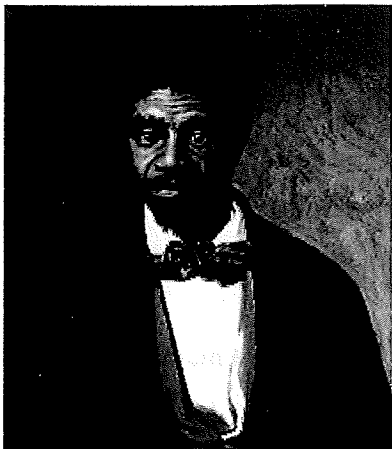


Saint Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Church
Homily Guide:
Pro-Life Sunday January 22, 2011



Dred Scott

Dred Scott (1799 – September 17, 1858), was an African-American slave in the United States who sued unsuccessfully for his freedom in the Dred Scott v. Sandford case of 1857. His case was based on the fact that although he and his wife Harriet Scott were slaves, he had lived with his master Dr. John Emerson in states and territories where slavery was illegal according to both state laws and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, including Illinois and Minnesota (which was then part of the Wisconsin Territory). The United States Supreme Court ruled seven to two against Scott, finding that neither he, nor any person of African ancestry, could claim citizenship in the United States, and therefore Scott could not bring suit in federal court under diversity of citizenship rules. Moreover, Scott's temporary residence outside Missouri did not bring about his emancipation under the Missouri Compromise, **since that would improperly deprive Scott's owner of his legal property.**

^ Dr. Mary Ruwart, Ask Dr. Ruwart, Advocates for Self Government Quote: "The predominant 'pro-choice' viewpoint, as expressed in the current version of the Libertarian Party platform, is backed by principled arguments as well. Libertarians believe that no one should be enslaved to support another, including a pregnant woman 'enslaved' to carry a fetus she does not want. A woman's body is her property, to do with as she wishes."

"the child is an unwanted trespasser on the property of the mother. This is consistent with the view that a property owner has a right to remove (or even to shoot) a trespasser." (from a pro-abortion website)

Excerpt from an article in "Crisis Magazine" by Peter Kreft, philosophy professor at Boston College.

four possibilities for if a Fetus is a person

:

1. The fetus is a person, and we know that;
2. The fetus is a person, but we don't know that;
3. The fetus isn't a person, but we don't know that;
4. The fetus isn't a person, and we know that. What is abortion in each of these four cases?

In Case 1, where the fetus is a person and you know that, abortion is murder. First-degree murder, in fact. You deliberately kill an innocent human being.

In Case 2, where the fetus is a person and you don't know that, abortion is manslaughter. It's like driving over a man-shaped overcoat in the street at night or shooting toxic chemicals into a building that you're not sure is fully evacuated. You're not sure there is a person there, but you're not sure there isn't either, and it just so happens that there is a person there, and you kill him. You cannot plead ignorance. True, you didn't know there was a person there, but you didn't know there wasn't either, so your act was literally the height of irresponsibility. This is the act Roe allowed.

In Case 3, the fetus isn't a person, but you don't know that. So abortion is just as irresponsible as it is in the previous case. You ran over the overcoat or fumigated the building without knowing that there were no persons there. You were lucky; there weren't. But you didn't care; you didn't take care; you were just as irresponsible. You cannot legally be charged with manslaughter, since no man was slaughtered, but you can and should be charged with criminal negligence.

Only in Case 4 is abortion a reasonable, permissible, and responsible choice. **But** note: What makes Case 4 permissible is not merely the fact that the fetus is not a person but also your knowledge that it is not, your overcoming of skepticism. So skepticism counts **not for** abortion but against it. Only if you are not a skeptic, only if you are a dogmatist, only if you are **certain** that there is no person in the fetus, no man in the coat, or no person in the building, may you abort, drive, or fumigate. **(However, there is not absolute certainty that a fetus is not a person!!)**

Book Recommendation: Peter Kreft: *Three approaches to Abortion*

Resources for those who are looking for healing after an abortion:

Rachel's Vinyard: A post abortion retreat: www.racheltx.org Betsy Kopor 817-923-4757

Resources for pregnant women in need:

<http://loretohouse.org/>

