

**Robert Royal and Fr. Murray and Raymond Arroyo respond to  
Feb 6 statement of Robert McElroy**

<https://youtu.be/oU84KwH6Kuk?t=1619>

*Fr. Perozich comments —*

*Robert McElroy is my bishop. I respect his office as bishop, and would not challenge him publicly in a newspaper as I was invited to do back in 2016, nor in any of our personal meetings where I gave him a hearing before taking his admonitions to prayer to see if indeed they were consistent with our Catholic faith or rather the opinions of a man who wishes a certain worldly outcome for various issues in our society.*

*John Horvath addresses an important point for priests, bishops, cardinals and even popes, to think about and to pray about our ideas before we make public what is in our hearts. Are we, reverend fathers, within our competencies when we make to the world and to the faithful our pronouncements regarding politics, science, and the Holy Catholic faith.*

*If I as a priest were to offer alternatives to the fullness of the truth of the Catholic Church, I would lead others on a tangent because of my priestly office.*

*Each of us clerics then has to discern in prayer if we are so moved toward a certain outcome that we might wish to see in the world, rather than the salvation of souls from sin, death and isolation toward good works, eternal life, and communion with God and one another.*

*A layman presents the bishop some questions and some guidance to speak within the competency of a cleric's holy office.*

**Bishop McElroy, how is  
climate change deadlier  
than abortion?**

## *Are 'both abortion and the environment' really 'core life issues in Catholic teaching'?*

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<https://www.lifesitenews.com/opinion/bishop-mcelroy-how-is-climate-change-deadlier-than-abortion>



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*By John Horvat II*

February 12, 2020 (LifeSiteNews) – Abortion presents a problem for the Catholic left since it does not fit into its social justice agenda. It certainly involves social justice in the highest degree since it is a great injustice to deprive an innocent person of life. However, the left, by its nature, always seeks to change “oppressive” social structures that they deem unjust. Abortion does not fit squarely into this category. Indeed, some Catholic leftists will use the oppressive structures of poverty or patriarchy as a reason to justify abortion.

While the Catholic left prefers other issues like climate change, social revolution, and illegal immigration, it is hard to argue against the missing 60 million Americans. These issues pale in comparison to the magnitude of death caused by the sin of abortion. Thus, abortion has long occupied the preeminent place on the American Catholic political scene.

## **A bishop speaks out**

However, a key Catholic figure is directly disputing abortion's preeminent place as a non-negotiable issue for faithful Catholic voters.

Speaking at the University of San Diego on February 6, Most Rev. Robert McElroy, Bishop of San Diego, cast doubt on abortion's preeminent position, especially in light of the upcoming elections. He did not directly discourage opposition to abortion but put climate change on equal footing, declaring that "both abortion and the environment are core life issues in Catholic teaching."

The two issues pose unequal threats, however. For the outspoken liberal bishop, "the long-term death toll from unchecked climate change is larger [than that from abortion] and threatens the very future of humanity."

Three questions about Bishop McElroy's controversial statements need to be answered.

## **To Bishop McElroy, the politician**

The first is addressed directly to Bishop McElroy, the politician: "Your Excellency, why are you raising this issue now?"

Bishops need to be involved in political battles, but that is not their chief function. They must uphold Church teaching even when it is not politically correct or opportune.

Thus, American Catholics must question why the bishop is raising this issue now. Pro-life Catholics have reached the height of their political power mobilizing millions nationwide. They have turned the tide to the point where nearly half of all Americans identify as pro-life. No one, not even the president, can ignore the influence of the pro-life movement.

This influence is starting to bear fruit in the appointment of pro-life judges. Some are even saying that the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* is possible. By denying abortion's preeminence, the bishop is undermining decades of work in the trenches by countless Catholics and other Americans to end the intrinsically evil sin of procured abortion in America and the world.

In making this statement during an election year, Bishop McElroy intentionally muddles the issues in the hope of encouraging Catholics to vote for radical pro-abortion candidates who are eco- or illegal immigration-friendly.

## **To Bishop McElroy, the scientist**

The second question involves Bishop McElroy, the scientist: "Your Excellency, why are you speaking as a scientist?"

Bishop McElroy is not a scientist and thus speaks outside his competence when painting a picture based on alarmist scientific speculation devoid of solid facts. He cites "existing trajectories of pollutants" that are "unchecked." Like so many before him, he makes catastrophic predictions of rising temperatures, famines, and even "perilous viruses."

He is quick to blame a "trajectory of danger unleashed by fossil fuels" that makes action over the next 10 years imperative. His speech reads like a blessing of the Green New Deal. He even claims that "it is a far greater moral evil for our country to

abandon the Paris Climate Accord than to provide contraceptives to federal health centers.”

Just as abortion is not settled law, catastrophic climate change is far from being settled science. Abortion kills tens of millions every year around the world. There are no recorded deaths specifically due to climate change. In striving to diminish the world’s population, those promoting the intrinsic evils of abortion and contraception work hand-in-hand with climate change activists.

## **To Bishop McElroy, the bishop**

The third question is the most tragic and important one: “Your Excellency, why aren’t you speaking as a bishop, which is your area of competence?”

Bishops speak about matters touching on God and His relationship with humanity. But Bishop McElroy’s speech projects a purely naturalistic worldview, a perspective from which God and the supernatural are absent.

Sin and vice distance humanity from God. They turn the world into a hell of disorder and conflict. The denouncing and condemning of sin, the defense of God, His Divine Law, and the Catholic faith – such are the bailiwick of a bishop. So also is the extolling of the practice of the virtue of purity as the true solution to contraception and abortion. Such are the messages the world expects from a bishop. But this is especially true for Catholics since he is their shepherd. How sad that today, instead of the bread they ask for, the Catholic faithful so often receive stones (see Luke 11:11).

To claim that climate change is deadlier than abortion is to deny the truth anyone can see. Moreover, when sin expands its dominion unchecked, the world it creates is necessarily an

ecologically hostile one—as evidenced by China's environmentally disastrous, pro-abortion regime.

People must work toward preserving the environment, a gift of God. However, their first duty will ever be to obey God and His Divine Law.

Unless America can get it right with God—putting an end to the nation's sin in *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized the mass slaughter of innocent pre-born Americans—then all that can be expected are His chastisements.

And in chastising, as the Church teaches, God frequently uses secondary causes, and the forces of nature, which He created, are among them.