Week#179: Do you believe abortion is a sin? Why or why not? (Due 8 a.m. Monday, June 6. Prints June 11.)

Clearly, the Catholic position is that abortion is sinful. Unfortunately it occurs too frequently as the only perceived option. That being said, the great challenge is to reconcile and heal the person after the abortion has occurred. Most women (and men) express severe regret and emotional distress, even about an abortion that may have happened many years ago. It requires great pastoral sensitivity to assist these moms (and dads) to both forgive themselves and feel reconciled to their faith. Perhaps knowing that their child is safely in the hands of God and is fervently praying for them out of love and mercy can help to overcome their flashbacks and the post-traumatic stress that lingers long afterwards. While we condemn the sin, we must always remember that no sin is unforgivable and that there is always hope for every repentant person. The Lord IS kind and merciful.

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