

Bishop Edward J. O'Donnell scholarship

Pro-Life Mentality: Quote Analysis

“Perfection of moral virtue does not wholly take away the passions, but regulates them.”

–St. Thomas Aquinas

St. Thomas Aquinas is trying to convey to us that acting with increased virtue provides us with balance and correct prioritization in our lives. One of the greatest gifts that God has given us is our sexuality, but we struggle to know where it belongs in our messy lives. We often abuse, have a lack of respect for, or completely disregard our sexuality because we are blinded by the sin of the world. When we are able to perfect the moral virtue of chastity in our lives, the passion of sexuality is regulated and is able to fit where it belongs in our life, according to our vocation.

“Only the chaste man and the chaste woman are capable of real love.”

–St. Pope John Paul II

Pope John Paul II, author of the literary series *Theology of the Body*, is expressing that a relationship built without the virtue of chastity cannot produce eros, romantic love, or agape, the unconditional love of Jesus Christ. The true love that is shown by a married couple should feel free, total, faithful, and fruitful love that John Paul II speaks of.

“Abortion is the ultimate exploitation of women.”

–Alice Paul

American Pro-Life activist Alice Paul describes abortion as an exploitation, which is unfair treatment towards a group of people to benefit from their work. You could also argue that women who do not practice the virtue of chastity and put themselves in a situation where they have to choose between abortion and motherhood are exploiting themselves, putting themselves through the trauma of killing the child in her womb. If people had the love of Christ in their lives and the strength to practice the virtue of chastity, there wouldn't be the need for so many abortions. Abortion truly is exploitation of the soul, and the virtue of chastity has the power to stop it.

-John Paul “Bubba” Chapman
St. Clement of Rome