



**Being Disciples of Jesus  
in Charity, Justice, and Prophecy  
Why Simply Being Good-hearted is not Enough**

Oblate School of Theology  
National Retreat  
February 6-9, 2023

**Ron Rolheiser OMI**



## Sessions ...

1. **Monday AM** - What is Social Justice and its distinctiveness from Charity
  2. **Monday Afternoon** – The Place of Social Justice with Christian Spirituality as a whole
  3. **Monday Evening** – Some Principles from Scripture and Church Teachings
- 
1. **Tuesday AM** – Justice and the Ecological Crisis
  2. **Tuesday Evening** – One major social justice issue – *The Inequality of Women*
- 
1. **Wednesday AM** – One major social justice issue – *Justice and End of Life Issues*  
(Monsignor Jerry McCarthy)
  2. **Wednesday PM** – One major social justice issue – *Justice and Abortion*
- 
1. **Thursday AM** – Ten Principles for Christian Prophecy
  2. **Thursday PM** – Quiet Prophecy



Wednesday PM -

## Justice and Abortion

### I. Abortion as a Social Justice Issue

- **The social and justice issues that underlie abortion**
  - Our present societal sexual ethos
  - Economics
  - Gender disparity
  - The proclivity to isolate abortion as if it has no connection to all the other issues of justice.



Wednesday PM -

## Justice and Abortion

- The role and place of law
  - ▣ The law as preventing an intrinsic evil
  - ▣ The law as “teacher” – its power and its impotence
  - ▣ The principle of “democracy” - as reflecting the will of the majority rather than the moral or religious view of a minority.
  - ▣ What really is the effect of reversing “Roe versus Wade”?
- The radicalization of strident voices on both sides making rational discussion impossible
  - ▣ “*Beyond the Abortion Wars*” – Charles Camosy’s research
  - ▣ Hate-filled, contemptuous prophecy (on both sides)



Wednesday PM -

## Justice and Abortion

### II. The path forward

- The moral and religious formation of the conscience of society
  - ✚ Re – the sacredness of all life
  - ✚ Re – sexual ethics
  - ✚ Re – the economic issues underlying abortion
  - ✚ Re – Gender equality
  - ✚ Re – respectful dialogue – the absence of contempt
  - ✚ Re - both Pro-life and Pro-Choice having a wide and consistent view on this question and how it relates to other social and justice issues.



Wednesday PM -

## Justice and Abortion

🗨️ Re – linking the prevalence of abortion to the issue of injustice in general in our world.

- Loving, care-filled prophecy
- “Neighborliness”, tolerance of each other
- “Pray and fasting”

🗨️ *“Some demons are only cast out through prayer and fasting” Jesus*

🗨️ *“Prayer is most needed just when it is felt to be most useless” Michael Buckley SJ*

