

Love for the Child in the German Heart

Remarks at the Sixth Annual March for Life in Berlin, September 17, 2011

Ich heie Eric Scheidler und ich bin ein aktivist fr das Leben aus die Vereinigte Staaten; Ich bin der Direktor der "Pro-Life Action League." Aber mein Deutsch ist nicht so gut, und ich werde sprechen Englisch.

[My name is Eric Scheidler and I am a pro-life activist from the United States; I am the Director of the Pro-Life Action League. But my German is not very good, and I will speak English.]

When I am not fighting to end abortion I love to sing and play guitar, especially Christmas carols -- Christmas carols from around the world.

The carols of each nation have their own general character; they revisit the same themes again and again. French carols are very pastoral -- fields, sheep, shepherds. English carols so often look forward to the suffering that the Christ child will face on the cross.

But my favorite are German Christmas carols. The special feature of these songs, one finds a deep passionate love for the the Child. A few examples:

Still, still, still, weil's kindlein schlaffen will!
[Quiet, quiet, quiet, while the little child is sleeping!]

*Ein Kindlein in der Wiegen, ein kleines Kindelein;
Das gleiet wie ein Spiegel nach adelichem Schein,
[A little child in the cradle, a beautiful little child
that shines as a mirror, reflecting noble light.]*

From "Zu Bethlehem Geboren":

O Kindelein, von Herzen will ich dich lieben sehr, in Freuden und in Schmerzen.
[Oh little baby, from my heart I will love you greatly, in joy and in pain.]

From the greatest Christmas carol of all, "Stille Nacht":

Nur das traute heilige Paar, Holder Knab im lockigten Haar
[Only the faithful and holy pair, Lovely boy with curly hair]

These songs reveal that deep in the German heart there is an abiding love for the child. You can kindle that love, which is poisoned by the cultural acceptance of abortion, through your faithful witness.

So for to I offer a challenge: between now and Christmas, do something to restore that love for the child; do something specific to end abortion.

Volunteer at a pregnancy resource center. Go and pray at an abortion clinic. Courageously speak to your friends, neighbors and coworkers about the right to life of the unborn child and the truth about abortion. Make a sacrificial donation to groups like der Bundesverband Lebensrecht and die Jugend fr das Leben and others working to end abortion in Germany.

That love for the child—the beautiful infant—remains in the German heart. with your witness, you can rekindle that love and end the injustice of abortion.