Catholic Church, and Pope Pius IX was not extended to those who used contraception. In 1864, Pope Pius IX challenged the canonical tradition about the beginning of ensouled life set by Pope Gregory XIV in 1591. He believed that while it may not be known when ensoulment occurs, there was the possibility that it happens at conception. Believing it was morally safer to follow this conclusion, he thought all life should be protected from the start of conception. In 1869 he removed the labels of “animated” fetus and “unanimated” fetus and concluded that abortions at any point of gestation were punishable by excommunication. While excommunication was used to punish those who procured abortions, it was not extended to those who used contraception.

Pope Pius IX, commonly known as Pio Nono, died on 7 February 1878. His was the longest papacy in the history of the Catholic Church, and Pope Pius IX is often considered one of the greatest popes to have ever lived. His dogma of Immaculate Conception, VATICAN I, and papal infallibility were some of his most notable accomplishments. His efforts in punishing those that
procured abortions at any time of gestation prevailed within the Catholic Church; excommunication for abortion became Canon Law in 1917, and later revised in 1983.

Sources


Pope Pius IX, born Giovanni Maria Mastai-Ferretti, marked his contribution to the abortion debate by removing the distinction between an "animated" and "unanimated" fetus from Catholic doctrine, and established the edict that a human should be protected starting from the moment of conception onward. This proclamation made abortion at any time of gestation punishable by excommunication. Pope Pius IX's decision became Canon Law of the Catholic Church.

Subject
Pius IX, Pope, 1792-1878

Topic
People Religion Reproduction

Publisher
Arizona State University. School of Life Sciences. Center for Biology and Society. Embryo Project Encyclopedia.

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Format
Articles

Last Modified
Wednesday, July 4, 2018 - 04:40

DC Date Accessioned
Thursday, May 10, 2012 - 14:02

DC Date Available
Thursday, May 10, 2012 - 14:02

DC Date Created
2010-07-01

DC Date Created Standard
Thursday, July 1, 2010 - 07:00

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