



Roe Reality Check #15

The “*Roe Reality Checks*” series ends by citing Cardinal William H. Keeler’s January 6 letter to U.S. Senators.¹ Each of his points was documented throughout this series:

- “For over three decades, *Roe* has sparked more informed criticism and public resistance than any other court decision of the late 20th century.”
- “Even legal scholars who support abortion have criticized *Roe* for not being grounded in the U.S. Constitution.”
- “Further, in 2000, the Supreme Court relied on *Roe* to rule that the gruesome and inhumane practice of partial-birth abortion must be constitutionally protected.”

In the words of a former law clerk to Justice Blackmun, the *Roe* opinion’s author, *Roe* is a poor choice for a “litmus test” for judicial nominees, for “as a matter of constitutional interpretation, even most liberal jurists – if you administer truth serum – will tell you it is basically indefensible.”²

Cardinal Keeler put it this way: “By any measure, support for the Supreme Court’s 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision is an impoverished standard for assessing judicial ability.”

The complete “Reality Check” series can be found at:
www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/abortion/roevwade/realitychecks.shtml.

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MERRIFIELD, VA
PERMIT NO. 6250

www.secondlookproject.org

¹ For full text see www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2005/05-004.shtml

² Edward Lazarus, “Liberals, Don’t Make Her an Icon,” *The Washington Post*, July 10, 2005, B3.