



Which of these...was neighbor...?"

He answered, "The one  
who treated him with mercy."

Jesus said to him,

*"Go and do likewise."*

Ending his ten day, nine city whirlwind tour in 1987 that coincided with the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, Saint Pope John Paul II gave the following excerpts in his Farewell Address to the Nation.

**As I leave, I express my gratitude to God also for what He is accomplishing in your midst.**

***America the beautiful!* So you sing in one of your national songs. Yes, America, you are beautiful indeed, and blessed in so many ways.**

**Yes, America, all this belongs to you. But *your greatest beauty and your richest blessing is found in the human person:* in each man, woman and child, in every immigrant, in every native-born son and daughter.**

**All the great causes that are yours today will have meaning *only to the extent that you guarantee the right to life and protect the human person:***

- feeding the poor and welcoming refugees;
- reinforcing the social fabric of this nation;
- promoting the true advancement of women;
- securing the rights of minorities;
- pursuing disarmament, while guaranteeing legitimate defense; all this will succeed only if respect for life and its protection by the law is granted to every human being *from conception until natural death.*

**Every human person - no matter how vulnerable or helpless, no matter how young or how old, no matter how healthy, handicapped or sick, no matter how useful or productive for society - is a being of inestimable worth created in the image and likeness of God. This is the dignity of America, the reason she exists, the condition for her survival.**

**With these sentiments of love and hope for America, I now say goodbye in words that I spoke once before: "Today, therefore, my final prayer is this: that God will bless America, so that she may increasingly become - and truly be - and long remain one Nation, under God, indivisible. With liberty and justice for all."**

**May God bless you all.  
God bless America!**

**Saint Pope John Paul II**