

## Throwing Christian Values under the Bus



For his freshman year my son attended the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. It is a school with a great reputation. It's currently ranked number 24 among universities in the US. Although not an Ivy League school, the \$52,266 tuition tag is only \$1624 cheaper than Princeton. When my son decided of his own volition to transfer from UMich to University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) I was grateful.

Even though UIUC is ranked 47<sup>th</sup> and the country, I was grateful. It wasn't because of the \$35,000 dollars per year less that would be spent on his annual tuition, but I was grateful and glad that I would not have to drive through Indiana anymore, from Chicago, to get to his school.

It wasn't the four-hour drive that bothered me—I've driven from the Netherlands to the Czech Republic. I've driven from New York to Florida. And although the Midwest is incredibly flat, with almost no scenery to speak of on the drive from Chicago to Ann Arbor, even that didn't bother me—it was the billboards. The drive contained many, so many pro-life billboards.



In the months leading up to the 2020 presidential election, against my better judgment, I engaged in arguments on Facebook with people who felt that if I was Catholic, voting for a pro-life candidate should be my only decision-making factor. In 2016, also just prior to the presidential election, my church had an incredibly large anti-abortion banner on its front lawn.

Neither on my church's front lawn nor along the Indiana highway have I seen a banner or billboard to assist prisoners, the poor, widows, question the patriarchy, or support legislation that would enhance education or make childcare and health care for single mothers more affordable and accessible. I have never seen banners or billboards declaring outrage to racial injustice.

Billboards and banners are not free. Groups make a conscious choice to publicly proclaim their support of a particular issue in this manner. So for both of these groups they felt it was money well spent to display, in larger-than-life form, their priorities.

Stating that pro-lifers throw prisoners, immigrants, the poor, widows, orphans, etc. "under the bus" might be a slight exaggeration. Perhaps disregarding them completely can be more likened to just throwing them by the wayside.