

Thoughts on tobacco 21 law

By Eli Goodhew
Staff Writer

As we all know, the vaping epidemic we have been facing throughout 2019 unfortunately is following us this year. Sadly, a young life was taken at the age of 15 reported by Dallas County Health and Human Services.

On December 3, a study was done, and the record number of hospitalized cases of lung-related conditions linked to vaping was at 2561 and 55 deaths. This number is only going to get higher, especially now that the laws have

changed.

The age to buy nicotine and tobacco products has been raised to 21. This caused an uproar with a lot of young teens who rely on nicotine as a destresser or even has just become a habit. Some only began when they reached the age of 18. Now they are hooked and being denied.

In a way, it is a good thing considering how many minors who were and still are getting ahold of such products and the obvious fact that yes, it does indeed destroy our bodies in ways we can not even imagine.

BC student Liv Greene states, "If I should be

able to get married and vote I should be able to buy nicotine at my own leisure as at 18 we are expected to become adults and make our own decisions. Why don't they let us?"

The Negatives and positives are quite extensive, and many people's opinions vary. Nicotine addiction at a young age can damage the brain and so many ways considering it is not fully developed at the time when we make decisions or unconsciously become addicted. I have spoken to any students on campus who feel as if the new law has made them crave it even more.

Catholic Church controversy

By Mickayla Smith
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According to NPR, retired Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis are at a standstill concerning the necessity of remaining celibate in the priesthood. Pope Francis is debating between relaxing this strict celibacy requirement for ordination in some South American countries

because of the decreasing number of priests.

Pope Benedict XVI and his co-author Guinean Cardinal Robert Sarah wrote a book that translates to "From the Depths of Our Hearts", to defend the importance of remaining celibate when serving as a priest.

"The priesthood of Jesus Christ causes us to enter into a life that consists of becoming one with him and renouncing all that belongs only

to us," former Pope Benedict XVI writes. "For priests, this is the foundation of the necessity of celibacy but also of liturgical prayer, meditation on the Word of God and the renunciation of material goods."

According to Pope Benedict, serving the Lord requires a certain degree of devotion and that means that a person cannot simultaneously be devoted to his family and the Lord at the same time. This is why retired Pope Benedict XVI writes, "it does not seem possible to carry on the two vocations simultaneously, which is why celibacy became a criterion for priestly ministry." In keeping with priestly celibacy, Benedict claims that it protects the church's mystery.

I think Pope Francis has made a revolutionary statement by deliberating the idea of letting go of the old fashioned and strict celibacy rule. If a person so happens to have a family and is wholeheartedly devoted to God, why would we deny someone to spread the word of Christ? Not being celibate isn't going to defile the church, I think it will make the church more relatable and in return, more people will find meaning within the Roman Catholic Church.

Pope Francis believes that celibacy should be a choice and not a restriction. However, this idea is still in the works and there has to be a lot of discussion regarding this issue before there is a final decision. Priests have been celibate for thousands of years, and changing this will be scary for a lot of people. However, change is good and should be embraced. A change like this can open doors to new ways to live life and a new relationship with God.



Meeting between Pope Francis and Pope Benedict XVI on the occasion of the inauguration of the statue of St. Michael the Archangel in the Vatican Gardens