

LIVING IN LOVE AND RESPECTING ALL LIFE

During the month of February we remember Saint Valentine's Day and celebrate the message of our love to others.

What better gift of our love can we give the Good God and one another but that of respecting all life from conception to natural death.

Jesus shows us that the heart of the Christian message is love and life:

"I came that they may have life and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

The inviolability of the person which is a reflection of the absolute inviolability of God, finds its primary and fundamental expression in the inviolability of human life. Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights—for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture— is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination.

– Pope John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici* (1988), no. 38

It is impossible to further the common good without acknowledging and defending the right to life, upon which all the other inalienable rights of individuals are founded and from which they develop. A society lacks solid foundations when, on the one hand, it asserts values such as the dignity of the person, justice and peace, but then, on the other hand, radically acts to the contrary by allowing or tolerating a variety of ways in which human life is devalued and violated, especially where it is weak or marginalized. Only respect for life can be the foundation and guarantee of the most precious and essential goods of society, such as democracy and peace.

– Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae* (1995), no. 101



Remembering that we are created by God the Father,

redeemed by His Son Jesus the Christ,

and enlivened and graced by the Holy Spirit,

we recall that we continually live in Their holy presence.

Holy is God, holy and mighty, holy and living forever.

Holy is God, loving and caring, inviting and inspiring forever.

Holy is God, Who wishes us to choose life over death, light over darkness, good over evil as long as the breathe of life resides in us.

Choose Life

**Choose life that you may be a leaven for the human family;
then shall you live in peace,
as justice bears the gift of freedom throughout the world.**

**Children of earth unite and sing
of beauty and of truth held in your hands;
flowers of hope you are for us.
As love becomes your bread in life,
Your life our only hope.**

**Prophets of progress, heed our cry
and listen to your inner spirit's thirst
for more of life that shall not die;
make clear your choice to live for others
while there still is time.**

– The Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont, Inc. © 1981.

Psalm 139: 13–17

**For it was You Who formed my inward parts;
You knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are Your works, O Lord.
My frame was not hidden from You,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven into the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In Your book were written all the days
that were formed for me,
when none of them yet existed, O God.**



Genesis 1 : 26–31

Then God said: “Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”

God created man in His image; in the divine image He created him; male and female He created them.

God blessed them, saying: “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth.

God also said: “See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food.” And so it happened.

God looked at everything He had made, and He found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed – the sixth day.

Reflection

After preaching a pro-life homily at a Florida church, Father Frank Pavone of Priests for Life saw a sign on a beach that read:

ATTENTION:

Beach Users: Help protect endangered sea turtles:

- *Avoid disturbing nesting females**
- *Leave nest eggs and hatchlings undisturbed**
- *Turn off lights that shine on the beach
between May - October**

**Sea turtles are protected by county, state and federal law
Fines up to \$20,000.**

Father Pavone was struck just how much protection the sea turtles were given as opposed to an unborn child.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO RESPECT LIFE???

- 1. PRAY**
- 2. LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD**
- 3. BECOME POLITICALLY AWARE**
- 4. REACH OUT TO THOSE WHO HAVE CHOSEN LIFE**
- 5. ENCOURAGE A HOLY RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE**

Prayers of Petition

That we may always cherish and respect the awesome gift of life, we pray:

That men and women will act responsibly in scientific research, we pray:

That our world will come to realize the horrors of abortion not only to the fetus but also to the mother and father, we pray:

That we will see in those who are afflicted, ill, or infirm, the face of the suffering Christ, we pray:

That we will honor and treat all our elderly with respect and admiration for the gifts they have brought to our world, we pray:

That those who are wrongly imprisoned and/or put to death, will find consolation in Jesus' words "This day you shall be with Me in paradise" we pray:

That we will make no excuses for the justification of war and the killing and maiming of innocent people, we pray:

That the Holy Spirit may fill us and all peoples with a profound gratitude for life from conception to natural death, we pray:

Creator God, You have made us a little less than the angels. You have crowned us with glory and honor. Inspire us to be people who cherish the gift of life and work to promote respect for it contrary to what our society may dictate. We ask this in the name of Jesus Who is our Light and our Life and the Holy Spirit Who emboldens us. Amen.

**Father and Maker of all, You adorn all creation
with splendor and beauty, and fashion human lives
in Your image and likeness.**

**Awaken in every heart reverence for the work of Your hands,
and renew among Your people a readiness to nurture and sustain
Your precious gift of life.**

**Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

– Rev. James P. Moroney



**Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.
We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
I will hold the Christ–light for you in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you and speak the peace you long to hear.
I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I will laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow ‘til we have seen this journey through.
When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,
born of all we’ve known together of Christ’s love and agony.**

– Richard Gillard ©1977 Scripture in Song

**Heavenly Father,
the beauty and dignity of human life
was the crowning of Your creation.
You further ennobled that life
when Your Son became one with us in His incarnation.
Help us to realize the sacredness of human life
and to respect it from the moment of conception
until the last moment at death.
Give us courage to speak with truth
and love and with conviction in defense of life.
Help us to extend the gentle hand of mercy and forgiveness
to those who do not reverence Your gift of life.
To all, grant pardon for the times we have failed
to be grateful for Your precious gift of life
or to respect it in others.
We ask this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.**



**All you Holy Innocents and martyrs for the Lord,
help us to appreciate and cherish the gift of all life.**

**Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
assist us in seeing the goodness of our God in all of creation.**

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!