

SAID ED November 5, 2017

Organ Donation and the Gift of Life

The month of November is the time when we pray for the dead and give thanks to God for the blessings that we have received from those who have gone before us. We remember our beloved dead in a special way next Saturday, November 11 at our 9:00am Mass. Please see inside this bulletin for more information.

November is also the month in which special appeals are made across religious communities around our country as we celebrate National Donor Sabbath. This is an interfaith celebration of life and thanksgiving that brings together the religious and the organ donation communities. I consider organ donation to be a very, very generous and substantial gift of life to others. It is a gift that all of us can make at the time of our own death. There is an abundance of material available attesting to the large numbers of people who await organ and tissue transplantation. I know several people who have been the recipients of others' generosity in this regard. They are parishioners, family, and friends. Perhaps you too know someone whose life was saved by the gift of organ or tissue transplantation.

But what is the Church's moral stand on organ and tissue transplantation? This is a good question because we reverence the value of life so highly.

The answer is a simple one. Our church clearly teaches that the gift of organ and tissue transplantation is a profound gift of life that is morally acceptable and highly commendable. Obviously there is no pain or suffering involved for the giver of such gifts; but often times families find themselves in an awkward position when the issue is raised. Families want to follow the wishes of the deceased, but often feel a bit uncomfortable with the idea of transplantation. This is understandable; but it should not be an obstacle thwarting the wishes of someone who has decided to donate their tissues and organs so that others might have life.

Information about organ and tissue donation is available from many places. I carry my organ and tissue donation card along with my driver's license wherever I go. My family, my doctor, and the Rochester Eye & Tissue Bank and the Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network are aware of my wishes and stand ready to carry them out upon my death. The thought that the gift of part of me could provide life for someone else is profoundly humbling. I urge you to consider organ and tissue transplantation as a part of your legacy to others. A number of web sites contain helpful information too. See: <http://www.health.state.ny.us> and search on "organ donation for a fine series of Questions and Answers.

Thank you to all who have made a pledge to the Catholic Ministries Appeal – pledge so far this year. As of this writing (Tuesday) 331 parishioners have made pledges to the CMA totaling \$83,479 for our parish. That means we are at 36.58% of our goal, which is \$228,221. If you have not made your pledge as yet, please offer your support of our diocesan ministries this week. Extra pledge envelopes are found in all the pews.

Have a great week!
