

October 6, 2019

CELEBRATING A CULTURE OF LIFE!

CELEBRATING A CULTURE OF LIFE. As the entire Catholic Church is committed to promoting a CULTURE OF LIFE, in a world where life is less and less respected (growing Culture of Death), Archbishop Gregory just sent out a letter to all his brother priests, which I want to share with all of you:

*"As you know, Catholics around the world celebrate Respect Life Month during the month of October. This year, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops has chosen the theme **Christ Our Hope in Every Season of Life** to guide our effort to promote the dignity of every person during Respect Life Month. This theme is especially fitting here in the Archdiocese of Washington where we face attacks on the sanctity of human person at various stages of life. Within the Archdiocese of Washington's bounds, abortion is legal through nine months of pregnancy. Three years ago, the District of Columbia legalized physician-assisted suicide, which targets the elderly and people with disabilities, and this year, we expect yet another attempt to legalize physician-assisted suicide in Maryland. The culture of death surrounds us, but Christ is our hope! I invite you to join me on **October 6 in celebrating Respect Life Sunday** at your parish...in proclaiming the dignity of all people from conception until natural death and praying that we may transform our culture into one that cherishes life at every stage...In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells us, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea' and it would obey you.'" I pray that we may have faith the size of the mustard seed and work together to protect the most vulnerable among us."*

On this Respect Life Sunday, as your pastor, I INVITE YOU TO STAND AND PRAY for the unborn, who are the most vulnerable in our society, by joining us together for National Life Chain from 1:45 pm – 3:30 pm. The Life Chain is a prayerful public witness standing in remembrance of the 61 million lives lost to

abortion, praying for our nation, for people in crisis situations and for an end to abortion. We will STAND AND UNITE IN PRAYER FOR THE SACRIFICITY OF HUMAN LIFE from the moment of conception to natural death. We will meet in Mary's circle at 1:45 pm, we will then walk to the corner of St Charles Parkway and St Thomas Drive to stand and unite in prayer! Bring the entire family and feel free to bring a lawn chair for those that need it!

Married couples OPEN TO LIFE are the foundation of the Culture of Life. We invite you to pray for our young adults community, that they will abide by the sanctity of sacramental marriage if God is calling them to the vocation of married life: united for ever in selfless love, mutual respect, openness to life, and raising of children in the Catholic Faith.

Earlier this week, we were celebrating another wonderful dimension of Life: religious life. Five MCSTs Sisters renewed their vows in our parish on the Feast Day of St Therese of the Child Jesus. It was an event filled with Love, Joy and Peace. I will never forget the angelic voices of our children's choir, but also the angelic voices of the five sisters singing right after the renewal of their vows: "I LOVE THE LORD, He is filled with compassion. He turned to me on the day that I called ...I shall live my vows to You before Your people, I am Your servant. I LOVE THE LORD ..." A reminder that our Christian LIFE is all about LOVE: LOVE GOD, and LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR as JESUS LOVES YOU! The respect of life at all stages, from the unborn to the elderly, is founded on LOVE. We are invited to see in every human life the IMAGE OF GOD!

Let us all pray together for the respect of the sanctity of life. May the Holy Spirit help each one of us to promote a Culture of Life!

One in Christ,  
Father Alain