

On the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, October 4th, we were treated to a joyful surprise. Fr. Nick Spirko drove all the way, himself, from the Vincentian Home to visit us. As you can tell from his photograph, he is looking fabulous! He said he is feeling better than he has in many years. The rehab has done him a world of good. He is very grateful for everyone's prayers and support over these months of recuperation. Father is doing so well that he hopes to move from the Vincentian Home to the St. John Vianney Manor in Crafton, the retirement home for priests of the diocese.



Of course, I invited Fr. Nick back to celebrate a Mass with us at his convenience. We will announce when that will be. In the meantime, please keep Fr. Nick in your prayers for a continued healthy and prosperous retirement.

In this beautiful month of October, our church recalls the dignity of human life from conception to natural death. It is important for us to continue to raise our voices in prayer and petition. It is outrageous today that many Catholic politicians in very powerful positions are working harder to destroy life than to preserve it! Not all Catholic politicians, just some very powerful ones, are trying to support, with legislation, funding of abortion and the diabolical use of fetal tissue after abortions for scientific experimentation. Would that our government was more intent on helping and preserving life than destroying it! They even want to remove from budget proposals, the Hyde amendment, so that government taxpayer money will fund abortions! They have no regard for the conscientious objection of Americans who feel abortion is murder. Taxpayer money should go to assisting unwed mothers with whatever assistance they need so they can give life to their children and raise them themselves or give them up to a loving home. There are many couples who would gladly adopt a child. These thousands and thousands of unborn children have a right to life! Their innocent blood is on the hands, not only of those who perform these grisly acts, but also on all those who financially support this industry of death!

We will pray as a community that this scourge on America will be lifted. Not just the reform of unjust laws, but more importantly, the conversion of hearts of moms and dads who would rather destroy their children than seek solutions to whatever problems they are facing. Death is never the answer. These are not virgin births. Men are just as responsible, if not more responsible, than women to answer for the life conceived. We pray for men of character! We need men who will stand by their wives, girlfriends and all women. We need men who will not see women as objects of their pleasure, but as partners for life. Our parish does have an established Sanctity of Life committee represented by Marla Brown, a member of our Pastoral Council. She can be contacted at [pastoralcouncil@hsplc.org](mailto:pastoralcouncil@hsplc.org) if you have any questions.

On October 16th at 9:00 am at St. Vitus, we will also celebrate an Anointing of the Sick Mass for all our elderly and those who may be in need of the Sacrament of Healing. Anyone who has a chronic illness or will be having surgery or other serious health concern is welcome to receive this sacrament. This is another way we celebrate the respect of life and the dignity of all human beings no matter their age.

On the weekend of October 16th and 17th, we will pray at all the Masses for those families who have lost children due to miscarriages or illness. May our Blessed Mother, who cradled the body of her crucified Son, bring great comfort and peace to all mothers and fathers, knowing that their sons and daughters who have died prematurely still live!



On October 17th at 1:00 pm, we will hold our 2nd Annual Rosary Walk, carrying the Blessed Sacrament and the statue of Nostra Signora delle Grazie, Our Lady of Grace, in procession from St. Vitus Church and ending at St. Mary Church.

God love you,


