

August 19, 2018

Catholic Church Teachings on Life

Today marks the first in a series of fact-based, apolitical columns focused on respecting and protecting human life at every stage from conception to natural death. Our goal is to provide informative and interesting insight into Church teachings, family issues, and legislative topics in hopes that you and others will become more involved in our Respect life efforts.

We should start by looking at what Church teaches us about life. The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) is an excellent resource.

In their “Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities” we are taught “that human life is a precious gift from God; that each person who receives this gift has responsibilities toward God, self and others; and that society, through its laws and social institutions, must protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence”.

In “The Challenge of Faithful Citizenship” we hear that “Protecting human life begins with our opposition to abortion and euthanasia, which are preeminent threats to human life and dignity, and extends to our opposition to cloning, assisted suicide, and the death penalty”.

And finally, in “Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics” we are reminded that “those who justify their inaction on the grounds that abortion is the law of the land need to recognize that there is a higher law, the law of God. No human law can validly contradict the Commandment ‘Thou shall not kill’”.

How are we living our lives? Are we meeting our responsibilities from God and working to protect human life through our peaceful witness of proclaiming the truth and carrying out works of charity? Are we involved? Please pray that we learn and may be open to opportunities to respect the rights of all people..