

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
St Brigid & St Patrick
October 17, 2021

October: Respect Life Month
(Part 3 of a Series: Building a Culture of Life)

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Until a few decades ago, **euthanasia** (“*easy death*”) was scarcely understood even as a word, let alone discussed except in a small circle of social theorists. But much has happened since, and those concerned with the future of society have suddenly awakened to the implications of so-called “*mercy killing*.” They affect every facet of personal and social existence, and they emphasize with stark clarity the need for sound Christian principles if the very foundations of human civilization are to remain intact.

(This is Part 3 in a *four-part series*, a series identifying four attacks against the “*Culture of Life*.” The previous two weeks, we covered **abortion** and **contraception**. This week, we examine **euthanasia**.)

Secularists claim that helpless invalids, bedridden cripples, and the unproductive aged should be quietly but firmly *phased out of existence*. They claim that these people are useless members of society: **useless** to themselves, since all they may have facing them is the pain and disability of the future; and **useless** to others, since what little they contribute to the welfare of society, which measures a person’s value by his *utility* to increase the physical well-being of mankind.

But, **the Church** has always condemned euthanasia. It is contrary to natural law and divine law. Why does Catholic Christianity condemn euthanasia? Because, no matter what sentimentalists or social engineers may say, it is a **grave crime** against justice, both human and divine. God alone has the ownership of human life. Those who practice euthanasia assume the right of ownership over life. Therefore the sin committed is either murder or suicide.

“*You shall not kill*” is not only a mandate of the *Decalogue*. It is the expression of reverence for a human person, no matter how young or old, how strong or weak, and irrespective of his physical, mental, or emotional condition. Implicit in the Christian value system is the realization that **human life is sacred**, of and by itself, apart from any profitable function it may serve as a tool of “*productivity*.”

After all, what do we mean when we speak of the dignity of human life? We mean that a human being is worthy (hence he has the dignity) of being loved just because he is human, no matter how otherwise lacking in dignity he may seem to be, made to the image and likeness of God, redeemed by the blood of Christ, and destined to be with God in heaven for eternity. No wonder the Catholic Church looks upon euthanasia as “*infamous, harmful to civilization, and dishonorable to the Creator*.”

Not only does man have **intrinsic** dignity, but God has inalienable rights. *The divine lordship* over human life is an article of the Catholic faith. Man is to preserve this life as the first condition of his dependence on the Creator; and not deliberately curtail his time of probation on earth, during which he is to work out and thereby merit the happiness of his final destiny.

Given the premise that only God has absolute mastery of human life, only God may take away what he originally conferred, whenever and under whatever circumstances he wills. Ours is *not mastery* but only *ministry*, of our own lives as of the lives of others. We **may not commit a grave injustice to God** by deliberately terminating innocent human life.

One unfortunate practice by the “*culture of death*” that has developed in recent years is the practice of **withholding nutrition and hydration** to patients who are elderly or coming close to death. The **Catholic Church** teaches that life is an *intrinsic good*. Even when a person is afflicted with illness, that value remains intact. In fact, the sick and the elderly deserve our special care.

Therefore, *the default position* for the care of those who are suffering from diminished consciousness and are not hours away from death, as well as for those at the end of life, should be in favor of providing food and water even by artificial means. Food and water must be given, even if by a tube, if the body can assimilate them and there are no serious complications.

Unfortunately, the removal of nutrition and hydration from patients who are incapacitated is **fairly common**. Whenever a recommendation is made to withhold food and water, one should ask, “*What will be the cause of death?*” If the answer is dehydration or starvation, and assisted nutrition and hydration can be easily supplied and assimilated, then not supplying them is a form of **euthanasia**. Unconsciousness is not a fatal disease. No one dies from unconsciousness.

Finally, many advance directives (*living wills*) invite patients to forgo food and water provided by artificial means if the patients become mentally incapacitated. **Catholics should not sign** such documents; if they have signed them, they should **rescind them**. God gave us the beautiful gift of life, and only God determines when we leave this earthly existence.

(excerpts from *The Real Presence Association*, and the *National Catholic Bioethics Center*)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:
(ANY CHANGES, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE.)

Stacey Rinde, Marlene Stremick, Jack Peterson, Mason Palmiseno, Judy Hultin, Jim Dunnigan, Patty Durand, Lori Hill, Lucy Rieger, John Christianson, Pauline Dusek, Patricia Rodvold, Marla Zidon, Rex Grill, Heidi Gustafson, Adriane Wellman, Isabelle Copeland, Tracy Letzring, Kelly Morrison, Jody Deibert, Allison Bleick, Dale Hultin, Bob McCartney, Susie Dimsha, Sherry McDonald, Shelbie Goodoien, Oliver Goodoien, Brent Collins, Merle Larson, Robert O’Toole, Ruth Rieger, Melanie Fischer, Ruth Ivesdahl, Carol Smith, Mary Louise, Bernard & Aletha Schommer, Brianna Fernandez, Brett & Rick Letzring, Jane Grazadzieleski, Rick Kilichowski, Donald Denault, Gary Olson, Fr. Finnestad, Joan Kerian.

ST PATRICK ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pray the Rosary: Sun at 8:00 am. **Adoration with Confessions:** Sat at 8:00 am. **More Confessions:** Sun 8:00 am. **Oct Church Cleaners:** Don & Laurie Z; Duane & Linda D; Kaci Sharp. **Collection:** Clay & Jim (Oct 17) Dianne & Melissa (Oct 24). **Reader:** Burrell (Oct). **Sanctuary Lamp:** Barbara Larson (Oct 17); Grace & Percy Douphanais (Oct 24). **Sacristan:** Scott (Oct 17); Melissa (Oct 24). **Rosary:** Mary S (Oct 17); Jim (Oct 24). **Breakfast:** Sign up sheet in back of the church for all who want to volunteer to help.

ST BRIGID ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pray the Rosary: Sun at 10:00 am. **Adoration with Confessions:** Wed & Fri at 11:00 am; **More Confessions:** Sat 4-5:00 pm, Mon 5-5:15 pm. **Oct Church cleaners:** S-W . **Collection:** Lynette & Cathy (Oct 10); Doug & Gary (Oct 17); Trevor & Scott (Oct 24). **Readers** (Oct): Sat-Ryan; Sun-Trevor. **Rosary:** Larry C (Oct). **Sanctuary Lamp:** Jill Sandison (Oct 17); Richard Sandison (Oct 24). Note: Please remember our Food Basket which provides food items for the needy!

Bishop Folda requests that we contact our federal legislators and urge them to keep the Hyde Amendment intact. The Hyde Amendment is a pro-life amendment which prevents the use of federal funds to pay for abortion. It has saved 60,000 lives per year. You can also visit this website: <https://www.notaxpayerabortion.com/>

Year of St. Joseph Prayer: “Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen”

Family Faith Formation continues on *Wednesday, Oct 20th with Chapter Four!* The high school meets at St Patrick!

Meals On Wheels needs your help! “*For I was hungry and you gave Me food.*” (Matthew 25:35). Serve Jesus, by serving those in need. Please contact Rose Winkler if you can help: 265-4430.

Calling all Catholic Men! Mark your calendars. Men’s conference: Nov 15 & 22, 6-8 pm St. Brigid. “*We have a serious crisis: one in three Catholic men have left the faith. God has a plan for your life, but so does Satan.*” (From: “*Into The Breach*”)



This week on “**Formed**”
Learn more about **St Luke**
(feast: Oct 18) **St John Paul II**
(feast: Oct 22)!
Sign-up at **formed.org**



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|------|---|--------|----------|------------|--|
| Mon | St Luke | Oct 18 | 5:15 pm | St Brigid | +Brayden Schwartz |
| Tue | Sts John De Brebeuf & Isaac Jogues | Oct 19 | 8:00 am | St Patrick | +Gwynn Harlow |
| Wed | St Paul of the Cross | Oct 20 | Noon | St Brigid | Dawson Kraft |
| Thur | | Oct 21 | 8:00 am | St Patrick | +Wade Puppe |
| Fri | St John Paul II | Oct 22 | Noon | St Brigid | Baxter Yelle |
| Sat | St John of Capistrano | Oct 23 | 9:00 am | St Patrick | St Brigid & St Patrick parishes |
| | | | 5:00 pm | St Brigid | +Richard Lorenz |
| Sun | 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Oct 24 | 8:30 am | St Patrick | St Brigid & St Patrick parishes |
| | | | 10:30 pm | St Brigid | James & Jeanette Mathers |

| Stewardship (as of 10-10-21) | St Brigid | St Patrick | | St Brigid | St Patrick |
|--|------------------|------------------|---|------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Adult Envelope</i> | 3234.00 | 825.00 | <i>St Patrick's Care Collection Oct</i> | | 275.00 |
| <i>Plate</i> | 136.00 | 20.00 | Cemetery | 4,415.00 | 4,931.69 |
| <i>Weekly Total</i> | 3370.00 | 845.00 | St Anthony Cemetery \$1605.00 | | |
| <i>Yearly Actual Total</i> | 94,054.26 | 36,597.02 | St Brigid Gods Gift Goal: \$23,485.48 | 13,188.00 | |
| <i>Monthly Envelope Building Fund</i> | 2532.00 | 3115.00 | St Patrick Gods Gift Goal: \$9,103.15 | | 6,230.00 |
| <i>Assumption</i> | 285.00 | 65.00 | St Helen Cemetery \$2575.00 | | |
| <i>St Patrick Sidewalk Final Cost \$18,000</i> | Collected so far | \$14,000 | St Bernard Cemetery \$262.00 | | |