



Life: A Most Precious Gift

Today is Respect Life Sunday. We can spend an entire lifetime thinking about the gifts God has bestowed upon us, but there is one gift that is necessary before any other gifts can be received: the gift of life itself. God is the author, the creator of all life. He created darkness, light, water, trees, fish, animals and us. Our God did not just create and then disappear. He continues to be with us and involved.

We have life within us, but life is more than just a physical way of being. There is a quality of life we should look at. The Gospel talks about the quality our lives should have: lives filled with care and respect for one another. We try to recognize God's presence in each other. The Gospel tells us that when we do something good for another person, we are doing it for God. Life indeed is so precious. Because we as human beings are often fragile, we need to recognize how important it is to treat each other gently. Yet, we see so much hatred, violence and injustice in the world.

In light of the tragedies our world experiences day after day, many of us re-evaluate our priorities in life. We begin to see just how important it is for us to treasure our relationships with families and friends. Life indeed is so fragile and can be easily taken for granted. When tragedy occurs, we realize just how important it is to appreciate the people who are a part of our existence.

As Catholics, we have a responsibility to treat life in all its forms as God's gift and as God's presence to us. We can care for one another by taking action: visiting the sick and elderly, assisting the poor, praying for the unborn. Let us pray every single day that life will be respected in all of its forms, and most importantly, that all life, no matter how small or helpless, will be recognized as God's gift to the world.

Priests' Convocation

This coming week all priests of the Joliet Diocese will be attending a convocation involving prayer, continuing education and fellowship. Communion services are scheduled here Tuesday through Friday. Please keep all of the priests in your prayers during this time as we will also remember you in ours. Thank you.

Farewell and May God Bless You!

Our parish secretary for the past fourteen years, Mary Pieranunzi, will be retired effective October 1. For so many people, Mary has been the first person they have seen and spoken with upon entering or calling the Ministry Center. We will miss her and on behalf of the parish community, I wish to thank her for her many years of service here. Mary is looking forward to spending time with her family. May God bless you, Mary, as you move into the next chapter of life! You are in our prayers.



Congratulations Michael Fitzpatrick!

Last Friday, September 22, parishioner Michael Fitzpatrick, in a ceremony led by Bishop Joseph Siegel, publicly proclaimed his intention to undertake the studies required for ordination to the Permanent Diaconate. His wife, Dawn, also proclaimed her willingness to support him in this endeavor. This ceremony took place at Corpus Christi Parish in Carol Stream with the other deacon candidates and their families. Michael has successfully completed the Diaconate Aspirancy Year and now has been admitted to the Candidacy. We congratulate Michael on reaching this important milestone. Let us pray for Michael as he continues on this journey leading to ordination as a Deacon of the Church.

—Father David