**Let There Be Life**

Saint Cletus Respect Life Ministry Newsletter 5, February 25, 2023

“**If you want peace, work for justice. If you want justice, defend life. If you want life, embrace truth—the truth revealed by God.” ---Saint John Paul II**

**From the teaching of the early Church**

 “Life begins with conception, for we contend that the soul also begins from conception. Life takes its commencement at the same time and place that the soul does”

(The Latin theologian Tertullian, c. 210).

1. **From the St. Cletus Respect Life Ministry**

**A.** “History has been made. Life has triumphed in an extraordinary way, and the light of the world, who is Jesus Christ, the author of life, his light has burned so very brightly within each and every one of you, irrespective of your beliefs, compelling you forward for one reason or another to stand together today to fight for the noblest cause possible—which is to allow the unborn the right to enter into the world, and defeat those earthly forces who seek to destroy the very evidence of them”(Jonathan Roumie at the March for Life in Washington, DC, Jan. 2023. Mr. Roumie is the actor who plays Jesus in the ***Chosen*** film series).

 ------------------------------

**B*.*** *St. Teresa of Calcutta spoke so clearly to the world on so many vital topics whether they were listening or not. Mother Teresa was invited to speak at the National Prayer Breakfast, sponsored by the United States Senate and House of Representatives on February 3, 1994. With so many in our government working harder than ever to codify abortion into law and make it available to all from conception to birth, it seemed a very good time to revisit Mother Teresa’s speech to our Nation. Following are excerpts from her speech*.

 God loved the world so much that He gave His Son—it was a giving. God gave His Son to the Virgin Mary, and what did she do with Him? As soon as Jesus came into Mary’s life, immediately she went in haste to give that good news. And she came into the house of her cousin, Elizabeth. Scripture tells us that the unborn child—the child in the womb of Elizabeth—leapt for joy. While still in the womb of Mary—Jesus brought peace to John the Baptist who leapt for joy in the womb of Elizabeth. The unborn was the first to proclaim the coming of Christ.

 It hurt Jesus to love us. We have been created in His image for greater things, to love and be loved. . . We have been created to love as He loves us. . . On the last day He will say to those on His right, “Whatever you did to the least of these, you did to Me, and He will say also to those on His left, whatever you neglected to do for the least of these, you neglected to do it for Me.”

 But I feel the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of an innocent child, murder by the mother herself. And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill each other? How do we persuade a woman not to have an abortion? As always we must persuade her with love and we remind ourselves that love means being willing to give until it hurts. Jesus gave even his life to love us. So the mother who is thinking of abortion, should be helped to love, that is, to give until it hurts her plans, or her free time, to respect the life of her child. The father of that child, whoever he is, must also give until it hurts.

 By abortion, the mother does not learn to love, but kills even her own child to solve her problems. By abortion that father is told he does not have to take any responsibility at all for the child he has brought into the world. The father is likely to put other women into the same situation. So abortion just leads to more abortion. Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence they want to get what they want. That is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion.

 Many people are concerned about all the violence in this great country of the United States. These concerns are very good, but often these same people are not at all concerned with the millions who are being killed by the deliberate decision of their own mothers. And this is what is the greatest destroyer of peace today—abortion which brings people to such blindness.

 Let us bring the child back. The child is God’s gift to the family. Each child is created in the special image and likeness of God for greater things—to love and be loved. . . we must bring the child back to the center of our care and concern. This is the only way our world can survive because our children are the only hope for the future.

 God says, “Even if a mother could forget her child, I will not forget you. I have carved you in the palm of my hand.” We are carved in the palm of His hand; that unborn child has been carved in the hand of God from conception and is called by God to love and be loved, not only now in this life, but forever. God can never forget us.

 If we remember that God loves us, and that we can love others as He loves us, then America can become a sign of peace for he world. From here, a sign of care for the weakest of the weak—the unborn child—must go out to the world. If you become a burning light of justice and peace in the world, then really you will be true to what the founders of this country stood for. (**The full text of Mother Teresa’s address can be found at crossroadsinitiative.com.)**

 *What a beautiful and pointed speech St. Teresa of Calcutta presented to America on the sanctity of life.*

 *How miserably we have failed as a nation to embrace her words over the past 29 years.*

**III. Locally at St. Cletus**

 With Valentine’s Day just behind us, we shouldn’t let the love, romance, and caring that it sparks, quietly burn down and out. There are some excellent opportunities to keep that light of married love burning brightly. There has been a wonderful response to the married enrichment program with Tim and Nancy Grimmet (Friday evenings Feb. 17, March 3, and March 17). Even if you couldn’t make the Feb. 17 evening, please consider coming for the other two. Contact Mike and Julie Boschert at 636-795-6076. If God has called you to the sacred vocation of Christian marriage, then nothing can be more important than building and nurturing that vocation.

Additionally, another great resource for husbands and wives is a recent book, **Make Your Marriage Unbreakable: Ten Steps to a Lifetime of Joy in an Unbreakable, Divorce-Proof Marriage, by Jim Krupka**. Jim is a deacon who serves in the Diocese of Gaylord, Michigan and the Archdiocese of Honolulu. Jim and his wife Fran have five children. Jim has worked in marriage preparation and counseling, and with divorced couples since 1999. Jim and Fran are also close friends of Deacon Frank and Mary Olmsted. The book is available through Amazon and bookstores.

**IV. In the Archdiocese**

We want to promote a fairly new program in the Archdiocese for women called ***Gabriel’s Retreat.***

This is a retreat ministry for any women who are facing an unexpected pregnancy. It is a Catholic based retreat program to help give love and support to women facing the challenges and uncertainties of an unexpected pregnancy. It is open to women of all faiths, ages, and marital status and there is no cost. Please contact Shawna DuBois, Director at [www.gabrielsretreat.org](http://www.gabrielsretreat.org) with questions or for more information.



**Respect Life Ministry meets the third Wednesday of every**

 **month in the Callahan Room of the Parish Hall.**