

Jan. 21, 2018: The Dignity of Human Life

Dear Parishioners,

Some years ago the Bishops of the United States designated Jan. 22nd to be “observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for the violation to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.” Of course, the date coincides with the Jan. 22, 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in the U.S. A special mass was created for this occasion by the Bishops that emphasizes the gift of human life.

The Opening Prayer of this Mass reads as follows: “God our creator, we give thanks to you, who alone have the power to impart the breath of life as you form each of us in our mother’s womb; grant, we pray, that we, whom you have made stewards of creation, may remain faithful to the sacred trust of every human life.” This prayer echoes what Pope Francis said in his 2015 Encyclical *Laudato Si’* that disrespect of the human person is disrespect of creation.

Pope Francis said in *Laudato Si’*: “When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person, a human embryo, a person with disabilities - to offer just a few examples - it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected... Since everything is interrelated, concern for the protection of nature is also incompatible with the justification of abortion. How can we genuinely teach the importance of concern for other vulnerable beings, however troublesome or inconvenient they may be, if we fail to protect the human embryo, even when its presence is uncomfortable and creates difficulties? If personal and social sensitivities toward the acceptance of the new life are lost, then other forms of acceptance that are valuable for society also wither away”. What the Pope is saying is that if human life is not valued and respected in the womb that this will lead to the erosion of other fundamental values in society and that human life must be protected, especially in its weakest forms.

Our Archbishop, Peter Sartain will be celebrating the Mass for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children in Olympia on Monday. A bus from our parish will be going to this Mass and then to the March for Life at the Capital. Please consider praying a Rosary and making a sacrifice on Monday as we join our prayers with the entire Catholic Church in the U.S. for the end of abortion in our country and a creation of, what St. John Paul II said, a “Culture of Life.”

Please visit the Holy Rosary web-page to access a video on FORMED to see voices of those who speak on behalf of little ones who have no voice. Go to "Formed" video - Formed - The most important human rights issue of our time.

In Christ,

Fr. Vincent