

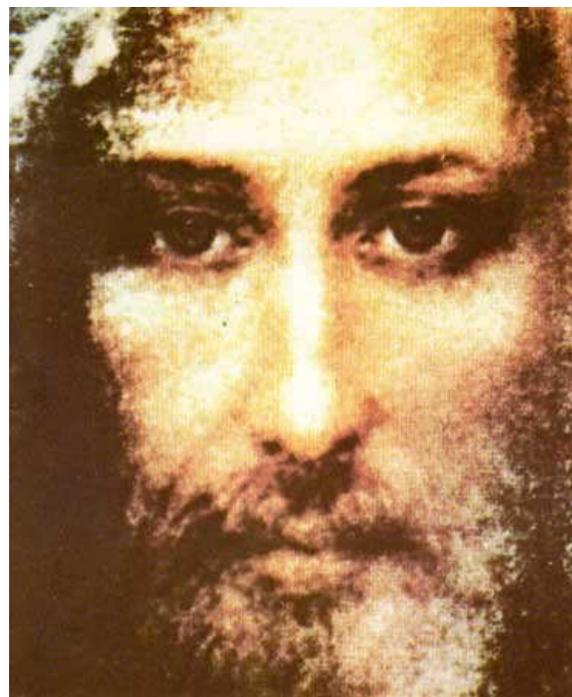
Respect of Life

Last Sunday in our nation was Respect Life Sunday. The bishops of the United States state that, “Every human being, at every stage and condition, is willed and loved by God. For this reason, every human life is sacred. To deprive someone of life is a grave wrong and a grave dishonor to God. Because we are created in the image of God, who is Love, our identity and our vocation is to love. Pope Benedict has called this “the key to [our] entire existence.”

Many times when we hear or read the term “pro-life” we automatically think about abortion. Certainly abortion is one of the many horrific sins against life that exists in our society. All human life comes from God, no matter the circumstances, and only God has the right to take that life, no exceptions. Apart from abortion, there are other sins against life about which we must be concerned. One very prominent sin against life is the use of capital punishment, otherwise known as the death penalty. There is very credible research noting that the use of capital punishment in our country does not deter crime. In fact, it costs approximately triple the cost to put an inmate to death because of our penal code as it does to sentence him/her to a life in prison without the possibility of parole.

There are also other important issues that fall under the theme of pro-life including adequate health insurance for all people, euthanasia issues (or the taking of one’s own life), care for the elderly, proper protection of our children from child predators, even issues of stewardship of our planet fall under pro-life topics, and more.

In the last edition of the Texas Catholic Herald, Archbishop Daniel Cardinal DiNardo said, “I want to mention a brief work on a Disturbing issue: the growth in parts of our culture for the legalization of physician-assisted suicide, especially for the elderly and those made vulnerable by serious sickness... In fact, I am so concerned that, as Chairman of the U.S. bishops Pro-Life Committee and with support from the Bishops of that committee, I have begun to work with our Conference of Bishops on a possible statement that all Bishops together could make in order to galvanize some needed thinking and action on this assault of vulnerable human life... The beginnings and end of human life are the pillars of sustaining a love without measure for every human person. The assaults on these two moments are particularly worrisome and require our finest and most deliberate efforts for protection and defense.” To read the full article go to www.archgh.org.



“We believe that Jesus has a unique relationship with every person. Our belief helps us to see the face of Christ in every human face...Respect for life requires that society as a whole, not just the Church, must respect, defend, and promote the dignity of the human person at every moment and in every condition of every person’s life.”

The Gospel of Life—Pope John Paul II

For more information on the teaching of the United States Bishops go to; www.usccb.org. Another very good resource is, of course, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which is the universal teaching of the Catholic Church.

St. Luke the Evangelist, pray for us.

Fr. James

“We will not be fit for heaven until we have learned to love one another as God loves us, as he radically demonstrated on the Cross. If we don’t learn to love sacrificially, we may not only fail in reaching heaven, we will make life on earth hellish for ourselves and others”

(US Bishops).