



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! As mentioned last week, October is both the Month of the Holy Rosary and Respect Life Month. I already shared about the Rosary so now a word about Respect Life.

46 years after the Roe-vs.-Wade decision, it seems to me that the words “Respect Life” have become a rather empty, jaded, and tired phrase. In an age when so little is respected and so much is disrespected, the call to Respect Life seems at best a bumper sticker slogan, an opinion-cry and nothing more. This is a problem. It was a problem that troubled the heart of the great Philadelphia Priest and Cardinal Archbishop of New York, John O’Connor. Long ago, back in the mid-1970s, he knew something more than a slogan was needed if life was to be respected. After years of preaching, advocating and laboring with others to restore a sense of the dignity of human life, he took this need to prayer and realized that-a spiritual response was needed. That the spirit of contempt for human life was in fact a demon that could “only be cast out by prayer and fasting.” (cf. Mk 9:29). And so he penned a headline in a local Catholic New York paper: *“Help wanted: Sisters of Life.”* He proceeded to describe his vision for a religious community of women who would give themselves fully to the protection and enhancement of the sacredness of every human life, beginning with the most vulnerable. In 1991, that article went viral and within months, a new religious community, the Sisters of Life were formed.

Next Sunday, it will be my great joy to introduce this wonderful group of joy-filled women to you. Wait until you see these Sisters! Their work is heroic, their joy contagious and their witness to Life is exactly what this world needs and it is beautiful to see. We welcome the Sisters of Life with us for the Morning Masses next Sunday.

Until then, let’s remember that Life is so much more than an old cereal, a board game or a magazine. And the call to respect it is more than a phrase, it is our sacred duty. To live life well, love,, share and bless it is our call. For all the ways that is done on a daily basis here at the parish, I thank you. For any harm done to us in life, I pray that Jesus heals us. And for any harm we may have inflicted on ourselves or on the lives of others, I pray Jesus’ Mercy for us. May the God of Life be praised!

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

HEARTFELT THANKS

Thanks to all who made last Sunday’s Mass for the Dedication of our Altar so very special: Our choir, lectors, deacons, servers and all who assisted in any way. The Bishop was so very pleased and God was mightily praised.

RESPECTING AND LOVING LIFE: FAMILY PROMISE

Two weeks ago, 24 of our St. Patrick parishioners helped to house and feed three homeless families with a total of nine children ranging in age from 15 years old to two months old. Our volunteers set up air mattresses, prepared and served food, and entertained small children as well as spending the night on their own air mattresses. They served as the cooks, food preparers, greeters, over-nighters, set up and take down volunteers. In all of this they served and witnessed to the God of Life, Jesus Christ! Thank you to all our volunteers who live Mother Teresa’s decree, *“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”*

National Vocation Awareness Week is held annually in the United States as a week long celebration dedicated to promoting vocations to the ordained ministry and consecrated life. This year, Vocation Awareness Week will be celebrated November 3-9. Parishes, schools, and communities are encouraged to pray for vocations and to participate in vocation awareness activities.

National Vocation Awareness Week

November 3-9, 2019