

My Dear Parishioners,

Praised Be Jesus Christ! Last week, I came across a political advertisement that caught my eye. In fact, it was the first such advertisement in many years that survived my immediate reading, ripping and trash! It featured two women. One with the words “I am PRO-LIFE” next to her; the other with the words: “I am PRO-CHOICE” next to her. Then underneath the caption read: “But WE AGREE! There should be reasonable limits to protect the health and safety of women and their unborn children.” Wow, I thought that’s different! The words “*agree and reasonable*”, one doesn’t often find those words in politics especially in terms of abortion, how refreshing! I’d love to talk with those women!

In July of 2021, Bishop Robert Barron of Minnesota released a video entitled “*Can We Actually Dialogue?*” He made the video after talking with men and women, senators and their staff, in a small group meeting in Washington DC. Their conversation was about dialogue and abortion. He shared with them that while the Church opposes abortion and would love to see a complete ban of it, we would dialogue if there is a willingness to set some restrictions. The Church would get behind bills that would restrict the taking of innocent life. So he began testing the waters to find common ground with the politicians. He asked “Would you be willing to limit third-trimester abortions?” They answered “No”. He then asked “How about so called partial-birth abortion or the procedure by which a child basically in the birth canal is killed?” They answer “No”. So he said, “How about supporting born alive legislation laws that say we should protect a child who is somehow, by miracle, managed to survive an abortion procedure?” They said “No”. At which point, the bishop asked “What exactly are we dialoguing about?”

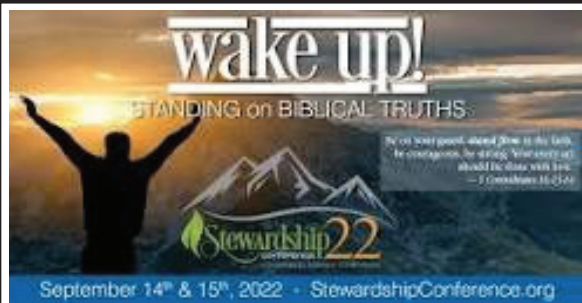
I share this story with you this week as a new academic year is about to begin for our young people, your children and grandchildren. For Bishop Barron’s question is worthy question for all of us, even outside of the formal classroom, to ask: “What are we dialoguing about?” And I would further the question: “Are we even dialoguing at all?” We live in a time when dialogue, conversation, learning and growing are lacking. Such activity requires a good deal of courage. For learning and growing is more than just opinion, hearsay, indoctrination and talking the loudest. Learning involves reason, trust and common ground. Are such things possible today? Absolutely, but we must **be willing** to engage it.

Made in God’s Image and Likeness, we have the capacity to learn, grow and even flourish in truth, goodness, justice and community. We can assist one another in overcoming our fears, ignorance, selfishness and despair. Indeed, that’s what Life is about and it’s time to be about it! I close with a quote I shared last week with our small group of OCIA men and women, who are learning about Catholicism. It might be good for all of us to hear as this school year begins. Lord help us to will the good.

Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth—in a word, to know himself—so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves.

(JPII, Fides et Ratio)

Peace,
Fr. Rogers



It’s time to “WAKE UP” and stand on Biblical truths. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 reminds us to “Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong. Your every act should be done with love.”

Nationally known speakers Dr. Bill Lile, the Pro-Life doctor, and Dr. Tim Clinton, Executive Director of the James Dobson Family Institute, will deliver messages that are counter cultural. They are joined by Fr. John Clote from the Diocese of Phoenix, Devin Schadt from the Fathers of St. Joseph, and several others.

Guests will have the opportunity to enjoy this stunning venue which features an outdoors Stations of the Cross, a magnificent Marian grotto, and a beautiful Adoration Chapel in the stone tunnel of the Star Barn. Mass will be offered in the outdoor vineyard. Conference tickets include lunch.

For tickets and more information, visit www.StewardshipConference.org