



RESPECT LIFE MONTH

“Behold, I am with you always,
until the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:20

Although some people may think that church services are pretty lethal, most are aware the Church is in favor of life. Our intercessory prayers frequently pray for the acknowledgement and protection of the dignity of life from conception to natural death which is simultaneously comprehensive and vague. The month of October is designated as respect life month, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has published a series of six brochures in attempt to flesh out what the dignity of human life actually means. These six topics are:

- Catholic Considerations for our Earthly Passing
- What to do when a friend is Considering Abortion
- Top Reasons to Oppose Assisted Suicide
- Death Penalty: Catholic Q&A
- How to build a Culture of Life
- Understanding Conscience

The USCCB encourages parishes to distribute the information on these brochures completely and without editing because the Church wants and needs people to be clear on her teachings. The problem is that life is far too complex to be adequately summarized in six brochures. I have invited some people to write from the perspective of their lived experiences to supplement the brochures. Each week we will publish one of the brochures as well as a related supplement. In addition our parish website will have links to the brochures as well as some annotations that I have made on the brochures.

Next week our first installment will be *Catholic Considerations for our Earthly Passing*. It provides no answers about our actual death but points out the struggle of the many paths by which we approach death. This may not be our first choice for a conversation on the topic of life; but it is better to spend some time thinking about our how our view of death can define our life.

I am pleased to announce that our first contributing writer is Sandy Greggs who recently joined Sacred Heart parish family. Sandy graciously accepted my request to write an article on this topic. I hope you will find her article as inspiring and challenging as I have.

Fs. Mark