

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass Times

Mon	8:30am	Tue	8:30am
Wed	7:00pm w/Miraculous Medal Novena		
Thu	8:30am	Fri	8:30am
Sat	5:00pm	Sun	8:15am & 11:00am

Adoration: Tue & Fri 3:00pm - 4:00pm

www.holyspirtchurchjax.org | info@holyspirtchurchjax.org

Twenty-Seventh
SUNDAY
in Ordinary Time

Once again,

O Lord of hosts,

look down from heaven, and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your
right hand has planted.

Psalm 80:15-16

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.
— **Philippians 4:6**

October 4, 2020

Welcome

We are back to
celebrate Masses on
our regular schedule!

Presently, all Masses are
limited to a 25% seating
capacity.

There is
NO OBLIGATION to
attend Mass in the Diocese
of Saint Augustine until
further notice.

**Our Live Stream Masses
will remain available.**

~~~~~  
**Parish Mission**  
“To be the light to our  
World by: Praying and  
Celebrating as a  
Eucharistic Community,  
serving those in need with  
unconditional love &  
generosity”.



**HolySpiritJax**

11665 Fort Caroline Road | Jacksonville FL 32225  
PARISH OFFICE HOURS Monday-Friday 9:00-4:30 PM  
P: 904.641.7244 F: 904.641.7266

## PARISH STAFF

|                                            |                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Deacon,                                    |                                                                                            |
| Patrick Goin                               | <a href="mailto:pgoin@holyspiritchurchjax.org">pgoin@holyspiritchurchjax.org</a>           |
| Deacon,                                    |                                                                                            |
| Ed Prisby                                  | <a href="mailto:ed.prisby@holyspiritchurchjax.org">ed.prisby@holyspiritchurchjax.org</a>   |
| Business Manager,                          |                                                                                            |
| Jim Davis                                  | <a href="mailto:jedd1803@aol.com">jedd1803@aol.com</a>                                     |
| Office Manager,                            |                                                                                            |
| Vickie Slade                               | <a href="mailto:vslade@holyspiritchurchjax.org">vslade@holyspiritchurchjax.org</a>         |
| Bulletin Editor/Receptionist,              |                                                                                            |
| Abby Husbands                              | <a href="mailto:ahusbands@holyspiritchurchjax.org">ahusbands@holyspiritchurchjax.org</a>   |
| Dir. Religious Education & Youth Ministry, |                                                                                            |
| Maribel Hernandez                          | <a href="mailto:mhernandez@holyspiritchurchjax.org">mhernandez@holyspiritchurchjax.org</a> |

## PARISH COUNCILS

|                            |                                                      |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Parish Finance Council     |                                                      |
| Nick Winiewicz             | 904-220-3650                                         |
| Parish Pastoral Council    |                                                      |
| Kelli Moneyhan             | 904-254-4383                                         |
| Parish Stewardship Council |                                                      |
| Jerry Robichaud            | <a href="mailto:jrobigo@aol.com">jrobigo@aol.com</a> |

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

|                                           |                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion |                                                                          |
| Ramon Molano                              | <a href="mailto:ramon.molano@gmail.com">ramon.molano@gmail.com</a>       |
| Lectors,                                  |                                                                          |
| Ray Stiles                                | <a href="mailto:raystiles.hsjax@gmail.com">raystiles.hsjax@gmail.com</a> |
| Sacristan                                 |                                                                          |
| Joyce Dyess                               | <a href="tel:94-641-7244">94-641-7244</a>                                |
| Ushers,                                   |                                                                          |
| Robert Davis                              | <a href="mailto:rl1452@aol.com">rl1452@aol.com</a>                       |
| Wedding Coordinator,                      |                                                                          |
| Cheryle Bergman                           | <a href="mailto:clbergman@comcast.net">clbergman@comcast.net</a>         |

## SACRAMENTS

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

**Baptism Class – Registration required:** Classes are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 7:00pm in the Family Life Center.

You **MUST** be registered in the Parish for at least 6 months.

Baptisms – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month after the 11:00am Mass.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Wednesday – 6:30pm & Saturday - 4:00pm or by appointment

### SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

If you or your loved one is in need of the Sacrament of Anointing, please call the Parish Office at any time. We also have dedicated Eucharistic Ministers to bring Holy Communion to the sick and the homebound.

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY

Couples must contact Father Amar & Cheryl Bergman at least 6 months in advance.

### PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

K thru 12th Grade, Sundays 9:30-10:45am; Aug - May

Pastor - Fr. Amar Nagothu, MSFS  
[amarmsfs@holyspiritchurchjax.org](mailto:amarmsfs@holyspiritchurchjax.org)

Parochial Vicar - Fr. Gil Hernandez  
[gbernandez@holyspiritchurchjax.org](mailto:gbernandez@holyspiritchurchjax.org)

## SERVICE MINISTRY CONTACTS

|                                    |                         |              |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Adoration                          | Ben & Perlita Lipat     | 904-236-0439 |
| Altar Society                      | Linda Davis             | 904-329-2714 |
| Angels of Mercy                    | Kathie Garrett          | 904-565-1859 |
| Annulments                         | Ann & Tim Hergenroether | 904-591-8004 |
| Bible Study                        | Ron Coleman             | 904-234-4743 |
| Choir-Adult&Filipino               | JoJo Munoz              | 904-422-1764 |
| Choir-Folk                         | Bob Vigliano            | 904-476-4240 |
| Choir-Junior                       | Phil Militante          | 904-620-8841 |
| Elizabethan Ministry               | Jennifer Cabrey         | 904-993-9500 |
| Grounds                            | Jerry Robichaud         | 904-642-5714 |
| Healing Prayer Ministry            | Jeff & Vickie Slade     | 904-449-1447 |
| Hope & Consolation                 | Pam Andres              | 904-571-5998 |
| Hospitality                        | Sandy Coleman           | 904-234-4743 |
| Knights of Columbus                | John Hartley            | 904-237-7154 |
| Legion of Mary:                    |                         |              |
| <i>Mystical Rose Praesidium</i>    | Ted Slezak              | 904-859-8777 |
| <i>Our Lady of Undoer of Knots</i> | Ann Fabre               | 409-658-2229 |
| Marriage Ministry                  | Ramon & Natalia Molano  | 305-989-0634 |
| Men's Club                         | Dave Garrett            | 904-565-1859 |
| Offertory Counting Cmte.           | Diane Davis             | 904-641-7244 |
| Prayer Blanket Ministry            | Marcia Scheeter         | 904-641-7115 |
|                                    | Kathy Lehane            | 904-477-0808 |
| Quilts for Vets                    | Diane St. Laurent       | 904-220-9199 |
| Religious Store                    | Kathie Garrett          | 904-565-1859 |
| Respect Life Coordinator           | Joey Sims               | 615-653-8965 |
| Rosary Ministry                    | Marti Pounder           | 904-553-5205 |
| Scouts-Boys & Cubs                 | Linda Byer              | 904-483-6113 |
| Scouts Girls                       | Theresa Wondracek       | 904-762-6869 |
| Society of Divine Mercy            | Fred Althoff            | 904-229-7604 |
| St.Vincent de Paul Society         | Hector Soto             | 904-962-0922 |

## HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Pre-K - 8th grade  
 P: 904.642.9165 | F:904.642.1047



Principal, Dr. John Luciano

[Dr.Luciano@hscatholicsschool.com](mailto:Dr.Luciano@hscatholicsschool.com)

Office Mgr./Assistant to the Principal,

Kim Klappkowski

[kklappkowski@hscatholicsschool.com](mailto:kklappkowski@hscatholicsschool.com)

School Secretary/Bookkeeper

Ronda Lagow

[rlagow@hscatholicsschool.com](mailto:rlagow@hscatholicsschool.com)

# This Week @ Holy Spirit



## W E L C O M E

- Sat Oct 03 +Mauro, Emerlinda & Romalyn  
By: Gaspin & Yanez families
- Sun 8:15am +Joan Van Cleve  
By: Family  
11:00am Holy Spirit Parishioners
- Mon Oct 05 +Mary Burroughs  
By: Jerry Burroughs
- Tue Oct 06 +Armando Limcangco  
By: Pete Herrera
- Wed Oct 07 +Vincent Matranga  
By: Lucille Matranga
- Thu Oct 08 +Jose P. Baluyot  
By: Joy Orcino
- Fri Oct 09 +Jan Anderson  
By: Sandy Anderson
- Sat Oct 10 +Luis Gotengco  
By: Family
- Sun 8:15am Nick Husbands  
By: Abby & Christie  
11:00am Holy Spirit Parishioners



### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Gal 1:6-12; Ps 111:1b-2, 7-9, 10c; Lk 10:25-37  
**Tuesday:** Gal 1:13-24; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-15; Lk 10:38-42  
**Wednesday:** Gal 2:1-2, 7-14; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Lk 11:1-4  
**Thursday:** Gal 3:1-5; Lk 1:69-75; Lk 11:5-13  
**Friday:** Gal 3:7-14; Ps 111:1b-6; Lk 11:15-26  
**Saturday:** Gal 3:22-29; Ps 105:2-7; Lk 11:27-28  
**Sunday:** Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14 [1-10]

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:** Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time;  
Respect Life Sunday  
**Monday:** Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos  
**Tuesday:** St. Bruno; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher  
**Wednesday:** Our Lady of the Rosary  
**Friday:** St. Denis and Companions;  
St. John Leonardi  
**Saturday:** Blessed Virgin Mary

Please continue to observe the safety guidelines for celebrating Public Mass and please **DO NOT** come to Mass/Meetings if you are sick or not feeling well. Anyone over 65 and /or those with pre-existing medical conditions are advised to remain at home.

### Sun Oct 04

Mass - 8:15 & 11:00am

RCIA - 9:00am - FLC

Bible Study (zoom) -9:30am

### Mon Oct 05

Mass - 8:30am

Choir Practice - 5:00pm - FLC

Legion of Mary - Mystical Rose Praesidium( MRP) - 6:00pm - FLC

### Tue Oct 06

Mass - 8:30am

Liturgy Meeting - 7:00pm - FLC

### Wed Oct 07

Legion of Mary - Undoer of Knots (UofK) - 1:00pm - FLC

Reconciliation - 6:30pm

Mass - 7:00pm

### Thu Oct 08

Mass - 8:30am

Baptism Classes - 7:00pm - FLC

### Fri Oct 09

Mass - 8:30am

### Sat Oct 10

Reconciliation - 4:00pm

Mass - 5:00pm

### Sun Oct 11

Mass - 8:15 & 11:00am

RCIA - 9:00am

Bible Study (zoom) - 9:30am

Family Catechesis - 9:30am - FLC

Confirmation Prep Class - 12:30pm - FLC

**CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK!**

**Holy Spirit Catholic Church Parish Group**



## DID YOU KNOW?



If you would like to offer a Mass Intention for a family member or friend (for 2020) in celebration of a

- ◆ Birthday
- ◆ Wedding Anniversary
- ◆ Death Anniversary
- ◆ Gregorian Mass

then you could do so with the **Missionaries of St Francis De Sales** and the donation goes toward the support of the order.

Please call the church office for more details.

## DID YOU KNOW??

### There's a lost and found here at Holy Spirit?

Yesssss!!! We sure do and it is the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> drawers on the credenza (table with all the flyers) found on the right hand side of the church entrance. There are several pairs of prescription reading glasses, sun glasses, umbrellas (Bride's Room) as well as keys, just to mention a few. If you have misplaced any of these items then stop by on your way out and take a look. We are planning to clean up this area by the end of October. Stop by and take a look today!!

**Without Prayer, we can do Nothing:  
With Prayer we can do Everything.** ~SFS~

**Discover**  
the rich history of the Diocese of St. Augustine in celebration of its 150th anniversary.

This richly illustrated book is filled with beautiful images, historical facts and pull-out mementos. A great gift for family, friends and loved ones!

Purchase a copy today from your parish or contact [diocese@dosafl.com](mailto:diocese@dosafl.com) for additional purchasing options.

**Books are now available at the Gift Shop! Stop by today!**

## STEWARDSHIP

# TIME Talent TREASURE

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING SEP 27, 2020

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Offertory:                | \$ 10,066.00 |
| FLC Pledge:               | \$ 1,115.00  |
| Emergency Fund:           | \$ 130.00    |
| School:                   | \$ 500.00    |
| *Online Giving:           | \$ 3,270.00  |
| *Included in above totals |              |

**Thank you for your sacrificial giving and may God continue to bless your generosity.**



*Your parish brings you the light of Christ.*

Please help keep the light shining by giving through your parish's online program or app.

Our Parish relies on the generous contributions of our parishioners and due to Covid-19 your support is needed more than ever.

Please consider making a one-time gift or sign up for recurring e-giving to help support our Parish.

### Donate online:

Text the word "GIVE" to [501-273-3327](tel:501-273-3327).

Or click the link:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/holy1166175>

God bless!



**Consider remembering your Parish in your Will. For further information, please contact the Parish Office.**

# SCHOOL NEWS



JOIN OUR TEAM!!

Holy Spirit School is seeking a **full time Maintenance Person and Custodian**. Must have of experience as a custodian or cleaning a facility. Must have their own tools and transportation. Pays \$13 per hour Monday-Friday 7:30 AM- 4:30 PM.

Apply on line at the Diocese of St. Augustine web site under the Jobs tab for Schools. [www.dosafl.com](http://www.dosafl.com)



Thank you to the Boteler family for their recent donation to Ashley's Alumni Appeal in honor of their Holy Spirit graduates, Chris and Ashley.

## A GREAT TEACHER Takes a Hand, Opens a Mind and Touches a Heart

**Holy Spirit middle school students volunteered to clean up the beach ! Great job and thank you for volunteering!**



# NOTICES

## HELP WANTED

**If you are able to stay after the weekend Masses, assistance is needed to help clean and sanitize the church.**

**Please see an usher immediately after Mass.**

## NOTICE

All Parents and God-parents are asked to register with the church office either by calling or emailing, if you plan on attending a Baptism class.

Due to the Covid -19 pandemic, we will be having smaller classes while practicing social distancing, so we are asking you **NOT** to bring your child/children to the class.

Baptism Class is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 7:00pm in the Family Life Center. You **MUST** be registered at the Parish for at least 6 months.

## UPDATE INFORMATION

Please help the parish by keeping your contact information current. Provide us with the updated information if you have recently moved, changed your phone number or email address. If you like to have future updates from Holy Spirit, please contact Abby via email and provide your preferred email address.

Please email Abby Husbands at [ahusbands@holyspirtchurchjax.org](mailto:ahusbands@holyspirtchurchjax.org)

## BLUE TAPE

You may have noticed that the blue tape has been removed from the pews. This will allow us to better accommodate parishioners. Every other pew will remained closed marked by a white rope. Proper social distancing should still be maintained between households and masks must continue to be worn during mass.

# LIFE CHAIN

## LIFE CHAIN

“A call to Prayer & Loving Witness”

**October 4, 2020**  
**Sunday Afternoon,**  
**2PM - 3:30PM**

**Ninety Minutes of Witness to our community**

*LIFE CHAIN ... a visual statement to the public that we stand united against the ABORTION of 60 million babies since 1973 in the USA. 3000 a day in the USA 70+thousand babies per year in Florida 3000+ in Jacksonville area each year Remember ... Abortion Kills Children and Injures Mothers and Fathers*

**Chain begins Atlantic Blvd/Monument Rd intersection and extends East on Atlantic Blvd past St Johns Bluff Sidewalks only! JSO is with us. All ages welcome! Call 318-3517.**

*(Please contact Life Chain.com for other Chain venues in the area and in north Florida)*

**SIGNS PROVIDED**

*At (4) locations along chain route.  
Peaceful & Legal*

### **THE FORMATION PROGRAM OF THE FRANSALIAN ASSOCIATES OF USA!**

**The classes will be 90 minutes sessions on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month starting @ 7:30pm Eastern Time (7:30 - 9:00pm). The duration of the Formation Program is 2 years. The syllabus of the program consists of 24 Modules. All classes will be held virtually using zoom.**

**The Class for the month of October is Thursday 22nd 2020 @ 7:30pm ET.**

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining the Formation Program, please email us at [fransalianassociatestn@gmail.com](mailto:fransalianassociatestn@gmail.com)

# RELIGIOUS ED



## Religious Education

### Upcoming Events

**October 11, 2020**

Family Catechesis 9:45am (FLC) Topic: The Bible  
ALL WELCOMED

Confirmation Prep Class 12:30 – 1:30pm (FLC)

Middle School Youth Group 1:30 - 3pm (Soccer Field)

**October 25, 2020**

High School Youth Group 12:30 – 2:30pm (Soccer Field)

**Prayer is called mystical because the conversation in it is entirely secret.**  
-SFS-

### THE SACRAMENTS

Learn more about the 7 Sacraments of the Church beginning **Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM** in the Family Life Center. The series will be based on Bishop Robert Barron's video series "The Sacraments" and will include time for questions. The first topic will be "**Baptism,**" with the remaining Sacraments in the weeks following. Contact Ron Coleman for questions.

### Do you really Love Me?

Then  
Come to Me,  
Visit Me  
Before the Blessed Sacrament



**Make a Holy Hour Adoration  
of the Blessed Sacrament  
Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet  
3:00pm Tuesdays & Fridays**

# FROM OUR PASTOR'S DESK

## YOUR RESPONSE?

**Month of the Rosary:** The month of October is called the Month of the Rosary and the call is to pray the rosary. The spiritual crisis that the Church is facing is that families don't pray the Rosary, and much less, pray at all. We have a duty to be examples of prayer and to pray the Rosary as a family at home. It is a duty that we will be held accountable for.

**Respect Life Month:** As Catholics in the United States, we observe October as Respect Life Month. It is a time to focus on God's precious gift of human life and our responsibility to care for, protect, and defend the lives of our brothers and sisters.

This past November, the U.S. bishops reaffirmed that "the threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed." While we cannot "dismiss or ignore other serious threats to human life and dignity such as racism, the environmental crisis, poverty, and the death penalty," we renew our commitment to protect the most fundamental of all human rights – the right to live.

The Holy Father expressed that if we fail to protect life, no other rights matter. Pope Francis also said that abortion is not primarily a Catholic or even a religious issue, it is first and foremost a human rights issue.

**Scripture lessons:** The image of a vineyard is employed in today's first and third readings. In both cases, things in the vineyard haven't turned out quite the way that the owner had planned: it seems that the people responsible for caring for the vineyard in the first place didn't live up to expectations.

**Who owns the vineyard?** God does, of course. What is the vineyard? It is the world in which we live. It is the world of relationships among us. It is the world – as Francis de Sales says, the universe – within us. Who is responsible for the upkeep of the vineyard? We are...as individuals and as community.

**The truth** is that we don't always live up to God's expectations, either. As collaborators with God in God's ongoing plan of creation, redemption, inspiration and salvation, we don't always harvest the grapes of life in ways that give life:

things like respect, honesty, purity, decency or virtue that we should. Sadly, we often use our energies in producing grapes of wrath: things like jealousy, envy, indifference, hatred, violence and injustice.

**Sad News:** We clearly know the kind of vineyard that God wants us to cultivate and grow, but sin, fear, and selfishness often prevent us from producing the kinds of fruit that give life. We are God's people, His children. He expects from us justice and integrity, He expects from us an accountability.

**Good News:** God still has not lost faith, hope and love for us humans. He still sends his Son to every generation to give us the invitation to the banquet in the kingdom. Though we are nothing, he still treats us as being 'little less than a god' respecting to the end the gifts he has given us.

**What do you say?** We are now in the vineyard and the Son is coming to us. Do you accept Jesus into your life as the Son? Are you willing to give him the fruits of faith – love for others as God loves you, forgiveness for others as God forgives you, compassion for others as God is compassionate to you. This is not a parable any more. It is the fact of life: Jesus is standing at your door and knocks.



# HONORING OUR VETERANS

## Quilts for Vets Ministry

### *Honoring our Veterans—One Quilt at a Time*

Created to honor veterans for their selfless service, Quilts for Vets held their first patriotic quilt give-away in November of 2017. Since then, 61 veterans have been recognized and honored with quilts.

Each quilt is unique. Handmade by a small dedicated group of parishioners in appreciation for all the sacrifices our vets and active duty service men and women make while serving. Every stitch is our “thank you” to those who keep us safe and protect the freedoms we enjoy today.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following:

- Fr. Amar for his support and blessings
- Guest speakers for sharing their thoughts and insights in military service
- Our choir
- Our rosary makers
- Our photographer
- Our veterans and their families

If you have an interest in joining this Ministry, please contact Diane St. Laurent at 904-220-9199 or via e-mail at: [Stlaurent819@hotmail.com](mailto:Stlaurent819@hotmail.com).

----- CUT OR TEAR ALONG THIS LINE -----

## Quilts for Veterans Drawing



Veteran's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Military Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Era \_\_\_\_\_ Year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Ex: WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Recent Campaigns, Active, Reserve, etc.

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

The 2020 Quilt give-away will be held on Sunday, November 8th in the Church (due to Covid 19 concerns) after the 11 AM Mass. The drawing will take place earlier and the winners will be notified. There is a limited number of quilts available. Please fill out this form to enter the drawing. Forms can be dropped off in the Church vestibule or Church Office. Deadline for registering: October 27th. You can also contact Diane at 904-220-9199 or via e-mail at: [Stlaurent819@hotmail.com](mailto:Stlaurent819@hotmail.com).

Thank you for your dedication and service!





# FREE FOOD GIVEAWAY



## Free Food Giveaway

Holy  Spirit Catholic Church

**11065 Fort Caroline Rd  
Jacksonville, FL 32225**



**Oct 10th,  
8 am until 11 am**

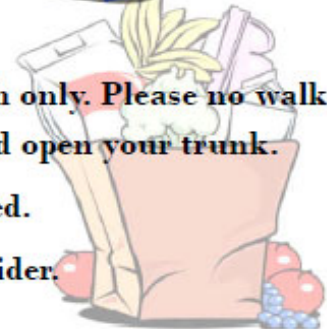
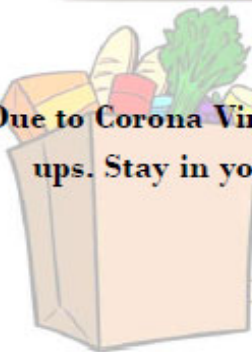
With support from  
City Council member  
Al Ferraro



**Due to Corona Virus Pandemic this event is a drive through only. Please no walk ups. Stay in your vehicle with the windows rolled up and open your trunk.**

**Open to all, no proof of income required.**

**Farm Share is an equal opportunity provider.**



# RESPECT LIFE

## LIVE THE GOSPEL OF LIFE

"to imitate Christ and follow in his footsteps"

*The Gospel of Life 51*

Twenty-five years ago, Pope St. John Paul II wrote that the Gospel of life is at the *heart* of Jesus' saving message to the world (*Evangelium vitae* 1). In taking on human flesh, dwelling among us, and sacrificing his very life for our redemption, Christ reveals the profound dignity of *every* human person. This God-given dignity does not change with our stage of life, abilities, level of independence, or any other varying circumstance.

Rather, it is rooted in the permanent fact that each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, created to share in the very life of God himself. The human person is a "manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory" (EV 34). And we must reflect this truth in how we act and how we treat one another.

The truth of the Gospel of life is at the foundation of who we are as followers of Christ. In his earthly life, Jesus provided the perfect model for how we are to love our neighbor and live out the Gospel call: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt. 25:40).

Jesus calls each of us to "care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible" (EV 87). The Gospel of life is intrinsic to the whole Christian life and foundational to the decisions we make on a daily basis. For, "the Gospel of God's love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person and

the Gospel of life are a *single and indivisible* Gospel" (EV 2, emphasis added).

In his encyclical on the Gospel of life, Pope St. John Paul II recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. He places particular emphasis, however, on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers' wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the "least of these" in our world's estimation. Practices such as abortion and assisted suicide tragically reject the truth that human life is always to be cherished and defended with loving concern.

As the Church celebrates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pope St. John Paul II's prophetic encyclical, let us reflect on how we personally live out the Gospel: *Do I talk about and act towards others as I would talk about and treat Jesus himself? Do I inform myself of the Church's teachings and engage in the civic arena as first a follower of Christ? Do I support and advocate for laws and policies that protect and defend human life? Do I help pregnant and parenting mothers in need? Am I ready to support a loved one nearing death?*

Through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, may Our Lord grant us the grace to truly and courageously live his Gospel of life.

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UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS  
Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities | [usccb.org/prolife](https://usccb.org/prolife)



[fb.com/usccbrespectlife](https://fb.com/usccbrespectlife)



[@usccbprolife](https://twitter.com/usccbprolife)



[@ProjectRachel](https://twitter.com/ProjectRachel)



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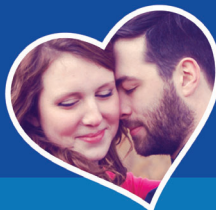


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