

*Respect Life
Sunday*

Peace is...Reverencing Life

*October: month of
the Rosary*

Hebrews 2:11 ***“He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin. Therefore, he is not ashamed to call them ‘brothers.’”***

Mark 10: 14,15 ***Jesus...said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.”***

Reflection:

What does it mean to accept the kingdom of God like a child?

St. Therese (feast day, October 1st) taught us by her example to live as a true child of God. She placed herself in the arms of Jesus, her “elevator to heaven.” Like St. Therese, we are to trust God completely and simply, with inner purity. We need to let go of our adult “sophistication,” allowing ourselves to totally depend on God for everything, as children rely on their parents. This does not mean we are to be childish or self-centered. We have the responsibility to do our part, yet be childlike in the confidence we place in God our Creator.

When we pray, do we try to control God’s answer to our prayers, or do we place all our trust in Him, our Father who knows and loves us completely, and who will give us what is best for us?

How does God treat His children?

God provides us with abundant love and care, continual forgiveness, and complete acceptance of who we are. He even provides each of us with a Guardian Angel (feast day, October 2) to watch over us and help us along our way. It is up to us to respond to God’s love and gifts.

How do we treat God’s creation?

St. Francis (feast day, October 4), loved all creation. He was “joyful, simple, a lover of people and nature.”¹ As Christian stewards, we are required to protect and care for all of God’s creation, which includes respect for all human life, as well as taking care of the environment. When we appreciate the beauty of nature, we are responding to God’s love for us. When we recycle, we are acting as responsible stewards of what God has provided for us. It is up to us to promote reverence for life and work for an end to abortion in our country.

In the Gospel today, we see how man has tried to manipulate God’s law, by talking Moses into allowing divorce. Marriage is a gift from God, which must be nurtured and protected. Our society fails to recognize the dignity that God gives husband and wife, in that they share equally in their ability to co-create with God. What have you done for your marriage today?²

Action:

- Pray the rosary with your family. Make it a habit during October, the month of the rosary.
- Reverence your spouse; give your children a good example of marital love.
- Pray and fast for an end to abortion. Participate in the 40 Days for Life Campaign.³ Take part in the Life Chain along Ridge Rd., or the Respect Life Prayer Service at I.C.’s grotto TODAY. (see bulletin)
- Practice entrusting everything to God. Start with little things.

“O LORD, You have given everything its place in the world, and no one can make it otherwise. For it is Your creation, the heavens and the earth and the stars: You are the LORD of all.” (Esther 13:9, 10-11. Prayer of Mordecai)

1. Hoaglund, Victor, C.P., *The Book of Saints*, Regina Press, 1986, p.232.

2. Go to www.foryourmarriage.org for a marriage resource

3. Go to www.40daysforlife.org/lakecounty for details.

Presented by the Whiting/Robertsdale Peace and Social Justice Commission, October 4, 2009.
<http://www.sjbcatholicparish.org/peace-justice.php>