

October Respect Life Month — How to Build a Culture of Life

The Problem

Watching the news and reading the headlines, we may feel helpless seeing the heartbreaking lack of respect for human life. How do we respond when our efforts seem small in the face of the culture of death?

Our Christian Identity

To understand more fully how to defend and protect human life, we must first consider who *we* are, at the deepest level. God creates us in his image and likeness, which means we are made to be in loving relationship with him. The essence of our identity and worth, the source of our dignity, is that we are loved by God: “*We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the sum of the Father love for us and our real capacity to become the image of his Son.*”

We are called to divine intimacy, true communion with God, and we can grow in this closeness with him through daily prayer, reading the Scriptures, and frequent participation in the sacraments, especially Confession and the Eucharist.

Our Mission as Christians

The knowledge and realization of how deeply we are loved by God elicits a response of love that simultaneously draws us closer to God and, at the same time, impels us to share his love with others. Embracing a relationship with God means following in his footsteps, wherever he may call. Just as Jesus invited St. Peter and St. Andrew to become his disciples, he invites us to do the same: “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19).

Being a disciple of Jesus naturally includes sharing the Gospel with others and inviting them into a deeper relationship with God. As Christians, our identity and our mission are two sides of the same coin; like the apostles, we are called to be missionary disciples.

Missionary Discipleship

This doesn’t necessarily mean quitting our jobs or moving to foreign countries. For most of us, our mission field is daily life: “Christ teaches us how to evangelize, how to invite people into communion with him, and how to create a culture of witness: namely, through love. A Christian life lived with charity and faith is the most effective form of evangelization.”

The first step towards living this life is allowing Jesus to meet and transform us daily. If we respond to his grace, our lives will show we have something beyond what the world offers: we follow a person whose love changes our lives, so we want others to also experience his transforming love.

When we live in union with God, open to his prompting, we’re more able to see the opportunities for witness and his guidance in responding to these opportunities. We may fear doing the wrong thing or saying the wrong thing, but we do not need to be afraid. Jesus promised his disciples, “I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

Identity Crisis

As a society and as individuals, we often measure ourselves by false standards: by what and how much we do, our successes or failures, how others treat us, the degree of our pleasure or independence, etc. And when these changeable substitutes prove to be insufficient, or when we are faced with challenges and suffering, we may feel helpless, alone, or abandoned; we may be tempted to feel as though our lives have decreased value or worth.

But God’s love—individual, real, unchanging—is the true source of our worth, identity, and dignity. It really is not a question of who we are, but rather *whose* we are. Because his love will never change, nothing can reduce our God-given dignity, and nothing can diminish the immeasurable worth of our lives.

Our Response

When someone is facing great trials, we need to meet them where they are, walk with them on their journey, intercede for them, and be open to sharing Christ’s love however he directs.

When a woman becomes pregnant, and her boyfriend threatens to leave if she continues the pregnancy, we need to lovingly walk with her. When family members or friends become seriously ill, we need to assure them that God still offers them something in this life, and they still have purpose. We need to consistently be with them every step of the way.

Sometimes our actions speak for themselves; other times, words are needed. Whatever the situation, Jesus knows how to speak to each person’s heart; we simply need to follow where he leads.

Fr. Mike Morin, Pastor
213 East 8th Street
Mead, NE 68041
fr.mikemorin@gmail.com
Rectory: 402-624-3555
Cell Phone: 402-937-5785
Neumann: 402-443-4151



The bulletin is posted online each weekend at:

www.sjamescatholicchurch.com

Bulletin Submissions: call the rectory or email to: fr.mike-morin@cdolinc.net by noon on Friday.

Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:30 pm and Sunday 9:00 am.

Confessions: Saturdays 4:30-5:15 / Sundays 8:15-8:45 / By appointment

Weekday Masses: Monday thru Friday 7:00 am

St. James Catholic Church

October 8, 2017

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mon. Oct 2	Weekday in Ordinary Time
Tue. Oct 3	Weekday in Ordinary Time
Wed. Oct 4	Weekday in Ordinary Time
Thu. Oct 5	Weekday in Ordinary Time
Fri. Oct 6	Weekday in Ordinary Time
Sat. Oct 7	Weekday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

Saturday	Oct 7	5:30 pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	Oct 8	9:00 am	†Marlene Benes
Monday	Oct 9	7:00 am	†Betty & Chet Byard
Tuesday	Oct 10	7:00 am	†Genevieve Pellan
Wednesday	Oct 11	7:00 am	†All Souls Intentions
Thursday	Oct 12	7:00 am	†Bill Lorenz
Friday	Oct 13	7:00 am	†All Souls Intentions of Daryl Brabec Family
Saturday	Oct 14	5:30 pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	Oct 15	9:00 am	†Marlene Benes

Minister Assignments

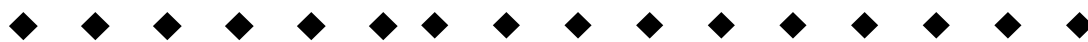
	Sat. Oct 14	Sun. Oct 15
Acolytes	Gene Benal	Al Luetkenhaus
Readers	Bobbie Feldhaus	Craig Quick
Servers	Ian Dunn	Vinny Hageman
	Briar Kems	Bobby Hageman

Sept 30-Oct 1 Collection

Adults	\$6,345.00
Loose	87.50
Second	99.75
Total:	\$6,532.25

Monthly Obligations

St. Wenceslaus School	\$ 3,258.33
Bishop Neumann	9,479.00
Total Parish Expenses:	\$ 12,737.33



Many thanks to your support of the annual Bishop’s Appeal for Vocations. This Appeal is to support seminarian vocations for the Diocese of Lincoln, which includes St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward. The Fraternity of St. Peter has a seminary near Denton, but they are a worldwide religious order and not related to the Lincoln Diocese, except that their seminary happens to be located in our diocese. They are responsible for their own support and do not receive anything from our Bishop’s Appeal for Vocations.

If you haven’t yet made your pledge you can turn it in today. Contact Fr. Morin if you have any questions.



LDCCW October Pro-Life Diaper Drive-

The Diaper Drive continues through the end of October. The Centers we serve advise the Diaper sizes 4,5 & 6 are in greatest demand. Your diaper donations are greatly appreciated. Cash donations or checks made to the order of the Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (LDCCW) will be accepted and should be mailed to the LDCCW Service Commission, Kay Wessel, 3600 W Wittstruck Rd, Martell, NE 68404.

Call to Joy Women’s Retreats-first retreat is

October 7. Mass will be held at 8:00am at St. Wenceslaus church followed by breakfast and retreat from 8:30am-noon at Bishop Neumann High School. Babysitting is available by reservation only by calling Jennifer Benes at 402-499-4542. Other retreat dates are January 6 and April 21, 2018. Contact Ann Lombardo at anmarielombardo@juno.com with any questions.

St. John’s Weston Fall Garage Sale-

Fri. Oct 13 8am-6pm and Sat. Oct 14 8am-3pm-Bag Sale All Day. Baked goods available to buy during your shopping. All proceeds to St. John’s School.

St. Mary’s Parish in Davey Soup Supper-

Sunday, October 8 from 4:00pm-7:00pm at the Davey Community Center. Chicken noodle soup and chili, sandwiches, hot dogs, pie and drinks (free will donation). Raffle tickets available at the door.

St. John the Baptist Bazaar-

October 8, serving duck & pork loin dinners from 11:00am-2:30pm in Prague.

St. Anthony De Padua Bazaar-

in Bruno on Oct 15, serving from 11:00am-3:00pm. Games, Silent Auction and Live Auction beginning at 3:00pm.

Service Day Opportunity-

The students at Bishop Neumann Jr/Sr High School would like to say “thank you” to our parish! On Thursday, Nov. 2nd, students in 7th through 12th grades are willing to work at the parish, for parish members, or throughout the community. Whether it’s raking leaves, washing windows, or sweeping out garages they want to help! Please complete a request form and return in the collection plate by **Sunday, Oct. 15th**. Any questions can be directed to Missy Chvatal (402-443-4151 or missy-chvatal@cdolinc.net).

Dwight Assumption Parish Fall Soup Dinner and Craft/Vendor Fair-

October 22, from 10:30am-1:30pm. Craft/Vendor Fair 9:00am-1:30pm. Mass is celebrated at 10:00am.

Bishop Neumann High School-

in Wahoo is looking for an evening shift janitor to assist in helping to keep our school clean. Timeliness, attention to details, and a strong work ethic are important qualifications. This is either a full time position with the shift running Monday-Friday 2:30pm-11pm or a half-time position with the shift running Monday-Friday 3pm-7pm. The pay will be \$15-\$20 per hour based on experience. Please contact Fr. Morin or Fr. Zimmer at 402-443-4151 or you can email Fr. Zimmer at fr.matthew-zimmer@cdolinc.net.

St. James 37th Annual Pancake Breakfast-

We are using an online service for workers to sign up. You should be receiving an email shortly. There is a link in the email for you to click on and then sign up. If a position you’re interested in happens to be filled please consider helping out in another area. If you don’t have an email address or didn’t get the email please contact one of the following committee members to get signed up: Ray Casey (402-904-0096), Arlene Janeczek (402-917-4540), or Melanie Climer-Wilson (402-250-3437). **Please note that Mass on November 5th is at the regular time of 9:00 am so plan accordingly.**

Parishioner envelopes-

now available in boxes on the table in the vestibule in the back of Church for you to pick up.