Every Life is Sacred

Every life is sacred. The Prophet Isaiah tells us, “The LORD called me from birth, from my mother’s womb he gave me my name” (Is 49:1). Against the backdrop of a worldwide pandemic that has taken over 75,000 lives, one may wonder if the Lord has forgotten us. Certainly, in the much simpler times of Isaiah, Zion spoke out: “The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me” (14). But Isaiah is very clear and direct: “Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you” (15).

The Book of Wisdom is also very clear. “God did not make death, and he does not delight in the death of the living. For he has created all things that they might exist ... God created man for incorruption, and made him in the image of his own eternity, but through the devil’s envy death entered the world, and those who belong to his party experience it” (Wis1:13-14; 2:23-24, EV 7）。If God created man for incorruption, we take comfort that death is not our final destiny. Those who have died in Christ our reborn to eternal life where there is no more sickness and there is no more death.

Every life is sacred. The sacred nature of life calls us to defend life when it is weak and threatened. Old Testament laws called for protecting foreigners, the sick, the orphans, the widows and the poor. In the Old Testament, children in the womb also had rights that demanded protection and defense (EV 41), a biblical truth that is still in force despite modern man’s promotion of reproductive rights at the expense of the most vulnerable with no voice of their own.

From the New Testament, Jesus’s teaching help us to understand that our responsibilities are even more important when it comes to the most vulnerable. We are to care for the life of our brother … whether a blood brother or a stranger. The parable of the Good Samaritan calls us to see people in need and to reach out and help. “We are obliged to offer help promptly and with no expectation of repayment” (EV 41).

As we reflect on the passion of Christ, we can not help but recall how he prayed for his enemies. From the Cross, he taught us: “Father forgive them, they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). The height of this love is to pray for our own enemies (EV 41).

Every human life is sacred and of incomparable worth. Jesus gave his life on the Cross for our salvation. Jesus presents the heart of his redemptive mission this way: “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). God has created us so that we may share an eternity in communion with The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (EV 1). How much more clearly can the Lord teach us? Every human life is a sacred gift from God. Eternal life is his deepest desire for each one of us.

God’s plan for our future calls for action on our part in the present. We honor God’s commandment to protect human life as we show reverence and love for every person no matter how weak, no matter how sick, no matter how unwanted by others, no matter how disfigured they are by disease. “To defend and promote life, to show reverence and love for it, is a task which God entrusts to” each one of us (EV42).

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