



ST. MARTIN OF TOURS
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Letter from the Pastor

Rev. David Wells



OCTOBER 17-18, 2020

Dear St. Martin's Parishioners,

The Church has in recent years dedicated the month of October as Respect Life month. As Catholics we are untiring in proclaiming that life has an inviolable dignity from the moment of conception until natural death. There are various fronts on which the battle to uphold the dignity of human life is waged. Pope St. John Paul II stated in his encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae*:

“Whatever is opposed to life itself, such as any type of murder, genocide, abortion, euthanasia, or willful selfdestruction, whatever violates the integrity of the human person, such as mutilation, torments inflicted on body or mind, attempts to coerce the will itself; whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where people are treated as mere instruments of gain rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others like them are infamies indeed.”

Abortion is the preeminent pro-life issue in our society. If the right to life for the person in the beginning stages of life is not protected, then all other rights are thereby put at risk. As one who works in the post abortion healing ministry, I am familiar with the trauma that affects mothers and fathers who have procured abortions. God's mercy knows no bounds, but we must also recognize the grave injustice and damaging societal effects of abortion.

The pro-life issue of racism has reared its ugly head once again in the past year. Our Archbishop, Wilton Gregory, has spoken out strongly and repeatedly in the aftermath of the deaths of Ahrmaud Arbery and George Floyd. The Archdiocese recently produced a beautiful prayer in light of the ongoing racial justice struggles in our nation. Here is the text:

Loving and faithful God, we come to you, Father, to ask that through your Son, Jesus and in communion with the Holy Spirit, you help us in the battle against America's "original sin" of racism that divides us from being the Body of Christ that we are called to be as your children.

We implore you to give us your wisdom, so that we may build a community founded on the Gospel message of the life and dignity of all people from the womb to the tomb, and to live in communion like the divine communion of the Holy Trinity.

Bless parents that they may form their children in faith, to love one another regardless of skin color, ethnicity and national origin, just as Jesus loves us. Bless and protect all of us as we live out our faith in being "instruments of your peace" as St. Francis said. Fill us with a thirst for justice and righteousness.

Hear our prayer and give us the courage, compassion, and perseverance to root out any form of injustice within our communities and to bring the healing love of Christ to all in need.

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of our Church, hasten to help us and intercede on our behalf, so that our Archdiocese can continue to witness to the Gospel message of life and dignity of all people. Amen.

In Christ,
Fr. Dave