



**From the Pastor**  
**27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in**  
**Ordinary Time - A**  
**October 8, 2017**

October is **Respect Life Month**, a time set aside to give **special** thanks for God's great gift of **all** life, and for our unique **human**

life. The revised Roman Missal offers **two** sets of orations entitled **'For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life.'** I reflected on the **first** set back on **Respect Life Sunday 2013**; today we ponder the **second** set.

**Collect - Giving Thanks to God for Gift of Human Life**

*O God, who adorn creation  
 with splendor and beauty and  
 fashion human lives in your image and likeness,  
 awaken in every heart  
 reverence for the work of your hands,  
 and renew among your people  
 a readiness to nurture and sustain  
 your precious gift of human life.  
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ ... and ever. Amen.*

**HUMANS: THE HIGHPOINT OF CREATION.**

As the biblical creation accounts state, the human person is God's *pièce de résistance* or masterpiece. And Scripture says God **"made us a little less than gods, crowned us with glory and honor ... gave us rule over the works of His hands and put all things at our feet."** [C.f. Psalm 8:6-7] This point, referenced and built upon in the New Testament, is the basis for the Church's **Pro-Life** stance and her staunch defense of **all** human life from the moment of conception until death. However, many in our world - and even some of our great nation's laws and policies - desecrate our God given human dignity.

Consider some incongruous contradictions: our laws forbid destroying - or even tampering with - the eggs of turtles or other endangered species [aka unborn turtles!] yet we legalize destroying unborn humans! People protest to 'Save the Whales,' march to outlaw animal fur, and demand 'rights' for **animals**, yet deny these rights to **people!** While most media positively present PETA rallies, pro-**human**-life promoters are often presented as insensitive violators of a woman's 'right' to destroy what **they** say is 'just cells!' As this oration states: our hearts [and minds] need to be awakened ... to God's Truth!

**Prayer over the Offerings - Giving Thanks for Life**

*O God, who bring forth bread from the earth  
 to sustain our lives  
 and wine to gladden the heart,  
 be pleased to accept these gifts and  
 make them the sacrament of our salvation.  
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**IS GOD SINGULAR OR PLURAL?** Grammar experts might cringe at the seemingly incorrect tense in this oration: **"O God, who bring ..."** But while our God is a Trinity of Three Persons, God is still only One God; and is so united that the Trinity 'thinks,' 'acts,' and 'interacts' as one. I put those words in single 'quotes' because God does not 'think,' 'act,' or 'interact' as humans do; God simply 'is' and 'does' as God wills! However ...

As God's children, we are called to **mirror**, as best as possible, the Trinity's **unity** in every way **we** think, act or interact. That means there's no place for such 'singular' terms as **'my'** body, **'my'** rights, **'my'** decisions; we must always consider the body and the rights of others.

**Prayer after Communion - Giving Thanks for Life**

*Confirm our resolve, O God,  
 by the life-giving Body and Blood of your Son,  
 that we may live always for others  
 and cherish your sacred gift of human life.  
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**GOD GAVE US AN EVEN GREATER DIGNITY!**

The basis of our unique human dignity is found in this quote: **"... [God] blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."** [Genesis 2:7b] Original Sin destroyed **some** of our dignity, but God **restored** and **greatly enhanced** it in the **Incarnation** by which God became a human person in Christ. Then Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit into His Apostles, and through them into us at our Baptism and Confirmation. And in the Eucharist Jesus now enters into us as food. For each time we receive Holy Communion, Christ truly enters into us, to empower and strengthen us to be His presence in the world. And that, in turn, gives us a tremendous dignity: for we are the Body of Christ! Let us pray for a greater **Respect for Life!**

**With God's love and my prayers,**

*Father Mike*

**Very Rev. Michael J. Kreder, KHS**