



ARCHDIOCESE OF PORTLAND

IN OREGON

*Office of Life, Justice & Peace
Campaign for Human Development*

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Fellow Christians,

“Every life is worth living.” Who among us would answer “no” to that statement? On one level it may seem obvious to us. On one level, in light of what our Holy Father Pope Francis has dubbed the “throw away culture,” we cannot deny that all things seem to be measured according to their worth and general contribution to the secular common good. It’s interesting that what is at the beginning and at the end receives the greatest scrutiny

In the United States in particular we tend to just trade things in or discard them. We do so because we know there will always be more and that more will be better.

Not long ago I decided to trade in my I-phone for an upgrade. The salesman attempted to see if there was any value in my old phone, thereby offering me some money off on the new one. He felt there would be but found out there wasn’t. The best I could do was save it with old information if needed or simply destroy it. While this may only be a phone, I think it has become the overall evaluation of everything. “Choice and usefulness” seem to be the ultimate measure of worth.

On this Respect Life Sunday we are reminded that ALL lives are worth living and cannot be subjected to a calculated value. The entire month of October carries that theme further ahead. Once again, we are called to look with a broad vision that does not set limits on the value of the human person from conception till natural death. For so many years we have been consistent in prayers and protests for this sacred value. It may seem like a never ending task and we may wonder if we are making progress.

If we can create a mindset that keeps this before our people and present to them the language to use and the position to take as a faith community, then God’s work is being done.

As a Pastor I know that we all share the challenge ahead but we can be bold enough to speak on this crucial issue in a way that everyone feels respected and invited to consider their personal stand in defense of human life. With Pope Francis’ recent decision to grant universal faculties to all priests to absolve the sin of abortion, I think we see before us the heart of a compassion Shepherd. A model for us all in our tireless ministry to God’s people. All do matter.

In Christ,

Fr. Tim Mockaitis
Associate Director, Office of Life, Justice & Peace