



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

As members of the Catholic Church we show respect for all human life. October is known as Respect Life Month where extra focus is given to life issues. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) website (www.usccb.org/) contains a wealth of information and resources. The website contains information about Scripture, daily readings, Church teachings, official statements of the USCCB, and many other links that provide information for one and all.

Scrolling through the website I discovered an Examination of Conscience in Light of Catholic Social Teaching. The examination is broken down into the following categories: Life and Dignity of the Human Person, Call to Family, Community and Participation, Rights and Responsibilities, Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers, and Solidarity and Care for God's Creation. Today I highlight the first four categories, next week I will share the remaining three categories with the parish. May we reflect on the Holy Spirit guiding us in our respect for all life as followers of Jesus.

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE IN LIGHT OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING – PART 1

LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

Do I respect the life and dignity of every human person from conception through natural death?

Do I recognize the face of Christ reflected in all others around me whatever their race, class, age, or abilities?

Do I work to protect the dignity of others when it is being threatened?

Am I committed to both protecting human life and to ensuring that every human being is able to live in dignity?

CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND PARTICIPATION

Do I try to make positive contributions in my family and in my community?

Are my beliefs, attitudes, and choices such that they strengthen or undermine the institution of the family?

Am I aware of problems facing my local community and involved in efforts to find solutions? Do I stay informed and make my voice heard when needed?

Do I support the efforts of poor persons to work for change in their neighborhoods and communities? Do my attitudes and interactions empower or disempower others?

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Do I recognize and respect the economic, social, political, and cultural rights of others?

Do I live in material comfort and excess while remaining insensitive to the needs of others whose rights are unfulfilled?

Do I take seriously my responsibility to ensure that the rights of persons in need are realized?

Do I urge those in power to implement programs and policies that give priority to the human dignity and rights of all, especially the vulnerable?

OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

Do I give special attention to the needs of the poor and vulnerable in my community and in the world?

Am I disproportionately concerned for my own good at the expense of others?

Do I engage in service and advocacy work that protects the dignity of poor and vulnerable persons?

I am very happy to inform the parish that Pablo Janowicz will be enrolled by Bishop John Manz as a candidate for the diaconate through the Institute for Diaconal Studies/Mundelein Seminary on October 2, 2022. Candidacy is the first official recognition by the Church of the positive signs of his vocation to the diaconate, which must be confirmed in the next three years of formation—a period that includes spiritual formation and direction, theological reflection, pastoral ministry experiences, academic courses, human/personal development, field education, internships, and much more.

To get to this point in his formation, Pablo and his wife Ines, with other deacon candidate couples from the Archdiocese journeyed through a one-year period of discernment called the Aspirant Stage that included prayer and spiritual formation sessions, a comprehensive course on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, days of reflection on the deacon's share in the bishop's ministries of Word, Liturgy and Charity, monthly spiritual direction, and retreats during which he prayed and reflected, with his family, over his possible call to Holy Orders. Ines, in fulfilling her supportive role in the program wrote a letter to Cardinal Cupich that notes her free, informed consent to Pablo moving to the Candidate Stage.

Please keep Pablo and Ines Janowicz, their children and all those in formation, and their families in your prayers that they might continue to answer God's call in their lives.

May God guide and bless us with hearts of charity and concern for our neighbor,

Fr. Mike Nacur