



Blessed and joyous Easter season to you as we share the hope of eternal life in our Risen Lord.

It is Jesus' victory over sin and death that is to be reflected in every aspect of our lives. It is to be reflected in our prayer, it is to be reflected in our faith, it is to be reflected in our actions. When we pray and reflect on each and every Respect Life issue of the Catholic Church, they all come back to our life in Jesus, our Risen Lord.

When we work towards building a culture of life, in a world that does not support the culture or belief that we stand for, it is in community and prayer that we are able to strive together in building a culture that cherishes and respects every human life. We are able to embody this truth in many ways. We are able to participate in prayer vigils outside abortion clinics, we are able to stand with refugees and immigrants, we are able to care for the hungry and homeless, we are able to stand up for the rights of the marginalized by mainstream society. There are and will always be daily opportunities to work together in building a culture that cherishes and respects every human life.

This past Saturday, April 29, a Gun BuyBack program took place at the Holy Family site of Most Blessed Trinity Parish in Waukegan. What started as a hope and idea has blossomed beautifully into a reality. Initial discussion centered on offering this program but with a great concern on how it would be funded. Where would resources be found so that we could demonstrate together our efforts in building a culture that cherishes and respects every human life, especially those threatened by gun violence?

It was with the grace of God, working through ordinary people, that a "resurrection like" response has happened by parishioners in St. Mary's and other parishes in Lake County that support the community and ministry at Most Blessed Trinity. As this article is being typed, I just learned from Most Blessed Trinity that they have received almost \$25,000. The Waukegan Police Department is overseeing the program. They will be receiving and taking the guns off of the streets, using them for training among officers before eventually destroying them. Let's pray for those whose lives are affected by gun violence, domestic violence, and gang violence; all which threaten the vulnerable. May this simple effort be supported by our prayers for both victims and perpetrators of violence, that the Light of Christ may illuminate their hearts and lives. May we as parishioners of St. Mary's, as followers of the Risen Lord, live by and promote the Gospel of Life in a world filled with darkness and despair.

The Archdiocese of Chicago Respect Life Office offers numerous resources and programs throughout the year. This coming Saturday, May 6, there is a program being offered at Cook Memorial Public Library in Libertyville, located at 413 N. Milwaukee Avenue at 9:30am. The presentation is titled "**Assisted Suicide is Not Glamorous - the Medical Aid in Dying Movement Unpacked.**" The presenter, Dawn Fitzpatrick, is the Senior Coordinator for the Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity of the Archdiocese. Admission is free to this presentation but RSVPs are requested to (847) 644.8456.

A funeral liturgy is a central liturgical celebration of the Christian community for the deceased. When one of its members dies, the Church encourages the celebration of the funeral liturgy at a Mass. When Mass cannot be celebrated, a funeral liturgy outside Mass can be celebrated at the church or in the funeral home.

At the funeral liturgy, the Church gathers with the family and friends of the deceased to give praise and thanks to God for Christ's victory over sin and death, to commend the deceased to God's tender mercy and compassion, and to seek strength in the proclamation of the Paschal Mystery. The funeral liturgy, therefore, is an act of worship, and not merely an expression of grief. A funeral Mass may also be referred to as a Requiem Mass.

This Sunday afternoon, April 30, we are offering Brahm's *Requiem* at 3:00pm in our church. Tickets may be purchased in advance by using the following link: [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) and searching for Niles Metropolitan Chorus. May this service, in the Easter Season deepen our hope in our loved one's welcome into their eternal reward.

God bless you in living Easter joy in our Risen Lord and Savior,

*Fr. Mike Nacup*