

+++ *From the Pastor* +++
Respect Life Sunday, October 1, 2017

Respect Life Sunday: We Rejoice in God's Sacred Gift of Life

The bishops of the Church in the United States have designated today as Respect Life Sunday and they have designated the entire month of October as Respect Life Month. Our bishops have taken this step to call attention to the fact that life is a holy, sacred and precious gift from Almighty God that must be protected and defended from *the moment of conception until natural death*.

This day and this month are set aside each year to help us deepen our faith, hope and love in God, the Author of all life and to strengthen our commitment to give witness to the sanctity of human life in every way that we can. We must not rest until we secure the inalienable right to life for every innocent human being, for all of our citizens, born and unborn.

Throughout this month we pray especially hard for an end to the grave evils of contraception, abortion and euthanasia and all evils which threaten the sanctity of human life. As your pastor and as the chaplain for the Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Baker I want to encourage everyone to pray the Rosary each day for the intention of the triumph of the Gospel of Life in our country and throughout the world.

October is the month dedicated to the Rosary by the Church. Our Blessed Mother, Mary Most Holy, has asked us, throughout the centuries, to pray the Rosary for the salvation of our souls and the conversion of sinners. Now we need her help more than ever as we work to secure the right to life for each human being created in the image and likeness of God.

October: The Month of the Rosary

October is traditionally known in the Church as the Month of the Rosary. The Rosary is a beautiful prayer in which we meditate upon the mysteries of our Blessed Lord's life as we pray the Hail Mary in honor of our Blessed Mother.

The Rosary is a powerful spiritual weapon in our arsenal of prayers as we do battle with the forces of evil. Indeed, the Blessed Virgin Mary has asked her children, throughout the centuries, to pray the Rosary for the defeat of Satan's power over mankind. Most well-known, perhaps, were her instructions to the three shepherd children of Fatima in 1917 to pray the Rosary for the defeat of atheistic communism in Russia and throughout the world and her instructions to Saint Bernadette at Lourdes in 1858 to pray the Rosary daily for the conversion of sinners.

Pope Saint John Paul II asked us to pray the Rosary each day for world peace. Given that since September 11, 2001 we have been at war in Iraq and Afghanistan; given that



