

+++ *From the Pastor* +++  
*Respect Life Sunday, October 4, 2015*

***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 brothers and sisters, 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, through 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.

***Our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of the Rosary, Honored Wednesday***

The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary will be celebrated Wednesday, October 7. This feast was instituted in 1573 as a special commemoration of the victory gained at Lepanto, Italy, on Sunday, October 7, 1571, when the forces of Islam, which were threatening to invade Europe, were hurled back and broken—a favor attributed to the recitation of the Rosary.

Prescribed by Pope Gregory XIII for certain churches, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary was introduced into the Roman Calendar by Clement XI in 1716 and assigned to the first Sunday of October in thanksgiving for another triumph over the same enemy in Hungary that year by the Emperor Charles VI. Pope Leo XIII increased its rank to obtain our Lady's help amid the present trials of the Church and in 1913 it was assigned to October 7. Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary, Pray for us!

***Clergy Assembly This Week***

I will be attending the annual Diocese of Baker Clergy Assembly this week. Please keep our bishop, priests and deacons in your prayers.

May God grant you a peaceful week in His service.

