



THE DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
**Office of Human Life,
Family and Bioethics**



God Creates and Sustains Life

By Fr Patrick Whitney, St Francis de Sales

The Bible for Christians and Jews is the Book of Life. It states in the beginning of Genesis that all of creation has its origin in God. God created life and sustains it. The harmony between God and mankind was broken by man's attempt to become the equal of God. However, God did not give up on us. He promised a Redeemer.

Throughout their long history, Jewish people come to know a God who forgave, loved them and guided them. He revealed Himself to the Patriarchs and Prophets. The ten commandments given to Moses would be their guide. God finally revealed Himself in Jesus. When asked what is at the core of the Law, He replied: 1. Love God above all things. 2. Love your neighbor as yourself. These two commands are at the core of every Christian life. Jesus, Himself lived this out by His response to the Father, by giving His life for us and by the way he treated people, especially the poor, sinner and the outcast.



We are all called to do the same, love God with our whole being and love and respect one another and God's creation. The challenges are evident throughout history: war, murder, hatred, discrimination, and abortion to name a few. All of these are part of the Right to Life movement. We cannot leave out any of them if we are Christian. The Church has taken a strong stand on all of these issues. Unfortunately, the Church has wounded herself recently and struggles to make herself heard.

There are many Christians, including Catholics who firmly believe in the teachings of Jesus and apply them to all the major issues in today's world and especially the rights of the unborn. We need to not only change the law but also to win the hearts of people. The Church has many great programs founded on compassion and love to meet the needs of those women and men who find themselves in difficult situations. Even if a woman or a couple go the route of ending life in the womb, the Church is there with various programs to offer support through counseling and healing ministries, and most especially in the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist. There is no condemnation or judgement. It would be great if we could get this message out to those who are hurting and looking for forgiveness.

Help is always available, especially through the Diocesan Project Rachel Ministry. Many women find themselves suffering alone and they do not have to be actively involved in the Church to return and avail themselves to these healing programs. Compassion, respect, mercy, saving and supporting life is what the mission is all about.

As we celebrated many feast days of Our Blessed Mother, Mary this month, may we turn to her as our model of faith, hope and love. Pray to her, the model for all Christians. Pray to her Son Jesus to enlighten the hearts and minds of all people. Pray for parents, especially those who are about to bring new life into the world.