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Office of Human Life, Family and Bioethics



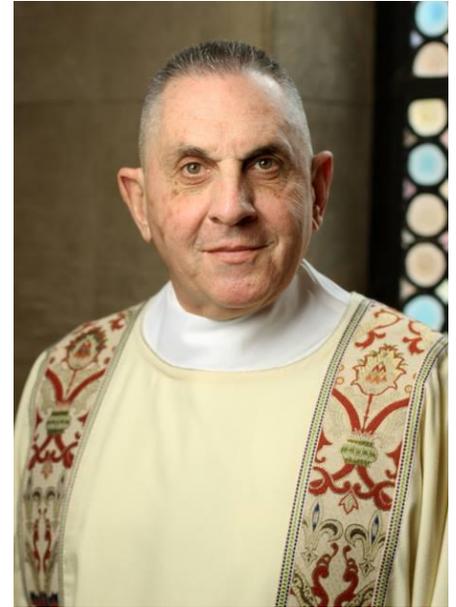
“Made in the Image and Likeness of God”

by: Deacon Vin Barreca

As of late, I have been spending a lot of time praying about the present dilemma in our nation, in which many young people have been protesting to seek attention for the respect of human life. They have done so by identifying their efforts by using a specific label and mantra to gain public support.

After much persistent prayer and reflection, the Lord answered my prayer and pointed me to the one place where the answer to this dilemma could be found; The Holy Bible. It is there that our God gives us the answers of how the respect for human life can be fully achieved.

In the Book of Genesis, the first book of the Bible, God says: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness”; ‘God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them’. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus identified the Greatest Commandment; “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with your mind, and the second commandment is like it; “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22).



In creation, God made man (mankind) in his image and likeness above all other things he created. Man was made capable of acting like his Creator, and called to imitate his goodness, and to return the love that God provided. And...the way man would accomplish that end was by loving his neighbor.

Imagine, if only all of mankind would follow just these two simple commandments, there would be not hate, there would be no injury and there would be no murder in this world; there would only be respect for all human life as well as all of creation.

“Made in the Image and Likeness of God”...this indeed is the only label that anyone needs to use to identify every human life found on the face of the earth and the respect that should be afforded to each and every person when that label is identified.

“Made in the Image and Likeness of God”; must universally become our true mantra concerning human life, as no other mantra is needed. Love and respect will then follow. Let us all work together in unity to that end as brothers and sisters.

The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus. It is His Precious Blood that enables all the baptized to imitate his likeness and to respect all human life from conception to a natural death as God wills it.