

## **In Word and Deed:**

### **Pro-life and PPE Sails Together**

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Nowadays, we are familiar with the abbreviation **PPE**. Yes, Personal Protective Equipment, which protects those using it against health and safety risks at work. During this corona virus pandemic period, we know our doctors, nurses, health care workers etc. and whoever needs protection and safety wear it. It not only keeps the worker safe, but also the workplace. Those wearing PPE, follow proper procedure and training and, along with it, proper supervision to encourage a safe and responsible work place. We all know that essential workers are struggling to keep us and our beloved ones safe. They take many precautions to keep us and themselves safe.

Here comes a question: Why do they want to keep our lives safe along with theirs? Yes, every life has its own value. It is precious. We are now living in a world in which animals have more life value than human beings. We raise our voice and protest to protect animals. Not that an animal's life has no value, but we are not giving as much importance or value to human beings. Are we doing anything to protect human life; especially an unborn life? What PPE are we using for unborn life? We need to think and act. Is there any **PPE** for this voiceless people? Yes, there is. There is a **PPE** for such lives....it is **Prayer, Practice, and Encouragement**.

Here in this busy world, people have less time to spend on **Prayer**. They are running after one another to conquer, control, and rule. As a result of this, they are forgetting love for each other, forgetting humanitarian concepts of compassion, and empathy. What's more, they lose all sorts of divine qualities. We've lost our family prayers. St James in his letter says, "...pray for one another that you may be healed" (James 5:16b). **Prayer** can heal all unwanted evils and wounds which happen in our lives and hearts.

We are the soldiers of Christ. As a soldier we have to put on the armor of God. We do this when we stand for life on the sidewalk at Planned Parenthood or when we speak up for the life of a person. As St. Paul said, "put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil." (Ephesians 6:11). So, our presence in a needy place will share God's power with the needy one. As St. Paul said, "...and how can they hear without someone to preach?" (Romans 10:14c). In the same way, if we won't **Practice** the Gospel how we will reach others? So, let us go out to live and **Practice** the Gospel among people. Stand up for the needy one. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (John 11:32). When we help a needy person, that person will experience God's presence through our practice. Because we are called to be bearers of Christ and we are the second Christ here in this world.

Along with **Prayer** and **Practice**, we need to **Encourage** and support people and be one among them to act. Proper instructions, guidance and awareness should be given to children and youth that life begins at conception and the life of an unborn baby should be protected. A few months

back, I came to know that a girl who got pregnant and was banned from her home. She was protected and supported by two of our parishioners. I really appreciate and encourage them for what they did. Some of us are not developing or trying to develop and encourage the **PPE** within us which God has given for the fulfillment of the goodness of the world. Still it is not too late to open our eyes and hold our hearts and hands together for achieving our goal.