Respect Life



October is Respect Life Month in the USA. The theme is "Radical Solidarity." National Family & Life Week was May 7-13, 2023 in Canada. The theme was "Love one another."

Love creates and embraces us tenderly. As we are immersed in the gift and call of universal communion, respecting all life in the womb of creation is a major challenge and opportunity for our conversion.

Realities of abortion, euthanasia / Medical Assistance in Death (MAID), death penalty, climate change, major pollution, White Christian Nationalism, racism, human trafficking, wars, consumerism, the global diseconomy and polarization plague and divide us.

Since the energy of anger used in healthy ways is courage, can we, every day this month, have the courage to listen longer especially if we disagree with the other(s), the courage to speak respectfully even if we do so in trepidation, and the courage to act justly with kindness and compassion? Regardless of our values in a divided situation, can we hold the other(s) with tender love?

Applying moral norms in real life requires pastoral application with love, mercy and gentleness, for ourselves and all others. We are all saints with a past and sinners with a future. "Who am I to judge?" (Pope Francis).



Action: Let our prayer be bold, insistent and persevering, like the prophets. We try. We fail. We forgive ourselves and others. We snuggle into the divine embrace of LOVE who holds us and our cosmos in order and chaos.

Watercolor painting by Barbara Paleczny SSND

Jesus longs to gather us as a hen gathers her chicks. He weeps over us / with us and our world.