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SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

26th Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

“Which of the two did his father’s will?” They answered, “The first.”
Jesus said to them, “Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and
prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you.” - Mt 21:31

FROM FR CARL

THE FIVE NON-NEGOTIABLES

Voting with an Informed Conscience

Dear Parishioners,

As we approach the 2020 National Elections, I will focus my October pastoral messages on how to prepare to vote with an informed conscience, empowered and guided by our Catholic Faith. At each Mass in October and each day at Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament, we will offer prayers for peace during the election process and for wise voting decisions of Christians.

Our vote as citizens is a sacred right. Our vote can shape the direction of our nation and community toward Christ's mission of building His kingdom here on earth. Hence, we must vote according to what our Catholic faith teaches.

The Catechism teaches that "...there are acts which, in and of themselves, independently of circumstances and intentions, are always gravely illicit by reason of their object." (CCC 1757).

Pope St. John Paul II expanded on intrinsic evil in *Veritatis Splendor* (1993). He explains that "If acts are intrinsically evil, a good intention or particular circumstances can diminish their evil, but they cannot remove it. They remain 'irremediably' evil acts..."

The "Five Non-Negotiables"

The following five non-negotiables are intrinsically evil:

Abortion. Euthanasia. Embryonic Stem Cell Research. Human Cloning. Same Sex "Marriage".

It is our Catholic responsibility that we must evaluate the policies embraced by a political party, candidate or law. It is not enough to say that there is "some" good if there is intrinsic evil. As faithful Catholics and disciples of Jesus, we cannot support the five non-negotiables. Please see below further education of Catholic teaching on these five non-negotiables.

Pope Francis encourages us, "We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern." - 9-16-13

May St. Michael Protect you and your family!

Fr. Carl



Thank You!

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September Goal
\$85,813.73

Collection from 9-20-2020
\$10,919.00

September collection to date
\$65,130.09

Percentage reached
76%

September Maintenance Goal
\$9,500.00

**September Maintenance
collection to date**
\$8,454.00

Percentage reached
89%



FORMING CATHOLIC CONSCIENCES

ABORTION

CCC 2258: "Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains for ever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being."

CCC 2261: "...The deliberate murder of an innocent person is gravely contrary to the dignity of the human being..."

CCC 2270: "Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person - among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life."

Summary

It is the social teaching of the Catholic Church that abortion is immoral and a grave sin. Anyone who has, or even participates in (with full knowledge) an abortion is committing a grave sin against not only his own soul, but also against Our Lord and Creator, Jesus Christ, and His creation of man. It is our duty to educate and comfort those in pain, especially when effected by such an atrocity as abortion.

EUTHANASIA (ASSISTED SUICIDE)

CCC 2277: "Whatever its motives and means, direct euthanasia consists in putting an end to the lives of handicapped, sick, or dying persons. It is morally unacceptable. Thus an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder gravely contrary to the dignity of the human person and to the respect due to the living God, his Creator. The error of judgment into which one can fall in good faith does not change the nature of this murderous act, which must always be forbidden and excluded. "

CCC 2278: " Discontinuing medical procedures that are burdensome, dangerous, extraordinary, or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be legitimate; it is the refusal of "over-zealous" treatment. Here one does not will to cause death; one's inability to impede it is merely accepted. The decisions should be made by the patient if he is competent and able or, if not, by those legally entitled to act for the patient, whose reasonable will and legitimate interests must always be respected."

Summary

It is the teaching of the Catholic Church that euthanasia for the motive of eliminating suffering is morally unacceptable. God is the ultimate power when it comes to our lives and when our time has come. While one can still discontinue medical procedures when the treatment becomes too burdensome or extreme that, while extending the life a small amount, the party accepts that death is imminent (besides the attempts to impede it), and is therefore acceptable, though this decision should be made by the patient, if competent enough.



TO BE FAITHFUL CITIZENS

EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

USCCB: "... the Church supports ethically responsible stem cell research, while opposing any research that exploits or destroys human embryos.... Because the Church opposes deliberately destroying innocent human life at any stage, for research or any other purpose, it opposes embryonic stem cell research as currently conducted. However, when scientists proposed avenues for possibly obtaining embryonic stem cells or their pluripotent equivalent without creating or harming embryos.... Clearly, the Church favors ethically acceptable stem cell research. It opposes destroying some human lives now, on the pretext that this may possibly help other lives in the future. We must respect life at all times, especially when our goal is to save lives."

Summary

The Catholic Church stands firmly with a pro-life stance. Similar to abortion, every life is sacred and must be treated with dignity. We are not to murder any current life at any stage for the furtherment of future research.

HUMAN CLONING

CCC 354: "Respect for laws inscribed in creation and the relations which derive from the nature of things is a principle of wisdom and a foundation for morality."

CCC 1700: "The dignity of the human person is rooted in his creation in the image and likeness of God."

1995 Encyclical Letter of Pope John Paul II 'The Gospel of Life': "The various techniques of artificial reproduction, which would seem to be at the service of life and which are frequently used with this intention, actually open the door to new threats against life. Apart from the fact that they are morally unacceptable, since they separate procreation from the fully human context of the conjugal act, these techniques have a high rate of failure: not just failure in relation to fertilization but with regard to the subsequent development of the embryo, which is exposed to the risk of death, generally within a very short space of time. Furthermore, the number of embryos produced is often greater than that needed for implantation in the woman's womb, and these so-called 'spare embryos' are then destroyed or used for research which, under the pretext of scientific or medical progress, in fact reduces human life to the level of simple 'biological material' to be freely disposed of."

Summary

The Catholic Church is against the concept of human cloning because it goes against the natural law that God created. God's law is that new life can only come from the conjugal act, making it against God's law to clone humans without that act.

“Everyone living in this country is called to participate in public life and contribute to the common good.”

- Pope Francis

HOMOSEXUAL "MARRIAGE"

CCC 2357: "Homosexuality refers to relations between men or between women who experience an exclusive or predominant sexual attraction toward persons of the same sex. It has taken a great variety of forms through the centuries and in different cultures. Its psychological genesis remains largely unexplained. Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity, tradition has always declared that "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered." They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved."

CCC 2358: "The number of men and women who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies is not negligible. This inclination, which is objectively disordered, constitutes for most of them a trial. They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided."

CCC 2360: "Sexuality is ordered to the conjugal love of man and woman. In marriage the physical intimacy of the spouses becomes a sign and pledge of spiritual communion."

Summary

It is the teaching of the Catholic Church that homosexual "marriage" is not marriage and goes against God's instituted natural law. Marriage was created for a man and a woman who are open to life to express to each other the full self-giving and unity of the sacrament and each other. Since this cannot be obtained through same-sex unions, the Church teaches that the act of homosexuality is morally wrong. While it condemns the act, the individuals are to be loved, with respect and compassion directed towards them as they struggle to find their way to Christ and His calling for them.

CIVILIZE IT

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has launched a campaign inviting Catholics to model civility and love for neighbor throughout the year. *Civilize It: Dignity Beyond the Debate* will ask Catholics to pledge civility, clarity, and compassion in their families, communities, and parishes, and call on others to do so as well. Find out more information and resources to share with your community at Civilizelt.org.

CIVILIZE IT
★ ★
DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE
===== 2020 =====



ROSARY IN ENGLISH

On Zoom

October 1 - 31

bit.ly/RosaryOct

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October 24



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GOSPEL MEDITATION

***“When John came to you in the way of righteousness,
you did not believe him;
but tax collectors and prostitutes did.
Yet even when you saw that,
you did not later change your minds and believe him.” (Mt 21:32)***

What prompts you to make the decisions you make? When confronted with a decision, whether one that is more trivial and mundane or one that is more significant and profound, we rely on guidance. That guidance can be the result of impulse and passion or the fruit of the interior voice of conscience. Decisions made on impulse and passion can be misguided and erroneous. Decisions based on conscience, or the moral voice within, will reflect the depth and maturity of our soul work. A more contemplative soul will make more contemplative decisions. A less developed conscience will make decisions based on the individual's level of development.

Conversion and a change of heart are at the core of Jesus' message precisely because of this reality. We are works in progress. For the person on fire with the Holy Spirit and centered on God, life reflects an ever-deepening awareness and heightened sense of God's presence and a greater willingness to do God's will. What is happening internally is validated by what is witnessed externally. The hypocrite is the one who says yes when they really mean no. From the start, they had no desire to do the virtuous act but wanted to outwardly appear as if they did.

Where are you on the road of integrity? Honesty is all that is required. God is good with that. It is

okay to struggle with our decisions and wrestle with ourselves. Consciences on the path to maturity and greater depth are not always going to know what action is immediately best. We may, at first, say no to what we know is right and, after prayerful reflection and thought, come around to doing it. Conversion happens when our no changes to yes, regardless of how sinful or out of sync we may be at the time. God is anxious to welcome us to Himself. But we cannot embrace Him unless we want to. Learning to orient our gift of free will to what is of divine origin, right, and best is a discipline we must always tweak and perfect.

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RESPONDING *Call* to the

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP Is It the Thought That Counts?

I can remember times when I received a gift that I would not have chosen for myself. At those times I certainly thought to myself that "it was the thought that counts." I was happy that the gift-giver thought of me at all. Then there have been times when my children have not given me a gift and then chose to tell me all about what they were going to give me. They would then follow it up by saying, "it was the thought that really counts." Really!?! I don't think so. I could think of sending my wife on a cruise, but that is not in any way the same as

going on the cruise. I think there are times when all of us think we are more generous than we are, simply because we were thinking about being generous.

This way of thinking can be dangerous. Jesus teaches us to say what we mean and mean what we say. The intentionality of our actions is important, but intentionality without action is meaningless. How we act and what we give serves as evidence of our intentions and indicates where our heart truly lies. If we fool ourselves into thinking we

are someone we are not, it can become difficult to see the truth. We need to look for the fruit in our lives. We need to make sure our desires and thoughts are moving us to act. You know that other saying about intentions, don't you? Don't pave the road to a place no one wants to end up with your intentions. Instead, let your intentions and actions lead others to another place where Jesus can be found.

- Tracy Earl Welliver
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Thanks to your support and the support of the Livermore community, we distributed groceries to 150 households, a total of 412 people! 87 cars came through the drive through. 63 senior/homebound households had groceries delivered to their porch. WOW!

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OUTDOOR MASS

In the Courtyard
Face covering is required
Bring your own chair
Sit at least 6 feet apart
(If canceled due to bad weather,
Mass will be livestreamed with walk
in Communion only)

Monday - Saturday
8:30 am in English
(Rosary begins at 8:00 am)

Wednesday
5:00 pm in Spanish

Sunday
6:45 am, 8:00 (Latin), 9:30 am, 11:00
am, 12:30 pm (Spanish), 5:00 pm



NEW TIME!

LIVESTREAM MASS

**Facebook.com/
StMichaelParishLivermore
and
YouTube.com/
StMichaelLivermore**

Monday - Saturday
6:45 am in English

Wednesday
5:00 pm in Spanish

Saturday Vigil
5:00 pm in English
7:00 pm in Spanish

Sunday
9:30 am

WALK IN COMMUNION

In the Courtyard
Face covering is required
30-40 minutes after Mass begins

Monday - Friday
7:15 - 7:45 am
5:30 - 6:00 pm

Saturday
5:45 pm - 6:15 pm
7:45 pm - 8:15 pm

Sunday
Immediately after all outdoor
Masses

SICK & HOMEBOUND

By Appointment

Sacraments of Anointing of the Sick,
Confession and Communion are
available to those who are sick, in a
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EricHom@StMichaelLivermore.com
to arrange for a priest to visit.

After hours only, please call the
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Sit at least 6 feet apart

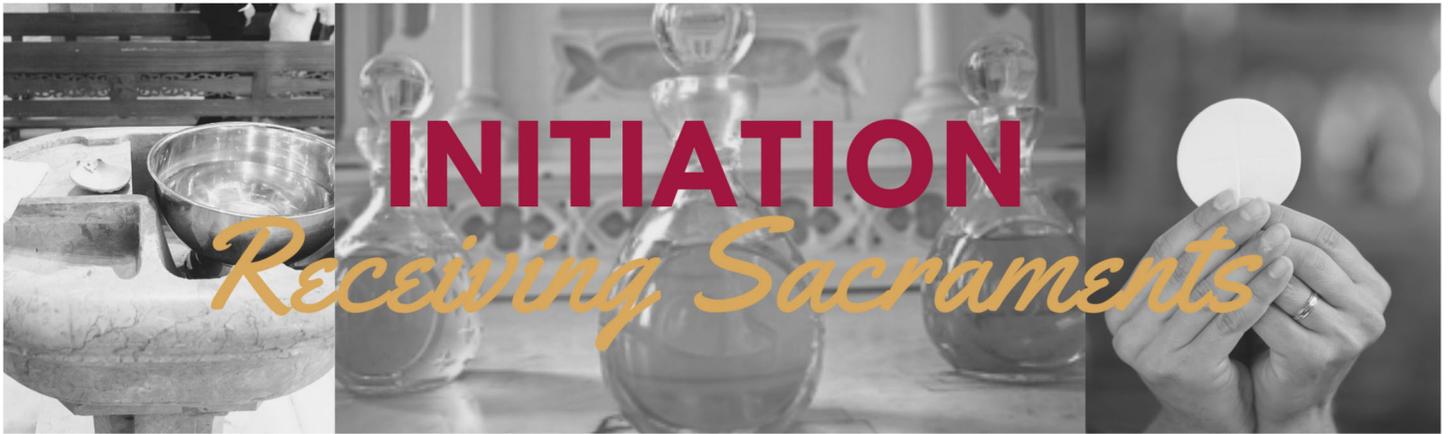
Monday - Friday
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Saturday
9:30 am - 10:30 am

NO SPANISH MASS, CONFESSION OR ADORATION

Monday, September 28
Tuesday, September 29
Thursday, October 1
Friday, October 2

*Due to rehearsals and
sacraments of initiation*



EASTER VIGIL ALL OVER AGAIN!

Sacraments of Initiation for Children, Teens and Adults

Tuesday, September 29 at 4:00 pm

Elliot Lin, Sofia O, Enrique O and Danielle P will receive Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion.
Charles Chew will receive Confirmation and First Communion.
Jesse P will receive First Communion.

Tuesday, September 29 at 6:00 pm

Ryan Torres, Moises Ocampo, Sandra Basilio and Edwin G will receive Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion.

Friday, October 2

Along with our Teen Confirmation candidates, these adults will receive Confirmation from Bishop Michael Barber:
Lorely Garcia at 4:00 pm
Clinton Keller at 5:30 pm
Yarineth Ferrufino at 7:00 pm

(Due to space restrictions, only candidates and sponsors will be present. The Rite of Confirmation will be livestreamed.)

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Preparing Adults for Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion

If you are 18 years of age or older and you are just wondering if there is more to life..

If you are not baptized, or were baptized Catholic, but never received First Communion or Confirmation...

If you were baptized in another Christian denomination and are curious about the Catholic tradition...

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Contact Fr John at FrJohn@StMichaelLivermore.com

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