

St. Clare

236 S. Beach Boulevard

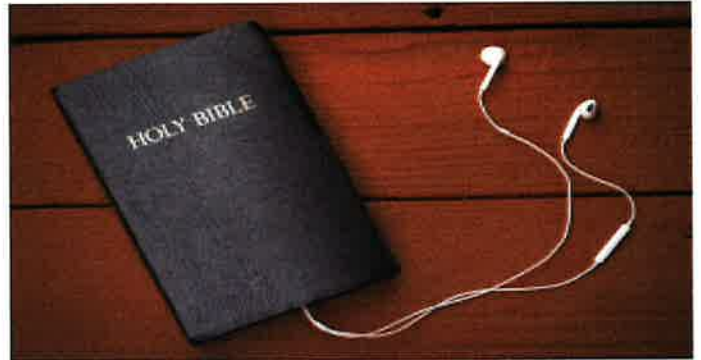


Catholic Church

Waveland, MS 39576

Sunday, January 14, 2023

**“Speak, Lord, for
your servant is
listening.”**



Samuel lay sleeping when he first heard someone calling his name. He ran to his mentor, but Eli was not calling him. So Samuel returned to bed, only to hear the voice twice more. When Samuel appeared at Eli’s bedside for the third time, the priest realized that it was the Lord he had heard. The God who loves to speak to his people was now calling Samuel. So he gave Samuel timeless advice: “Reply, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening’” (1Samuel 3:9).

This same God wants to speak to us! It’s not hard to hear him, but like Samuel, we need to learn to listen. The good news is that God loves us and wants us to hear his voice. So let’s take Eli’s words to heart.

Speak, Lord. God wants you to know him. He’s always speaking, always trying to reveal himself to you. You can believe that he has a message for you, so confidently express your desire to hear him. This

means sitting before the Lord and fixing your heart on him alone. “Speak, Lord. I want to know you more.”

Your servant. Everything we have comes from God. He is our Master, and we are his grateful and humble servants, eager to hear and obey his word. This means more than passively waiting for a message from the sky. It means offering yourself to the Lord with a willing heart, open to God’s plans—even if they differ from your own. “I am your servant, Lord. I’m ready to do your will.”

Is listening. It’s not easy to hear God’s voice when we’re surrounded by noise. So to listen for the Lord, we will need to find a quiet place away from the clatter that can drown out the Lord’s voice. We may need to silence our anxious thoughts and doubts, too. But with God’s help, we can set aside those thoughts and listen for his voice instead. “Quiet my heart, Lord. I’m listening for you. ~ *The Word Among Us*

Our Mission:

To live a Gospel way of life

***Simply *With Humility *Out of Love of God and Neighbor**

Readings for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time


- ◆ 1st Reading— 1 Samuel 3: 3-10, 19
- ◆ 2nd Reading— 1 Corinthians 6: 13-15, 17-20
- ◆ Gospel Reading— John 1: 35-42

Pastor:Fr. Jacob-Matthew Smith, OFM
Deacon:Deacon Mike Saxer / (228) 216-5028
DRE:Paul Pitts, Jr. / (228) 216-0091
Choir Director:Cathy Allain
Secretary:Michelle Fleming
Parish Office:(228) 467-9275
Parish Email:StClareCatholic@yahoo.com
Website:www.StClareWaveland.com
Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/St-Clare-Catholic-Church>
Church Office Hours:.....
 Monday through Friday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Holidays change these days and hours.)

CONFESSION: Saturdays - 1 hour before 4:00 PM
 Vigil Mass, by appointment, or anytime during office hours.
 Call the office ahead to schedule a time.

*In the spirit of giving,
 we thank you for
 your generosity!* **Last week's collection was:**
Regular Offertory:
\$3,417.00
Aged & Infirm Priests
\$1,151.00

Pope Francis gives 3 reasons to pray the rosary.
 † First, he said that the Rosary is a "compendium of the entire history of our salvation."
 † Then, the Pope noted, the "Holy Rosary is a powerful weapon against evil."
 † Finally, the Pope said, it is "an effective means of obtaining true peace in our hearts."
 All are welcome to stay and pray the Rosary after morning Mass and after the 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday. Weekend Masses, the Rosary will be recited 30 minutes before Mass.

 The Altar Flowers are a great way to honor and remember loved ones. Gayle Probus is the contact person to have your special arrangement done. 228-342-3025

Intentions available for the living (SP) or Deceased (+). Check with the office for date availability.



Monday, January 15	8:30 a.m.	Michelle Fleming (SP)
Tuesday, January 16	8:30 a.m.	Jane F. Smolensky +
Wednesday, January 17	6:00 p.m.	Virginia & Louis Jacobi +
Thursday, January 18	8:30 a.m.	Fern Finnan +
Friday, January 19	8:30 a.m.	Sheryl Colson (SP)
Saturday, January 20	4:00 p.m.	Des Bourgeois +
Sunday, January 21	8:30 a.m.	Dr. Joel Authement +
	11:00 a.m.	Angel Zimmerman +
	5:30 p.m.	Sick of the Parish



January 14	Father Martin Gillespie
January 15	Father Tomaz Golab
January 16	Father Rofinus Jas S.V.D.
January 17	Fazther Ignacio Jimenez-Morales
January 18	Father Jeyanthan Jordan
January 19	Father Fintan Kilmurray
January 20	Fathers Piotr Kmiecik & Bartosz Kunat



Abby Theriot, Alan & Lana Noonan, Alan Atkins, Alexandria Eterflus, Alice Richardson, Allan & Marilyn Murphey, Amanda Besse, Angie Phearson, Ann Vandeslice, Anna Bentz, Ashley & Chip Dupiere, Ava Hirstus, Betty Youngblood, Beverly Emerick, Bill & Judith Bradford, Bill & Mary Gillen, Bill & Susan Kane, Bob & Donna Martin, Bobbie & Tom Worrel, Bonnie & Dennis Bates, Brandon Butera, Brenda Scianna, Bruce Necaice, Carol Ritter Franklin, Casey Holfus, Cathy Smith, Charles & Emily Piazza, Charlotte & John Johnson, Chelsea Copeland, Christen Maddox, Cooper Dupiere, David LaRosa, David Otero, Dawn Frommeyer, Deb Cranmer; Deb, Jim & Jimmy Bourgeois, Debbie Lee, Diane Perkins, Dieckhaus family, Donna & Ken Kennedy, Donna Kay Scianna; Donna, Russel & Rusty Bodin, Dorris LaRosa, Ed & Lynn Flanagan, Eddie Ray Favre, Edward Harris, Elaine Favre, Elaine Mauffray +, Eleanor Lott & family; Ellen, Claire & Austin Palmer, Elyssa Favre, Emberley Piazza, Eric Cranmer; Erin, Amanda & Preston Cloyd, Father Dave Leon, Father Jacob-Matthew Smith, OFM, Father Joseph Dang, Faye Monti, Gina Piazza, Gloria Duvieilh, Gurule family, Harriet Lynch Cloyd +, Helen Centanni, Hope Reos, Janette Gurule, Jimmy Ferry, Jimmy Smith, John Harrison; John, James, Joseph & Michael; Jolene Joachim & family, Judy Gomila, Karen King, Kathleen Westbrook, Kay Wingate, Kevin Nicosia & family, Kevin Ramond, Kristen Istre Orndoff +, Laura F White, Laurie & Dave Stepro, Laurie Lusk, Layla Harrison, Leslie Reese, Linda Ruiz, Lisa Menne, Loretta Hunter, Lour Samuels, Louis Bourgeois, Louis Smolenski, Lydia LeBlanc Thibodeaux, Lynda & Daniel Bishop, Mac Piazza, Manuel Rotolog, Jr., Marcia Rheinarcker, Margie & Brian Schmitt, Marie Beaugez, Marilyn Grillo, Marilyn Smith, Mary Alice Fayard, Mary Ann Ferry, Mary Ann Truiel, Mary Anne Pagano, Mary Lou & Gene Ferry, Matilda Butera, Michael Galiano +, Michael Hunter, Michael L, Michelle Harrison, Mike Fitzgerald, Miller Piazza, Nikie & Ken Martin, Nona Mumme, Olivia Hood, Pam Brown, Pat Morris, Patty Steele, Payton, Piazza, Peggy Parker, Rae Ann Norman, Ralph Nix, Rebekah Arrington, Ricky Manieri, Jr., Rosetta Bonadona, Roxanne Colson, Roy & Ernie Hill +, Rusty & Gwen Price, Rusty & Mary Waldrep, Ruth Anne Ragusa, Sam Celino, Sammy Burch, Sara Ford, Shannon Kelley, Sharon Holdren; Shawn, Arden & Addie Quigley, Shirley Piazza, Stephanie Penney, Steve & Faith, Tim & Diane, Tom & Darlene Lundin, Troy Rutledge +, Tyler Reos, Valeria Nabor; Val, Anthony & Elijah, Verna Martinez, Vinny Going, Vivian & Eugene Piergalski and family, Zeblin, Zoey Reos.

PARISH MINISTRIES

ALTAR SOCIETY: Open to men and women; envelopes are available to pay \$5.00 membership.

BAPTISM: To schedule an appointment to setup a Baptism date, please call the Church Office at (228) 467-9275. Parents and godparents should also attend a Baptism class.

CENACLE OF DIVINE MERCY: Meets each Friday at 10:00 a.m., a group meeting to study the Diary of St. Faustina & incorporate with Scripture and the Catechism. Contact Suzan Cox at (601) 209-6811 or suzan713@gmail.com.

GRIEF MINISTRY: Meets to support, encourage and equip those grieving the death of a loved one. For more information, leave a message at the Parish Office or contact Sherry at (228) 332-0256.

HOME BOUND: Volunteers bring Communion to the Home Bound. Volunteers must be trained as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist. Contact Paul Pitts, Jr. for more information (228) 216-0091.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS/LADIES AUXILIARY: Meet every 2nd Tuesday in the Parish Center—6:30 meeting. The Assembly meet on the 2nd Tuesday after the council meeting. **Ladies Auxiliary** meet every 2nd Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

MARRIAGE PREP: Please contact Leslie and Terry Asher (228) 467-9275 if you are engaged and wish to be married at St. Clare. Marriages must be scheduled 6 months in advance.

OVER 50'S GROUP: All parishioners over 50 are invited to join (no charge). Luncheons 2nd Wednesday & Bunco 3rd Tuesday. Call Janis for details (228) 324-8715.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ST CLARE CONFERENCE: (228) 342-4117/stclaresvdp1@gmail.com. Utilities help and limited food pantry available. In-person interviews Tuesday and Wednesday 10 am-1 pm.

WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED: We invite all parishioners to join St. Clare as we embark on this journey together. For more information, and to ensure you receive news and updates, please contact: Linda Walden, OFS at (228) 304-2305 or lwalden855@gmail.com.

PARISH NEWS



The Church will close following the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Monday, January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The Church will reopen Tuesday, January 16 for 8:30 a.m. Mass and regular office hours.

Right To Life

Novena

The US Conference of Bishops' Pro Life Activities will be sponsoring a "9 Days for Life" Novena for the protection of human life, beginning January 16 and ending on January 24. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life.

If you need further information or additional resources, go to the website for USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities. <https://www.usccb.org/prolife>

Each day's Novena prayer and reflection will be placed on the table in the back of the Church.

OVER
50^{MS}
GROUP

January

* Tuesday, January 16 BUNCO at St. Clare 2:00—5:00 p.m.

Second Collection

January 20 & 21

Safe Haven Baby Box Drop Off

Please do not open door unless you are in need of services.

Silent Alarm Will Activate.

Mikelle Williamson will speak at all Masses this weekend, January 13 & 14 to provide more information about the Safe Haven Baby Box to be installed at the Waveland Fire Department.

The Altar Society will Meet

Tuesday, January 23rd in the Parish Center. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. Membership dues are \$5.00 and membership is open throughout the year.

Bereavement Reorganization meeting to follow the Altar Society Meeting.

Please plan to join us!

Happy Birthday!!!!

**Deb Bourgeois,
Lily Garcia, Gilbert Tosso,
Sheila Gros, Pete Gruzinskas,
Kim McCloskey,
Alfred Schweitzer,
Jeanne Sampognaro,
Clarence Hernandez,
Terry Rutledge**



The Book of Revelation

Starting January 18th, 2024

6 p.m. to 7 p.m. (maybe longer)

St. Clare Catholic Church

Have read *The Lamb's Supper* by Scott Hawn

Must have your Bible, St. Ignatius Study Bible.

National Eucharistic Art Competition

As we begin our journey toward the National Eucharistic Congress in July, St. Edmund's Sacred Art Institute would like to announce an exciting opportunity for artists in the Bay St. Louis-Waveland area: The National Eucharistic Art Competition. Creative Catholics from all over the country are invited to share their talents and spread the beauty of our faith through art, particularly exploring the Eucharistic mystery and Eucharistic themes.

Selected works will be showcased in the 10th Annual Eucharistic Congress, exhibited in a premiere show at the Museum of Blessed Michael McGivney Center in Connecticut, and displayed at other locations as part of the Eucharistic Sacred Art Exhibit.

First place will receive a cash prize of \$2,000. Total awards will amount to over \$3,000. **The deadline to apply is February 20, 2024.**

For more information about the program and deadlines for submitting your work, contact the website for the National Eucharistic Congress, or write to the National Eucharistic Congress at 3211 Fourth Street NE, Washington, D.C. 20017. <https://endersisland.org/national-eucharistic-art-exhibition>.

National Eucharistic Congress Pilgrimage

May 18 – July 16, 2024



Diocese of Biloxi Stops**

Monday June 10	Tuesday June 11	Wednesday June 12	Thursday June 13	Friday June 14
Our Lady of the Gulf 10 AM Mass 5 PM Exposition/ Holy Hour	Mass at OLG 7 AM Walk to Holy Family Parish begins at 8 AM Adore Event 6—8 PM at Holy Family	Mass at St. Paul's Chapel in Pass Christian at 6 AM Walk to St. Thomas Long Beach Adoration 12-1 PM	Mass at St. Thomas in Long Beach Walk (9 miles) to St. James in Gulfport.	Mass at St. James in Gulfport at 8 AM Walk to St. Alphonsus in Ocean Springs following Mass.

****Please be informed there could be changes in this schedule of events/days/time/locations.**

Pilgrims Walking Training

In preparation for the upcoming Diocese of Biloxi Pilgrimage tour activities, St. Clare would like to put together a group of parishioners interested in being part of the activities during the week of June 10—14. In addition to learning more about the weeklong activities, there will be the opportunity to do some walking training. Our goal is to begin this at the start of the Lenten Season. More information will be provided closer to this time, but feel free to contact Michelle in the Church Office to add your name to the list to lead walking groups. Michelle@stclare-Catholic.com or 228-467-9275.

Our St. Clare Grief support series will begin on Monday, January 29 at 4:00 in the St. Francis classroom. We will meet weekly for 9 sessions. Please share with anyone who needs or wants support on the often lonely journey of grief.



Senior Friends Luncheon

January 18, 2024

St. Clare Church Lunch is at Noon

Tommy Carver of the Waveland Fire Department informs of safety issues for all citizens, but primarily for seniors. Lunch of cabbage rolls, dill potato salad and dessert.

Most of the scars on people's hearts weren't left by their enemies.

They were left by the people who claimed to love them the most 😞

What did Philip tell his friend?



Write the letter of the alphabet that follows the one given.

" V D G Z U D E N T M C
 S G D N M D L N R D R
 V Q N S D Z A N T S
 H M S G D K Z V Z M C
 Z A N T S V G N L S G D
 O Q N O G D S R Z K R N
 V Q N S D I D R T R
 N E M Z Y Z Q D S G
 S G D R N M N E
 I N R D O G "

Jesus knew Nathanael.
 What did Jesus say to him?

Use the vowel code to see what Jesus said to him.

= A = E = I = O = U

"H_R_



S



TR_



ISR_ _L_T_."



*'We should wish for nothing else, And have on other desire:
'We should find no pleasure or delight in anything except
'Our Creator, Redeemer, and Savior; He alone is true God, Who is perfect good,
All good, and every good. 'The true and supreme good, And in Him
Is all pardon, all grace and all glory, 'For the penitent, the just
And the blessed who rejoice in heaven. Amen
St. Francis of Assisi*



*You are invited to attend the Celebration of the
Eucharist and Rite of Profession Ceremony
As Renee Fauchaux will make her profession
in the Secular Franciscan Order,
as member of:
Our Lady of the Pearl Fraternity*

*St. Clare Catholic Church
Sunday February 11, 2024
11:00 am Mass
Lite refreshments to follow in the
Parish Hall
Please join us in this Celebration!*

Best Poem in the World

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
Nor the lights or its décor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp - - -

The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics and the trash.
There stood the kid from seventh grade
Who swiped my lunch money twice.

Next to him was my old neighbor
Who never said anything nice.

Bob, who I always thought
Was rotting away in hell,

Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, "What's the deal?
I would love to hear Your take.

How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.

'And why is everyone so quiet,
So, somber—give me a clue.'

'Hush, child,' He said, 'They're all in shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing you.'

JUDGE NOT!!

Remember....Just going to church doesn't
make you a Christian any more than
standing in your garage makes you a car.
Every saint has a PAST....

Every sinner has a FUTURE!
Now it's your turn.....Share this poem.
Life without God is like an unsharpened
pencil.....



Thank you to all who have visited and continue to visit the blessed Sacrament during our open hours and special days of Adoration. Terry Calhoun is the point of contact for this ministry. She may be reached at 228-671-8063.

Our Adoration Chapel is open weekdays from 10 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Wednesday Adoration is from 10 a.m.—5:00 p.m. in the Church, unless there is a conflict. First Friday Adoration is from 10 a.m.—12 Noon in the Church.

The Wisdom of the Saints—365 Days of Inspiration

January 14—“It takes three to make love, not two: you, your spouse, and God. Without God people only succeed in bringing out the worst in one another. Lovers who have nothing else to do but love each other soon find there is nothing else. Without a central loyalty life is unfinished.” ~ *Bl. Fulton Sheen*

January 15—“Learn to be stronger in spirit than in your muscles. If you are, you will be real apostles of faith in God.” ~ *Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati*

January 16—“Your wealth is measured by the lack of your needs, not by the abundance of your possessions.” ~ *St. Charbel Makhlouf*

January 17—“Good is never accomplished except at the cost of those who do it, truth never breaks through except through the sacrifice of those who spread it.”

~ *St. John Henry Newman*

January 18—“You aspire to great things? Begin with little ones.” ~ *St. Benedict*

January 19—“Disorder in society is the result of disorder in the family.” ~ *St. Angela Merici*

January 20—“There is no cross to bear that Christ has not already born for us, and does not now bear with us.” ~ *St. John Paul the Great*

Jesus knew Nathanael
What did Jesus say to him?

Use the vowel code to see what Jesus said to him



“HERE
IS A
TRUE
ISRAELITE.”



Mardi Gras Day

Tuesday, February 13

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 14

What did Philip tell his friends?



Write the letter of the alphabet that follows the one given.

W e h o v e f o u n d
V O G Z U O E N Y M O
t h e O n e M o s e s
S G O N M D L N R O P
w r o t e a b o u t
V O N S O Z A N T S
I n t h e l a w a n d
H M S G O K Z V Z M C
a b o u t w h o m t h e
Z A N T S V G N L S G O
p r o p h e t e a l s o
O O N O G O S R Z K R N
w r o t e — J e s u s
V O N S O I D A T H
o f N a z a r e t h.
N E M Z Y T O D S C
t h e S o n o f
S O D H M E
J o s e p h
I N R D O G

Saint

Of the Week

St. Antony of Egypt

Patron of Basket Makers
and Butchers

Feast Day: January 17

Antony was born to wealthy Christian parents in Upper Egypt around 251. Around 271, when Antony was about 20, his parents died, leaving him a large sum of money and property. At this time, Antony followed Jesus' message: "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to [the] poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (Matthew 19:21) Antony gave away much of his property, sold the rest to give the money to the poor and became an ardent follower of a local hermit.

Antony then began to live a solitary and ascetic life, spending his time reading, praying, gardening and weaving mats. Thirteen years later, he went to a mountaintop in the Arabian Desert and cut himself off from all human contact for the next 20 years.

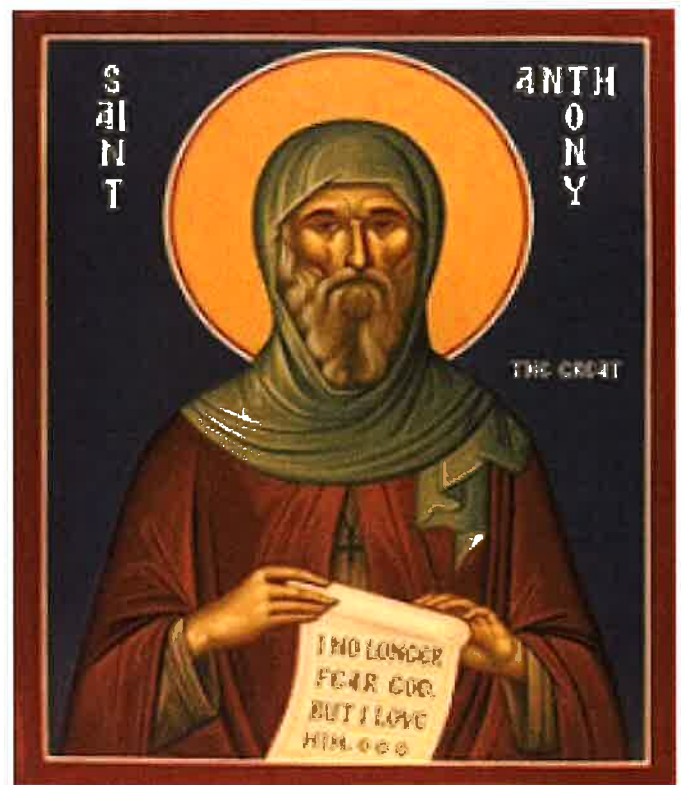
The First Monastery

Finally, in 306, Antony came down from the mountain. He organized the first monastery and devoted the next few years to teaching the large colony of ascetics who had gathered, wanting to follow Antony's example.

Although he founded another monastery, named Paspir, Antony withdrew again to a secluded mountaintop. He did, however, visit Paspir regularly to heal the sick. Then in 311, he crossed the desert to Alexandria to give strength and solace to the Christian martyrs.

Flight from the World

Antony died in 356. His life represents "the



flight from the world," a fundamental feature of the monasticism he founded. Through his life of severe austerity, his struggles with temptation and his teaching of love and charity, Antony proved himself to be a dedicated servant of God.

Father, you called St. Antony to renounce the world and serve You in the solitude of the desert. By his prayers and example, may we learn to deny ourselves and love You above all things. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, on God, for ever and ever.

Amen

Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church
216 Saucier Avenue
Pass Christian, MS. 39571

Invites you to join our
"HEALING MASS SERVICE".

It will be held
on Friday, JANUARY 19, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

Please bring your friends and those who
needs special prayers in this powerful
"Healing Mass Service. Thank you

Thought for the week!!

*"Your wealth is measured by the lack of your needs,
not by the abundance of your possessions."*

St. Charbel Makhlouf



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God Our Father,

Watch over our priests,
brothers, sisters & deacons who
have labored long in your
Kingdom. Give them Peace in
this life and the Joy of eternal
life, when they enter your
Heavenly Home. We ask this
through Christ our Lord, Amen

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How to Build a Culture of Life

THE PROBLEM.....

Watching the news and reading the headlines, we may feel helpless seeing the heartbreaking lack of respect for human life. How do we respond when our efforts seem small in the face of the culture of death?

OUR CHRISTIAN IDENTITY.....

To understand more fully how to defend and protect human life, we must first consider who we are, at the deepest level. God creates us in his image and likeness, which means we are made to be in loving relationship with him. The essence of our identity and worth, the source of our dignity, is that we are loved by God: *"We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of his Son."*¹

We are called to divine intimacy, true communion with God, and we can grow in this closeness with him through daily prayer, reading the Scriptures, and frequent participation in the sacraments, especially Confession and the Eucharist.

OUR MISSION AS CHRISTIANS.....

The knowledge and realization of how deeply we are loved by God elicits a response of love that simultaneously draws us closer to God and, at the same time, impels us to share his love with others.

Embracing a relationship with God means following in his footsteps, wherever he may call. Just as Jesus invited St. Peter and St. Andrew to become his disciples, he invites us to do the same: *"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men"* (Matthew 4:19).

Being a disciple of Jesus naturally includes sharing the Gospel with others and inviting them into a deeper relationship with God. As Christians, our identity and our mission are two sides of the same coin; like the apostles, we are called to be missionary disciples.

MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP.....

This doesn't necessarily mean quitting our jobs or moving to foreign countries. For most of us, our mission field is daily life: *"Christ teaches us how to evangelize, how to invite people into communion with him, and how to create a culture of witness: namely, through love. A Christian life lived with charity and faith is the most effective form of evangelization."*²

The first step towards living this life is allowing Jesus to meet and transform us daily. If we respond to his grace, our lives will show we have something beyond what the world offers: we follow a person whose love changes our lives, so we want others to also experience his transforming love.

When we live in union with God, open to his prompting, we're more able to see the opportunities for witness and his guidance in responding to these opportunities. We may fear doing the wrong thing or saying the wrong thing, but we do not need to be afraid. Jesus promised his disciples, *"I am with you always, until the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:20).

IDENTITY CRISIS.....

As a society and as individuals, we often measure ourselves by false standards: by what and how much we do, our successes or failures, how others treat us, the degree of our pleasure or independence, etc. And when these changeable substitutes prove to be insufficient, or when we are faced with challenges and suffering, we may feel helpless, alone, or abandoned; we may be tempted to feel as though our lives have decreased value or worth.

But God's love—individual, real, unchanging—is the true source of our worth, identity, and dignity. It really is not a question of who we are, but rather *whose* we are. Because his love will never change, nothing can reduce our God-given dignity, and nothing can diminish the immeasurable worth of our lives.

OUR RESPONSE

When someone is facing great trials, we need to meet them where they are, walk with them on their journey, intercede for them, and be open to sharing Christ's love however he directs.

When a woman becomes pregnant, and her boyfriend threatens to leave if she continues the pregnancy, we need to lovingly walk with her. When family members or friends become seriously ill, we need to assure them that God still offers them something in this life, and they still have purpose. We need to consistently be with them every step of the way.

Sometimes our actions speak for themselves; other times, words are needed. Whatever the situation, Jesus knows

how to speak to each person's heart; we simply need to follow where he leads.

A CULTURE OF LIFE

This is how we answer our missionary call. This is how we build a culture of life, a culture that joyfully proclaims the truth of God's love, purpose, and plan for each person. Changing the culture is a process of conversion that begins in our own hearts and includes a willingness to be instructed and a desire to be close to Jesus—the source of joy and love.

When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others. His love for each person is cause for great joy, and growing understanding of this priceless treasure motivates us to share his love with others. Our lives are often changed by the witness of others; so too, others' lives may be changed by our witness and authentic friendship with them.

Let us go, therefore, and not be afraid. God is always with us.

1 John Paul II, Homily, 17th World Youth Day, Downsview Park, Toronto, July 28, 2002.

2 USCCB Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, *Disciples Called to Witness: The New Evangelization*. Copyright © 2012, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

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