



The Virgin of the Lilies
William-Adolphe Bouguereau (1825-1905)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

It's October again and that means that the Church is calling us back to consider anew the value and dignity of human life as we observe Respect Life Month, an initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

There is certainly much that one can say on this topic, but I will not attempt to do so, since in my estimation we have a really long, steep, uphill climb ahead of us if we are to build anything that resembles a culture of life that promotes human flourishing, and those remarks cannot be brief, nor can everything that needs to be said be said.

In days past it was much easier to talk about the dignity of the human person, and I suppose that would have something to do with the fact that our culture had a more Christian vocabulary, and so when we spoke of "human dignity" there was something of a common understanding; I mention this because linking the abortion issue with human dignity was quite common. But check this out; according to the Guttmacher Institute, the research arm of Planned Parenthood, last year 14% of abortions were procured by lesbians, and a scant over 1% by "men." In general, after a peak of 1.6 million abortions in 1990, the rates have been in decline until 2020 when they began to climb again to just over 1 million a year for the first time since 2012.

Again, in my estimation, being a simpleton, I think that we have always gotten things wrong with regards to the way in which we have tried to engage the culture, and I would suggest that it has a lot to do with the language that we use. We have simply failed to keep pace with the culture, and perhaps always one step behind in trying to keep pace with it, as the sands continually shift. Perhaps an example or two might be necessary.

For starters, the tag "pro-life" is not a category of Catholic moral teaching, it is a political one. The problem with being "pro-life" is that it is very hard to be consistently pro-life when one pauses to consider the breadth of issues that touch on human life and dignity. "Pro-life" politicians, for example, may be against abortion, but at the same time have deplorable records when it comes to other "life" issues, and that lack of consistency exposes the fact that "pro-life" is not really an ethic, but a slogan that fails to satisfy when examined more closely. There may be a "pro-life" politician out there, but I cannot think of one right off the top of my head. If you personally wish to consider yourself

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Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

5 October 2025

Sacred Heart, Ronan
Immaculate Conception, Polson
St. Joseph Mission, Charlo

Fr. Kevin Christofferson, Pastor
Fr. Robert Brooks, Pastoral Associate
Nate McNeil, Director of Faith Formation
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This week's office hours:

Monday & Wednesday & Friday 9:00 am—12:00 pm

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday at 6:00 pm

Confessions are available at 5:00 pm

Rosary is prayed at 5:30 pm

Sunday at 11:00 am

Rosary is prayed at 10:30 am

Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday at 12:10 pm

Confessions are heard at 11:30 am and again after Wednesday

Mass during a period of Eucharistic Adoration.

SACRED HEART MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9:00 am

Friday at 9:00 am, followed by a Holy Hour

Mass is offered at St. Joseph Mission in Charlo the **third Saturday** of each month at 4:00 pm.



Annual Sacred Heart & Immaculate Conception Harvest Dinner

Sunday, October 19th

Begins at 4:00 pm

Served at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall



Congratulations to the Nicely family, whose children will receive the sacrament of Baptism at Immaculate Conception this Sunday!

(Continued from page 1)

“pro-life,” first take stock and consider the issue more broadly and make sure that there are no chinks in your armor. In other words, even though many people hate saying the word “abortion” out loud, suck it up anyway and just say that “I am anti-abortion.” There. No ambiguity and no fan dance necessary when you try to explain your other indefensible positions that touch on human life and dignity. And a final note, since I love extreme examples, slave owners in the U.S. during the 19th century opposed abortion, but did that make them “pro-life?”

The words “dignity” and “respect” also require greater scrutiny. Given our culture, what exactly do you think people think when they hear these words? Careful. Keep in mind that in Modernity (the liberal mindset and political context of the West at least since the French Revolution), these words do not have the same meaning as they do in a Christian context. How might someone with gender dysphoria define these terms, for example? Or someone laboring under a same sex attraction? The sad truth of the matter is that our country has lost any semblance of a shared Christian morality and hegemonic cohesion in that regard. What has taken its place is a radical hyper-individualistic approach to ethics where one is “free” to do as they please and everybody lets them as long as no harm is done to others. My goodness, even “tolerance” has been transformed, and this once libertarian ideal is giving way to a coercion into the acceptance of a mounting tyranny of ideologies.

In 1968, Pope Paul VI warned the Church and the world what would happen if we let the contraception genie out of the bottle, and that was the topic of a homily I gave several months ago when I said that enough time has passed and that perhaps we were ready to look honestly at contraception and see that it was a very bad idea. Look at what we have lost: gender, gender roles and complementarity, marriage, family, and the gift of reproductive power that God has entrusted to us for the procreation of new human life. Like I said, this is going to be a long, steep, uphill climb, and it must begin with a renewed proclamation of the Gospel, that “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.”

I am not trying to discourage any political action or activism, or to suggest that there is no hope. There is always hope precisely because our Lord is the one who said, “I have overcome the world.” We know the end of the story; it is just that living through the drama of human history is going to be a nightmare at times. I want though to be realistic about things, and I think that it is important to know what it is that we are up against. I would want that the whole world were truly “pro-life” in the best and the most comprehensive sense of the word, but without a shared faith in the God who made us, we are left without a means of communicating with each other in any meaningful way, and like a new Tower of Babel, our country is a fragmented society of individuals and their interests and we don’t understand what the other is saying.

Humbly asking for your prayers

Maryalice Rouselle, The Clay Family, Virginia Rubel, Michael Conrad, Kaylee Martin, Dave Evertz, Steve Ducharme, Bill Nash, Donna Jacobs, Derrie Edge, Heather Stocki, Betty Bjork, Jason Avison, Nash Niemeyer, Richard Call, Bud Cheff, Jr, Bill Rueth, Monte Jenkins, Chris Skinner, Ryan Johnson, Vicki Whalen, Laurel Cheff, Zane Kelly, Rod Clairmont, David Jenkins, Bruce Simpson, Debbie Tschida, Doug Morigeau, Grace Shafer.

Please help to keep the list current by contacting the Parish Office. Also, out of respect for a person’s privacy, please make sure that all individuals wish to be publicly identified.

Grace be to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for you all; Making a remembrance of you in our prayers without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 1:2

The Holy Father’s prayer intention for October



For collaboration between different religious traditions: Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

Please pray for our seminarians!

Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Jamie Severson, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Matt Keck, Carson Gorton, Jake Smith, Ryan Frampton, Liam Aippersbach, Mason Yochum.

Admittedly, the abortion issue is a tough one and there is no one, not even myself, who has the answer to solve the problem, because if there was one, I would tell you and we would live in a world without it. This week please find the statement of the USCCB, and watch the bulletin each week for information and commentaries. And pray.

God bless,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



Please plan on attending the Life Chain in Polson on Saturday, October 18th, at 12:45 p.m. We will meet at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and march to Highway 93 for one hour of prayer and public witness to end abortion in Montana.

Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Sacred Heart & St. Joseph Mission

Sunday, October 5th *Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Sick & Shut-Ins of the Parish

Friday, October 26th

Candidates for the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Helena

Immaculate Conception

Saturday, October 4th *Vigil of the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Repose of the Soul of Howard Crisp, rb Ann Crisp

Sunday, October 5th *Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Tuesday, October 7th

Repose of the Soul of Fr. Bob Grosch

Wednesday, October 8th

Repose of the Soul of Kathy Devlin-Collicot, rb Katie Devlin

Thursday, October 9th

Seminarians of Our Diocese

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon:

*Within your will, O Lord, all things are established,
and there is none that can resist your will.
For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth,
and all that is held within the circle of heaven;
you are the Lord of all.*

Collect:

*Almighty ever-living God,
who in the abundance of your kindness
surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you,
pour out your mercy upon us
to pardon what conscience dreads
and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever*

Readings:

First Reading: Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4

Responsorial: Ps. 95:1-2,6-7,8-9

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading: 2 Tm 1:6-8,13-14

Alleluia: *The word of the Lord remains for ever. This is the word
that has been proclaimed to you. - 1 Pt 1:25*

Gospel: Lk 17:5-10

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

*Since the initiative belongs to God in the order of grace, no one
can merit the initial grace of forgiveness and justification, at the
beginning of conversion. Moved by the Holy Spirit and by charity,
we can then merit for ourselves and for others the graces needed
for our sanctification, for the increase of grace and charity, and
for the attainment of eternal life. Even temporal goods like health
and friendship can be merited in accordance with God's wisdom.
These graces and goods are the object of Christian prayer. Prayer
attends to the grace we need for meritorious actions. (CCC 2010)*



PARISH WEBSITE



ROSARY GROUP

St. Joseph Hospital
Chapel



Fridays at
9:00 am

DIOCESE OF HELENA
WEBSITE



DIVINE MERCY RADIO
90.7 FM



*DMR is a locally owned,
listener supported non-
profit 501(c)3
PO Box 568
Polson, MT 59860*

Download the **myParish**
app on your App store or
Google Play store on your
iOS or Android!



All homilies are
available on YouTube
and can be found by
searching the full name
Fr. Kevin Christofferson.



2025-2026

SEMINARIANS
FOR THE DIOCESE OF HELENA



Kaleb Mitchell



Riley Helgoe



Brett Rotz



Anthony Olmes



James Semling



Jamie Severson



Carter Anderson



Shae Bills



Matt Keck



Carson Gorton



Jake Smith



Ryan Frampton



Liam Aippersbach



Mason Yochum

*Please Continue to Pray for
Our Seminarians*

**Don't forget to bring your food pantry
items for our local charities!**

Polson Loaves & Fishes
904 1st St E, Polson

Ronan Bread Basket
10 6th Ave SW, Ronan
(across from St. Luke's Hospital)

Find donation bins at the churches'
entrances.





**FROM 9/24/2025 TO
11/2/2025!**

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization effort to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000 volunteers!

With God's help, here are the proven results in previous coordinated campaigns:

- **Over 16,500 babies** saved from abortion
- **Over 250 abortion workers** converted
- **150 abortion centers** closed

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

- **Vigil location:** Outside BLUE MOUNTAIN CLINIC
– 610 N. California St. (near the corner of W. Broadway & California St.), Missoula
- **Vigil hours:** 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Mon. – Sat.)
- **Local contact:** Brad Tschida (406-546-4349) betschida54@gmail.com / Diane Rotering (406-274-3639) roteringd@gmail.com
- **Learn more ...** get involved ... and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown below!

PLEASE VISIT: 40daysforlife.com/Missoula

- **Vigil location:** Outside ALL FAMILIES HEALTHCARE
– 737 Spokane Avenue, Whitefish
- **Vigil days:** Monday through Saturday
- **Local contact:** Mike Hanson (406-314-7826) mikester55@hotmail.com
- Find information for this campaign and more events at the web address below:

PLEASE VISIT: 40daysforlife.com/Whitefish



Visit HopeAfterAbortion.com for more information.



Call **406-442-4130** or visit www.cssmt.org/mental-health/ to get started today!



Payments to **Immaculate Conception** may be made online at GiveCentral.org (click on the big orange "Find Your Charity" button and type in our zip code, 59860).

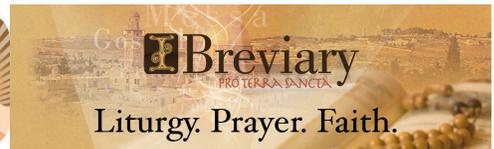


For more information or to apply visit: www.wwme.org
Or call: Paul & Tracy at 307-689-2820

restore
communication
rekindle
romance
renew
commitment
Oct. 3-5, 2025
Missoula, MT

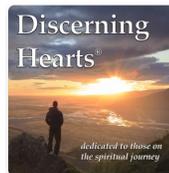


PRAY as YOU GO PrayAsYouGo.org is a daily online resource that offers guided prayer sessions to help individuals grow in their spiritual life. Each session typically includes scripture, reflective music, and prompts for prayer, making it easy to integrate spiritual reflection into your day. Designed for those on the go, it provides a simple way to stay connected to God amidst daily activities. Whether at home, work, or on the move, Pray As You Go supports deepening your relationship with God through accessible, reflective prayer.



Hallow

The #1 Catholic Meditation App



Discerning Hearts Catholic Podcasts
Available on your favorite podcast streaming apps!

Parish Offertory Progress Report
Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

Immaculate Conception
\$50,599 of \$183,150 (28%)
Sacred Heart/St. Joseph
\$11,187 of \$48,393 (23%)

I.C. Building Fund Progress:
\$575 of \$12,000 (5%)
S.H. Building Fund Progress:
\$1,220 of \$1,349 (90%)



Thank you for your generosity!

RESPECT LIFE MONTH STATEMENT

October 2025

Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities

With great joy we celebrate October as Respect Life Month amid the Church's Jubilee Year of Hope. This Jubilee Year "offers us the opportunity to appreciate anew, and with immense gratitude, the gift of the new life that we have received in Baptism, a life capable of transfiguring death's drama."¹ The life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is the foundation of our hope. Through Christ, our sins are forgiven, death is overcome, and life is victorious.

Yet, the daily headlines remind us of how desperately our world is thirsting for the hope that only God can provide. Every day we witness the overwhelming disregard for human life: through rising rates of abortion and assisted suicide; the killing of innocent school children, even at prayer; the mistreatment of our immigrant sisters and brothers as they endure an environment of aggression; and political and ideological violence inflicted against unsuspecting victims. These attacks threaten life precisely when it is most vulnerable and in need of protection.

Despite these realities, the gift of human life exists as a sign of hope to our world today, defying the powers of darkness and the culture of death. It is of the utmost importance that we work to ensure that every life, in every stage and circumstance, is protected in law.

Earlier this year, history was made when Planned Parenthood and other big abortion businesses were banned from receiving federal Medicaid dollars for one year. I thank Catholics across the country who

"The gift of human life exists as a sign of hope to our world today, defying the powers of darkness and the culture of death."

have embraced a **nationwide call to prayer** for the end of all taxpayer funding of abortion centers, and I ask that we continue those prayers throughout the month of October.

This Jubilee Year we are challenged to be agents of hope to those whose hearts are burdened by trial, difficulty, or suffering, offering them the hope that comes from Christ Jesus alone. *Walking with Moms in Need* and *Project Rachel Ministry* are just two examples of how the Church continuously reaches out with love, compassion, and mercy to those most in need of a message of hope.

As we begin Respect Life Month, together we embrace the words of Pope Leo XIV, "How important it is that each and every baptized person feel himself or herself called by God to be a sign of hope in the world today."² Each of us is called to be a witness to the Gospel of Life, proclaiming in word and deed the innate goodness and dignity of every human person.

For information on Respect Life Month, visit <https://www.respectlife.org/>.

¹ Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 20.

² Pope Leo XIV, Vatican News, May 26, 2025: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-05/pope-leo-xiv-africa-day-pilgrimage-blessing-vatican-basilica.html>.