

# MAY 15, 2022: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



From all that was presented last week about the incarnation, it might seem there is nothing left to be said. However, the truth is that one could talk about the incarnation for the rest of eternity and never finish all that could be said. What God teaches us through this sublime truth—that He chose to unite himself with humanity in the person of Jesus—is truly amazing.

The incarnation teaches us something about our worth as human beings. First and foremost, at the Annunciation when Mary said yes to God, Jesus was formed in her womb. In that moment God elevated human life. From the incarnation itself, we must come to recognize some fundamental truths about human life. All life, but particularly human life, is never a biological accident or happenstance. Human life comes into existence for one reason and one reason only—God chooses to create it. When that occurs, God is calling the parents to act as co-creators with Him in the life of the child. Therefore, human life cannot be considered a human choice; it is always an act of the living God. God, and God alone, makes the choice. As Catholics we must believe that human life begins at conception because of the incarnation. It was in the Annunciation that the humanity of Jesus began.

We also recognize that human life—from the moment of its creation—has a fundamental dignity and sanctity to it. This sacredness of life can never be diminished, no matter what a person might do with the life that God gives him or her. Human life remains in existence for one reason: God chooses to love the person. His love has nothing to do with who the person is or what the person has done. God loves the person into existence and sustains the person for the simple reason that He loves all of us unconditionally. As such, what we discover is that God places himself at the service of all people.

God serves us in many ways: creation, sustaining the person in creation, giving what is needed for the person to live, the saving acts of Christ in the Paschal Mystery (his passion, death, resurrection, and ascension), creating and sustaining the Church, and so forth. The list of how God chooses to serve us is truly endless, and He serves us without expectation of any return on our part. God simply does it because we need Him to do it for us.

Where we set up artificial boundaries of who we are called to serve, God's actions make clear that all such boundaries are a lie. We have a responsibility to serve *all* of humanity, not simply the ones we deem important to our lives. God's acts of service also teach us how to serve with unconditional love. What we discover is that we have a responsibility in all phases of life to uphold the sanctity and dignity of human life. The incarnation teaches us the importance of the pro-life message, and that message is not *only* about one aspect of life. It takes on the totality of a person's life and the Christian requirement to serve all people.

We often wonder why God does not do more for people. It is simple: the incarnation teaches us that God expects us to act as He does: He is our model. The truth is that we are more than capable of growing enough food to sustain today's human population, and yet people are dying of starvation. Why? Because God is not doing enough? No, it is because of political and economic policies that have created other priorities. Those priorities have lowered our sense of what should be the *top* priority—that of maintaining the dignity and sacredness of human life. The problem is *not* with God, but with us. The incarnation is a sign to us that God wants to work with humanity. However, humanity has to cooperate with God's plan and we have a tendency to reject it.

If we would simply learn from God and recognize our responsibility (which comes out of our baptism) to be of service to all people, we would properly echo the words of Jesus who told us, "I've come *not* to be served, but to serve." Jesus in his humanity lived out that life of service to which we are called.

Ultimately, what we will come to discover over the next several weeks is that the incarnation is really the foundation for all of Christian thought and action. It makes possible how God will choose to work in our lives and will open us to a life of salvation and a true relationship with Him.

If you have any questions about anything, please do not hesitate to ask me directly, or send your questions to me at [fr.brian@theholyrood.org](mailto:fr.brian@theholyrood.org) , or if easier please call me at 978-254-0560.

Please keep me in your prayers.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Fr. Brian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Fr. Brian