

“Whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.”

Homily by Most Reverend John T. Folda, Bishop of Fargo

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Prayer Service for Healing/ Pro-Life

“Whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.” Jesus teaches us in countless ways the sacredness of life, and that every life is precious to his Father. Again and again, he speaks of God as Father, the One who loves all of his children, even the most vulnerable and helpless ones among us. As our Lord tells us, “See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father.”

Today the Church in our nation pauses to pray and to do penance for the protection of our unborn children. We cannot help but be saddened by the ongoing curse of abortion in our land, and the devaluation of human life that is manifested in so many ways in our society. The culture of death seems to have made further gains, and even after all these years, people fail to see the tragedy of the abortion culture.

But the grace of God is at work, and the culture of life is also alive and well. The number of abortions continues to decline, and we can dare to hope that one day soon, abortion will be just as unthinkable as slavery now is in this land. We gather this evening to place this wound in our culture and in our hearts at the feet of our Lord. We ask him to forgive us for failing to hold sacred the beautiful little ones that he himself created on the palm of his hand. We pray that he will heal those who have been wounded by the tragedy of abortion, and we pray that he will turn the hearts of all to a great love for the gift of life.

After all these years of praying and working for life, it might be a temptation to be discouraged and wonder if anything will ever change. But we can never be discouraged, because God is the God of life, and his grace will prevail. Just as surely as Jesus rose from the dead can we be sure that God will pour out his grace upon us. One soul at a time, he will change our hearts and heal the wounds that need healing. God will never give up on us, because Jesus tells us: “It is not the will of your heavenly Father that even one of these little ones be lost.”