



## Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time October 1, 2017

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mary's/  
St. Patrick's, and St. Peter's Cathedral:

This is Respect Life Sunday, and it begins Respect Life Month, a program of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. In this month dedicated by long custom to the Rosary we are asked to pray, work and learn in ways that will contribute to a culture of life in our nation.

A culture of life respects the absolute value and dignity of all human life from conception to natural death. It is a direct consequence of our faith that God has created each of us and sent his Son for the redemption of every human being. In the powerful words of today's second reading he humbled himself and became obedient unto death – for us. No one is excluded. Therefore, we cannot be involved in deciding which lives are worth living and protecting and which are not.

This month is an opportunity to examine our Christian moral commitments and to ask whether we have in our personal, political, and social lives contributed to the culture of life or cooperated in any way in the culture of death. It is a time to examine our consciences and to inform our minds. The culture of death is sneaky and can get into our heads.

A great challenge for us these days concerns end of life issues. Most Catholics understand quickly the value of the unborn child. On this question there is even some improvement in polling among younger people. But too many people are tempted by a false pity that would put to death those who are suffering

or who are in the last stages of debilitating old age. As with abortion economic concerns come into play also – end-of-life care is expensive. From states with Physician Assisted Suicide there are even reports of people being offered suicide instead of life saving cancer treatments.

Of course, as believers we do not cling to life at all costs. The time comes to go to the Father's house – the last words of St. John Paul – and the Church definitely teaches that burdensome and futile treatments are unnecessary and may even be immoral. But we do not assent to starving or dehydrating people to death nor to executing them with drugs regardless of who administers the poison.

We do not hasten death because we understand that suffering and death unite us to the one who humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. This is a hard lesson in a world committed to comfort and pleasure, but we know that the way to life is through union with Jesus.

Remotely related to these issues is the question of my health, about which so many of you have inquired. I am pleased to report that at my last check-up the prostate specific antigen (PSA) was undetectable. That would indicate that I am almost certainly cancer-free.

Thanks for your prayers and your service to life.

In Christ,

Fr. Klein  
Administrator

### Masses/Services for the Week

<b>Saturday, Sept. 30</b>	4:00 PM	Bernie Updike
<b>Sunday, Oct. 1</b>		( <b>Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> )
	8:00 AM	Parishioners
	11:00 AM	Naughton Family
<b>Monday, Oct. 2</b>		( <b>M, The Holy Guardian Angels</b> )
	12:10 PM	Barbara Kibblehouse
<b>Tuesday, Oct. 3</b>		
	12:10 PM	Julia Newell Flaxel
<b>Wednesday, Oct. 4</b>		( <b>M, Saint Francis of Assisi</b> )
	12:10 PM	Mary Skelly
<b>Thursday, Oct. 5</b>		( <b>m, Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest</b> )
	12:10 PM	Jane Gaffney
<b>Friday, Oct. 6</b>		( <b>m, Saint Bruno, Priest; Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin</b> )
	12:10 PM	Alfred J. Seitz
<b>Saturday, Oct. 7</b>		
	4:00 PM	Joan Hannas
<b>Sunday, Oct. 8</b>		( <b>Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> )
	8:00 AM	Parishioners
	11:00 AM	Howard and Gloria Dobson

### Pray for the Sick

Darlene Bargelski, Facenda Burton, Judith Convery, Sr. Joanne Desmond, Michael Dineen, Sophie Donahue, Joe Dulin, Helen Dugan, Sigurd Erickson, Cal Fuhrmann, Jaxon Gardner, Valencia Giannantonio, Ann Hagan, David Kidd, Kathy Kingsley, Rita Lynam, Kay Lynch, Bill Marshall, Francesca Olivere, Earlene Roles, Michael Sarnecky, Howard Scott and Cheryl Smith.

### Birthday Wishes

Prayers and warm wishes for the following parishioners who have birthdays this week: **September 30:** Catherine Moore; **October 1:** Christian Lundmark; **October 5:** James Maher; **October 6:** Vicki Shoffner

### Holy Father's Prayer Intention for October

*Pope's Universal Intention:* Workers and the Unemployed. That all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good.

### Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat

A post-abortion healing will be held at the Franciscan retreat house, Wilmington, DE October 6-8. The retreat weekend is a beautiful opportunity for any person who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion to heal. For more information contact Nan Freeman at (302) 528-8313 or visit [rachelvineyard.org](http://rachelvineyard.org).

### Word of Life

"Walk with each other. Do not be afraid to embrace God's gift of life. Whatever storms or trials we face, we are not alone. He is with us. 'Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age' (Matthew 28:20)."

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities 2017-18  
Respect Life Reflection Flyer, [www.goo.gl/fZX2q6](http://www.goo.gl/fZX2q6)  
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### Share in the Spirit Collection

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the diocesan *Share in the Spirit* tuition assistance collection last week. For those of you who were unable to participate last weekend, you may still contribute to the *Share in the Spirit* collection for tuition assistance. Please drop your envelope in the collection basket or at the parish office. If you have misplaced your envelope, extras can be found at the rear of the church. This important collection supports the mission and ministry of our Catholic schools by assisting parents who seek a Catholic education for their children but who struggle to afford the full cost of tuition. Your support is gratefully appreciated.

### Birthright "Bottles for Babies"

This weekend baby bottles will be distributed after all the Masses. We ask you to take one home. Please read the insert, fill the bottle with loose change and return it on the weekend of October 29. Proceeds benefit pregnant women and their infants. On behalf of those mothers, Birthright graciously thanks you.

### Blue Mass

Bishop Malooly invites you to the 2017 Diocese of Wilmington "Blue Mass" on Friday, October 6 at 11:00 AM at Saint Elizabeth Church, 809 South Broom Street, Wilmington. The "Blue Mass" honors the local, county, state, and federal law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, and military personnel who live and work in Delaware and on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Those currently serving, the retired, and their families are invited to attend.

### Book of Sacred Liturgy

*Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

October 1, 2017

Readings/Responsorial Psalm Pg. 301

Praise to the Lord #943

Keep in Mind #983

God's Blessings Sends Us Forth #1045