



THE ARCHBISHOP OF REGINA

Proclamation To the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Regina:

In his message for the World Day of Peace, January 1, 2013, Pope Benedict XVI draws our attention to those who are on the frontlines working to promote life. He identifies them as the true peacemakers of the world: *“Peacemakers are those who love, defend and promote life in its fullness.”* (#3)

Pope Benedict continues: *“The flight from responsibility, which degrades human persons, and even more so the killing of a defenseless and innocent being will never be able to produce happiness or peace. Indeed how could one claim to bring about peace, the integral development of peoples or even the protection of the environment without defending the life of those who are weakest, beginning with the unborn? Every offence against life, especially at its beginning, inevitably causes irreparable damage to development, peace and the environment.”*

“Neither is it just to introduce surreptitiously into legislation false rights or freedoms which, on the basis of a reductive and relativistic view of human beings and the clever use of ambiguous expressions aimed at promoting a supposed right to abortion and euthanasia, pose a threat to the fundamental right to life.” (#4)

To assist the Archdiocesan Church in its vocation to promote life and to respond to the distressing failure of our culture to recognize and value all life, especially life in its early stages, I hereby establish

The Archdiocesan Commission for Reverence for Life.

This Commission will work in close cooperation with the Archdiocesan Social Justice Office and has as its mandate the promotion of reverence for human life in all its stages within the Archdiocese of Regina.

In consideration of the magnitude of the challenge and the need for the active participation by the whole Archdiocesan Church, and to help the Reverence for Life Commission coordinate its work, I proclaim that

October is here forth established as a month especially dedicated to the celebration of the value and dignity of human life in the Archdiocese of Regina. This will take effect in 2013.

Faith-filled action is the source of every good work and every true celebration. Our foremost example of a faithful and joyful life is Mary, Mother of Jesus and protector of the unborn. She is also the Mother of the Church, which is always called to be the animating principle of society.

October, the Month of Mary and a special time of grace, is a unique opportunity for the Lay Faithful to join with her, as did Joseph, Elizabeth and John the Baptist, to advance a new culture of life through the generous offering of a diversity of vocations, talents and skills. To give us courage in

this undertaking, it is helpful to reread the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55), to once again hear of Mary's joy as she describes God's victory on behalf of the poor and lowly. Buoyed by her victory song and through her intercessory prayers, we can strive in confidence to build a culture of true solidarity, one that knows that ending the life of a child in the womb is unthinkable.

I call upon Pastors, ever mindful of their calling to be “a grace for the entire Church,” (Christifideles Laici, #22) together with parish committees and assisted by the Archdiocesan Commission, to imaginatively advance the Culture of Life by emphasizing the points made below with well-thought-out approaches that include effective use of homilies.

- recognize and joyfully celebrate the value of human life at every stage and in every condition.
- engage parishioners with multidimensional celebrations that are educational, liturgical, prayerful and practical.
- affirm and appreciate that the diversity of our vocations, talents and skills adequately provide the means to advance the culture of life.
- draw special attention to the moral gravity of abortion and euthanasia.
- grow in awareness of how we and our society fall short in welcoming and caring for each person and, accordingly, find suitable ways to bring about required personal and societal change.
- deepen our compassion for those who suffer from the aftermath of the wide-reaching effects of an abortion and euthanasia, and invite them into paths of healing and reconciliation.

May this proclamation of a celebration of life for the month of October encourage a fervent, heartfelt and joyful response that finds resonance with the words of John Paul II found in the encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae*. Writing on behalf of the unborn, the sick and infirm elderly, he called us to respond:

“A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer.” (#100)



✠ Daniel J Bohan
Archbishop of Regina

January 13, 2013
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord