

Pastor's Column

Rev. Michael Ratajczak
michaelr@stmoside.org
758-4100 x100

October – Respect Life Month (Nationally); Secondary Education Initiative Month (Locally)

Respect Life Month

In his inaugural Mass, Pope Benedict XVI reminded us: “We are not some casual or meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is necessary.”

Ten years ago, Pope John Paul II put it this way: “Human beings have been given a sublime dignity, based on the intimate bond which unites us to our Creator. We are a sign of God’s love, a trace of his glory. From the moment of conception through death and into eternity, each of us lives in relation to God, the Lord of life. The value and dignity of human life do not change according to health or other circumstances. A man, even if seriously ill or disabled in the exercise of his highest functions, is and always will be a man, and he will never become a ‘vegetable’ or an ‘animal.’”

The journey away from a culture of death and toward following Christ to eternal life goes by way of the Cross: Loving others to the point that we die to our personal pride and selfishness, our tendency to view others as obstacles or things to be used.

A rich young man asked Jesus, “What good must I do to gain eternal life?” Jesus replied that one must learn to love God, and “love your neighbor as yourself.”

This is the model God has given us—a model of love and solidarity with those entrusted to our care, and those we meet on the way. By witnessing this model in our own lives—by holding fast to the moral truths preserved by our faith, and going out of ourselves—we can inspire others to do the same, and help build a world where human life is always loved and defended, every form of violence banished.

Secondary Education Initiative Awareness Month

The Diocese of San Diego has taken on a major project to build and sustain three new Catholic high schools in San Diego County.

The first, Cathedral Catholic, opened its doors for the 2005-2006 school year and has recently graduated its first class.

The second, Mater Dei, is under construction and is scheduled to open in the fall of 2007.

The third, Pax Christi, will be located in the North County area; place and opening date are to be determined.

Along with the construction of these three new high schools, the diocese will establish a tuition endowment fund to assist all eligible high school students attending any of the Catholic high schools in the diocese which includes the two high schools operated by religious orders and the diocesan high school in the Imperial Valley.

Also, as a part of the Secondary Education Initiative, the diocese has committed to helping Saint Augustine’s with their renovation project.

As you can see, there are many areas in which we can contribute to help this vital project in ensuring that generations to come will have value-based education available to them.

St. Thomas More has, as part of “*Our Journey Into The Future . . . Together*” \$12.4 million Capital Campaign, pledged \$1 million dollars to the Secondary Education Initiative Campaign to ensure that a Catholic High School will be built in North County.

Please know that your gifts/donations to the Capital Campaign are helping to support the efforts of building a new Catholic High School in North County!

F. Mike