



Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

September 30, 2022

Dear Friends,

Greetings and Peace!

Each year, the Catholic Church in the United States observes October as Respect Life Month. We take this time to focus on the beautiful gift given to us by God, the gift of human life. As Catholics, we each have a responsibility to protect and defend the lives of others beginning at conception and ending in natural death.

This year, we are called to serve moms in need. Pregnant women are in need of assistance and support, especially for those who contemplate or get an abortion. Let us support those mothers who need guidance and care. Life won in our country with the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. This is a historic moment in the fight for life and it is also an opportunity to reach out to those mothers who are suffering. An abortion ends a priceless and unreplaceable life, and we can make a difference with our efforts. All life is precious and without God's gift of life, we would not be here. The right to life is unalienable, and we derive it from God in Whose image we are created, and Who is the source of our dignity as a human person.

We must be aware that the world advocates a very different view of life, instead it promotes a culture of death. In the absence of faith in God, people believe they own and dispose of life as they see fit. Instead of being cared for and loved, a person is instead valued only for their societal function and usefulness. This is detached from God and His guidance. Life is not a commodity, but something precious and wonderful. It is not about my comfort, but about respecting every human life as a gift from God.

While there are challenges, we have the ability to continue to build a culture of life. Prayer is one of the most important foundations for promoting a culture of life. We can help by holding Hours of Adoration and praying the Rosary. Let us continue to pray for the preservation of life from the womb to the tomb and for all people and governments to respect life as the gift we know it to be given to us by God. Keep praying and assist in any way you can to promote and protect life. In Christ, the Gospel of life is proclaimed.

I ask you to pray, reflect, promote, and live the Gospel of Life.

With my sincere best wishes and prayers, I remain

Yours in Christ,

+A. Elias Zaidan

Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles