

--- October is the month of the Rosary. We had over 90 people come to the Rosary by the River last Sunday to pray for our country and for peace and conversion of hearts to the Lord. A special thank you to all those who organized and to Armando and Gloria for their amazing homemade tamales! We pray the rosary on Fridays in October with the school children at 2:15 p.m. (except the 25th of this month). Come join us, we will also offer a time for Adoration and Benediction. Also, on this very day, 107 years ago in Portugal, the Blessed Mother appeared one last time to the children at Fatima and the sun miraculously “danced” in the largest, post-biblical miracle ever reported. This month also memorializes Our Lady of Victory/the Rosary at the battle of Lepanto...all to say that miracles still happen, and the Lord only does certain things if we ask for them.

--- Since 1972, October has also been set aside by the US bishops as “Respect Life Month.” It is a time for Catholics to remember in a particular way the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. There are so many situations in this troubled world when people are not treated with the dignity that they deserve, through terrorism, war, racism, and extreme poverty. We have our own OPOP friends, Chris and Michael in need of support but who are making strides after their time in prison. Chris has a job and stable housing, praise God!

The most direct and massive assault on vulnerable humans has been through abortion, which has claimed the lives of over 60 million babies in this country. Even after Roe the statistics are dismal, with over 1 million abortions in the U.S. in 2023 alone. May we not grow weary of praying for changed hearts, so that women in crisis pregnancies may see their child as a gift, remembering that life is worth living and giving to another. Healthcare should be about giving life, not destroying it.

--- On a pivot to another topic regarding respect for life is the parish food pantry. We have a cliental every Tuesday morning of about 20 - 25 people who are grateful for the help, but we need volunteers to assist with purchasing and then onsite help on Tuesday mornings. This is an important work of mercy that Jesus Himself calls us to. *If you are able to help either as a purchaser or onsite distributor on Tuesdays, please contact Mike Parilla at mparilla@archchicago.org.*

--- **“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”** The rich young man’s story offers us insights into our own lives of faith. First, he is very open, ran up to Jesus and knelt before Him, presuming in Jesus’ goodness and ability to guide him. The first step to receiving good answers is to ask good questions, this man, both in his question and spirit of openness, was ready for the next step of discipleship.

However, the young man chooses his possessions and wealth...over Jesus. *Failure to respond generously to our vocation always produces sadness.* This was a rare moment when the Gospel says that Jesus looked on someone with love, He looks on us with the same love as He calls us for total commitment. Jesus asks for all because He gives more than we could even hope for:

“Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come.”

God bless,

Fr. Mike

