



## Diocese of Palm Beach

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THE BISHOP

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October 1, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord:

Sunday, October 1, is *Respect Life Sunday* which initiates October as *Respect Life Month* as well as the annual Respect Life Program entitled this year, *Radical Solidarity*. While we are very grateful for the decision of the Supreme Court last year in reversing legalized abortion as a national mandate, since then we have experienced so much division in regard to issues dealing with the basic right to life on the political scene within our nation.

The focus of the abortion debate has now turned to the states and their laws pertaining to the legal prohibition or permission for abortion. There is a fundamental error in so far as the right to life is neither a federal nor state issue, it is a fundamental right given by God. Our nation came into existence on the foundation that the “right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” is granted to all persons by God. Once the right to life of an unborn child is questioned, the right to life of everyone is called into question. We have seen how this has become so prevalent in our culture today.

*Radical Solidarity* calls us to be united in the respect for the gift of life at all stages from the moment of conception until natural death. *Radical Solidarity* reminds us that we are one human family, and we need to join with each other in promoting the right to life as fundamental to who we are. *Radical Solidarity* calls us to provide loving assistance to mothers who find themselves in a difficult situation through an unexpected pregnancy as well as after the birth of their child. We are blessed in the Diocese of Palm Beach with the mission of our Catholic Charities which excels in this regard.

I am deeply grateful to the faithful men and women of our Diocese who demonstrate what *Radical Solidarity* is all about as it relates to the right to life. You join together in a witness that is loving, prayerful and supportive of the unborn child and of the life of everyone within our community. You make a tremendous difference in raising the conscience of our culture and in challenging our legal system especially by your example. May the Lord continue to bless you and all that you do. We all join together on this *Respect Life Sunday* in *Radical Solidarity* appreciating the right to life which God has given us.

With every prayerful wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito  
Bishop of Palm Beach