

“THE PRO-LIFE GENERATION”: INVITING TEENAGERS TO WITNESS

In the 1966 Academy Award winning film “A Man for All Seasons,” one scene stands out. **Sir Thomas More** (Paul Scofield) stands accused of refusing to submit to an oath required of all English subjects affirming the claim of **King Henry VIII** as supreme head of the church. Such an **oath** effectively **rejects** the supreme **authority** of the Pope. It was requested because Henry was unable to secure a divorce from his first wife to marry another woman. Thomas **refused**. During his trial, Thomas argued that since he had said nothing about his feelings, a charge of treason was unwarranted. The prosecution noted that silence can be more powerful than words. Thomas responded: “The maxim is ‘*Qui tacet consentiret*’: the maxim of the law is ‘Silence gives consent.’ If therefore you wish to construe what my silence betokened, you must construe that I consented, not that I denied.” Thomas was **no fool**— he saw the writing on the wall. He desired to live, but not at the **expense** of the truth.

Both by nature and **temperament**, I am not prone to protesting. I eschew conflict and seek neither to shout nor scream. And yet, there are situations in our lives when we **must stand up** and be counted, lest our silence is inadequate or worse yet, scandalous. Might our silence **betoken consent**? It is often not an easy call. When it comes to standing up for **innocent life** in the **womb**, our reticence takes on a deeper significance. Especially as a priest, to remain silent would be among the most serious derelictions of my duty to the least of our brothers and sisters in the womb. There are myriad ways to witness. Some of the most powerful advocates to the sanctity of life have **never** protested outside a clinic or **marched** in a rally. Rather, they have **quietly witnessed** to the sanctity of life, counseling women to choose life, volunteering in pro-life care centers, donating of their treasure to provide needed pre-natal supplies to expectant mothers.

There is not a shred of doubt in my mind that the prayers and witness of two generations of young people brought about a greater awareness of the **culture of life**. Their **joyous** witness to the Gospel has **attracted** followers and **intrigued** those who may have been thinking to themselves— “What is the source of their joy?” It is to just such as these that I address this column. I have seen your joy, **enthusiasm** and devotion. I have been buoyed by your reverence and strengthened in my own vocation to serve by your holiness of life, even amid life’s struggles. I am **inviting** you to consider **joining me** in **Washington D.C.** this coming January for the annual **March for Life**. This year marks 50 years since the infamous *Roe v. Wade* U.S. Supreme Court decision. Fifty years is a **very long time** to a teen, unfathomable since it is **three times** as long as they have lived!

We say, “Enough!” Enough of **turning away** from those most innocent among us. Instead, we pledge our support and **promise** of assistance to those in need so that they will **choose life**. If a high schooler from the Cathedral is interested in joining tens of thousands in public witness to life this January, **[click here](#)** to view the flyer. The **Archdiocesan March for Life** pilgrimage is designed for high schoolers and will involve **prayer, sacrifice** and a little discomfort. Ever **slept** overnight in a **bus**? Not exactly my idea of a great time! Then again, **I’m not 16!** Wait until your back starts acting up later in life! This is neither school, nor a vacation. There will be plenty of time for prayer, Mass, and discussion. The schedule will be **full**; free time will be scarce. Though there will be some time for visiting **museums**, it’s not the primary focus of our trip. If the teens understand that going in, it will not present a problem.

Still, it will be a **fantastic** experience. Several busloads will participate from parishes and schools.

You will enjoy making new friends. Many lives have been transformed though this pilgrimage. The day after the March for Life, we will participate in a fantastic Students for Life Conference aimed at equipping you with the tools to witness charitably, knowledgeably (and **that** is important) and effectively in a culture in which there are so many competing and contrary voices. The **\$500 tuition** fee includes deluxe transportation from **Minnesota Coaches**, hotel, the SFLA Conference and most meals. The Pilgrimage begins with Mass here at the Cathedral on Tuesday January 17, followed by the **long** bus trip to Washington D.C. We will be staying at the Holiday Inn in **College Park, MD**. We will return on Sunday afternoon **January 22nd**, the *Roe v. Wade* anniversary. You will be **as grateful** as you will likely be tired—but it will be worth it!

Take note. The *Dobbs v. Jackson* Supreme Court decision this past June **does not** represent an end, but only a beginning. I have been amazed at the proliferation of internet and television ads I have seen this political season that focus exclusively on abortion. In fact, abortion appears on the ballots of five states this November. **California, Michigan, and Vermont** are proposing **constitutional amendments** to advance abortion, while at the same time, citizens in **Kentucky and Montana** are voting on **pro-life** measures. Though Minnesota is not among them, the long-fought **battle for life** continues in its next phase, that of individual states. And our young people will be on the front lines. Please **prayerfully** consider joining me— I have such pride in and hope for our Cathedral youth.

- Congratulations to Yankee slugger **Aaron Judge**, who surpassed Roger Maris' AL record of 61 home runs in a season. Twins infielder **Luis Arraez** won the AL batting title (.315 BA), robbing Judge of the rare triple crown (1st in HR, BA and RBI). Yet, Babe Ruth's **60 dingers** in 1927 is even **more amazing**. Ruth played in a 154-game season, not 162 as today. In 1927, no other American League **team** combined hit more than 56 home runs. Even the worst MLB team hit at least 100 HR this season.
- Activity is returning to Cathedral Hill! It has been **heartening** to welcome visiting pilgrim groups and see yellow buses unload school children for tours. The Children's Rosary Pilgrimage filled the Church and is one of my favorite annual events.
- The Twin Cities **Marathon** was enjoyable to watch. Saturday morning 10K and 5K races featured many **families and kids** participating. I was amazed at how many kids were **passing** the adults! But at 1:00 p.m., I felt horrible for the MTC bus driver who inexplicably forgot the race was ongoing and Selby Ave. closed at Summit. After unloading passengers, had to back up all the way to Western Ave. Ouch!
- Only one U.S. President has visited the Cathedral and it was **60 years ago** this past Friday October 7, the same day as our Rosary processions were held. President **John F. Kennedy** sat several rows from the front. There is a **plaque** marking the spot. Can you find it?
- I have attended three banquets recently: Relevant Radio, Trinity Sober Homes and the Aim Higher Foundation. Whether it is broadcasting Christ's love across the **radio**, assisting men in **recovery** by providing a stable Catholic atmosphere in which to live, or providing **scholarships** to our **Catholic Grade Schools**, we are blessed with so many opportunities to support worthwhile causes.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. John L. Ubel,

Rector