

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday, with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we began the liturgical calendar which is called “Tempus per Annum” which, literally translated, means “Time Through the Year” or “Ordinary Time”. The English translation of Ordinary Time can be misleading. It can make us think that Ordinary Time is less important than the times of Advent, Christmas, Lent or Easter. Ordinary Time is like all the other seasons of the Church's liturgical calendar - it is a time for getting to know Jesus, and for drawing closer to him. Getting to know Jesus is like getting to know someone we discover, bit by bit, and we become good friends. Knowing Jesus is very important, and we come to know and love Him by drawing close to him, observing him, listening to the things he says, watching how others react to him and how he reacts to people around him. A Christian life is nothing more than our response to the goodness of God who loves each one of us.

Each year, on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade (22nd of January), Americans rally in Washington DC and exercise their freedoms of speech and petition. Roe v. Wade was a Supreme Court decision in 1973 that made abortion legal in the United States. As Catholics, we firmly believe that the dignity of a person must be recognized in every human being, from conception to natural death. From the moment of conception, the human being is to be respected and treated as a person. In Catholic teaching, the foundation for the dignity of each human being comes from the fact that we are made in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1, 26). Pope Benedict XVI said ***“God's love does not differentiate between the newly conceived infant still in his or her mother's womb and the child or young person, or the adult and the elderly person. God does not distinguish between them because he sees an impression of his own image and likeness (Genesis 1: 26) in each one.”*** And the Pope Francis said ***“... it is frightful even to think there are children, victims of abortion, who will never see the light of day...which is a crime against humanity”.***

The Gospel of Life needs to be announced to the people of every age and culture. The Church and its members must work hard to be truly persons of Life.

Mary, Mother of God's Son – pray for us.

**Fr. Krzysztof**

