

A thank you Note from St. Edward Catholic Church, Fulton, Kentucky Thank you and Ranni Dillard for supporting St. Edward's event, No Child Left Behind. Holy Name's generosity was overwhelming and deeply appreciated by all. Due to the efforts of several churches within the Diocese, we were given the opportunity to give away 200+ backpacks with supplies and 200+ grocery bags filled with miscellaneous items. God bless your congregation! Yours in Christ, St. Edward Outreach Committee.

Ranni traveled with Ann Myers, Sherry Hoffman and Zoey Smallwood. We thank them for their service and for representing our parish so well.

October is Respect Life Month (Reflection from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) from the time we are knit together in our mothers' wombs until we take our final breaths, each moment of our lives is a gift from God. While every season of life brings its own challenges and trials, each season also gives us new opportunities to grow in our relationship with God. Today the gift of life is threatened in countless ways. Those who are most vulnerable, rather than receiving the protection they deserve, are all too often seen as a burden and as expendable. As new attacks on human life continue to emerge, we can be tempted to despair, but Christ instead offers us unfailing hope. Hope is not false optimism or empty positivity. Christian hope is something much more profound and goes to the very depths of our identity as followers of Christ. Hope is the virtue "by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit" (CCC, 1817). Like us, Christ entered the world through the womb of a woman. He willingly experienced the fullness of human suffering. He breathed his last on the Cross at Calvary in order that He might save us. Therefore, "God is the foundation of hope: not any god, but the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end" (Spe salvi 31).

Christians know "they have a future: it is not that they know the details of what awaits them, but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness" (SS2). For this reason, a woman experiencing a difficult pregnancy can find the strength to welcome her precious child into the world. A man facing a terminal diagnosis can see that the end of his earthly life is only the beginning of eternal life with Christ.

The Church teaches us that "the one who has hope lives differently" (SS2). Christ's promise of salvation does not mean that we will be spared from suffering. Rather, the promise of salvation ensures that even in the darkest moments of our lives, we will be given the strength to persevere. By virtue of this Christian hope, we can face any challenge or trial. When the seas of life swell and we are battered by the waves, hope allows us to re-main anchored in the heart of God. May we hold fast to Christ our hope, from the beginning of life to its very end?

This is me again. Last weekend I had the privilege of baptizing a great-niece and a great-nephew, the children of two of my nephews. Of course being family they are the most beautiful, smart, wonderful children that God ever created but in reality they are the most beautiful, smart, wonderful children. The beauty and innocence of infants remind us of the sacredness of life and hopefully inspire us to pray and work for a greater respect for all human life. We seem to grow more and more callous to the sacredness of life but we can make a difference by prayer, calling our representatives in Congress and by treating all people with the respect they deserve as a child of God.

Fr. Larry McBride

