

You shall not kill: The Law of Life

As Catholics, we share an understanding of what this commandment means. It calls us to respect & honor all human life from conception to natural death. Therefore, we must oppose abortion, euthanasia, & capital punishment as grave sins. Why? It is the Church's teaching that all humans are created in the image of God, endowed with the precious gifts of life & dignity. We recognize in the elderly & chronically ill the image of God, & must care for them accordingly. We recognize in the unborn child, a beautiful person gifted with life in God's own image. We recognize in the death row inmate, a spark of the divine gift we have no right to extinguish.

For most of us, the hard part is not to avoid the act of physically killing a fellow human being (I certainly hope!); but rather recognizing, affirming, & promoting the dignity of every single person in the world.— All 6 billion of them whether we actually meet them or not. What are the choices we make to promote & affirm life for everyone? Do we recognize God in the poor, the non-Christian, persons of different sexual orientations from ourselves, the person who belongs to another political party, the atheist, the disabled, the lonely, or the divorced? In short, do we recognize God in the Other?

The law of life calls us to do the challenging work of extending the circle of human compassion until everyone in the whole world is included. When we recognize we are connected to everyone & act accordingly, we begin to live as people of life.

- Eric Stromberg, Faith Formation Director

