



Homily – 27th Sunday of the Year B (Respect of Life Sunday)

Today we celebrate the Respect of Life Sunday. It is an occasion to give glory to God for the beauty and wonder of his creation. Our First Reading ([Gen 2:18-24](#)) clearly shows us that God is the Author of Life in all its forms. God is Life itself; he exists on His own. All creation – the planets, the stars and the galaxies (i.e. the entire universe) – is from God. He is responsible for calling life into being on earth: “God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air.” In essence, God caused all living things to evolve from the earth according to their own kind. Creationism does not exclude evolutionism; evolution is a means of creation generated by God. The human being is the crown of God’s creation on earth; everything was made for the good of mankind. What a loving God!

You must have heard about the debate in some school districts around the country that simply want to dismiss Creationism in favor of Evolutionism. What an error! Science and Revelation are not opposed; Science is a gift of God who is the author of revelation. Some scientists unfortunately deny that God created the world and the life on earth. For them, life simply originated from matter through evolution over billions of years. Some advocate the “Big Bang” theory according to which the universe originated and keeps expanding from a great hot mass. But, who was responsible for the great hot mass? Who is responsible for the evolution? Why is the earth uniquely different from the other planets in being, as it were, the planet of life? Science says all the planets have existed for about the same number of ‘billions of years’. Then why has life in its various forms not evolved from matter on the others planets so far, at least, life forms adaptable to those environments, irrespective of the gravitational force, or how hot or cold each might be?

The above questions simply help us to ponder on the limits of scientific theories. The Bible was written at a time when we had no hand lens, let alone a microscope or a telescope. The Bible affirmed that God blessed the earth with the diversity of life. In this space technology age, I make bold to say that Science has proved creationism true. How is this? Scripture puts it plainly, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was waste and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep” (Gen 1:1-2; ASV). One can truly appreciate the message here by taking a closer look at the distinct images of the other planets – enormous ‘land masses’ without any living creature to use

them. What a waste! Thanks to Science and Technology! The Scripture is vindicated. From the images from NASA we easily see what the earth definitely looked like before God blessed it with “LIFE”. Else, it was a formless waste and void. Thus, we have an obligation, in gratitude to God, to respect life in all its forms.

Beloved, in the context of our readings today, the Respect of Life begins with the respect for the sanctity of marriage. Christian marriage is foundational in bringing new human life into the world. That is the point of our First Reading and the Gospel passage. Christian marriage inaugurated by Christ is evidently a marriage between a man and woman; not between the same-sex. As Christ puts it in today’s gospel passage ([Mk 10:2-16](#)), “from the beginning of creation, *God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.*” The Catholic Church stands to proclaim, clarify, and protect the teachings of Christ in all its richness. Christ also clearly dismisses divorce and wills that couples live in love until death: “what God has joined together, no human being must separate.”

The Respect for Life also means yielding to the commandment of God, “Thou shall not kill”. We must affirm and defend all forms of human life from conception to natural death. All acts of abortion, contraception, infanticide, homicide, suicide, euthanasia, murder, unjust wars, rape, and the like, contravene God’s law. This is why the Church does not approve of any of these disorders of life. Every human person is unique; our faces are different. Anything done to destroy the life of an innocent child or person amounts to destroying the image of God. Accordingly, we need to help promote a world where people can live happy lives, have affordable healthcare, free of weapons of mass destruction of lives.

Finally, prayer is our weaponry, “For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Eph 6:10). Some extremist “Christians” have gone to the extent of killing abortion doctors. What a terrible crime against Jesus! What desperation! Such people are simply losers. “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven” (Luke 6:37).