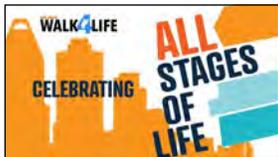


## Celebrating Life in the Public Square



“I do not hesitate to proclaim before you and before the world that all human life—from the moment of conception and through all subsequent stages—is sacred, because human life is created in the image and likeness of God. Nothing surpasses the greatness or dignity of a human person.” -St. Pope John Paul II, 1979

Next Saturday January 15, 2022 is the Tenth Annual San Diego Walk for Life. The theme of the event this year is “Celebrating All Stages of Life.” It is described by Bishop McElroy as an opportunity for public witness in support of the “dignity of life which God has given to us, beautifully, profoundly and equally and which is so often in danger especially by public policy here in the world in which we live at this moment”.

Advocating for change is part of the social mission of Catholic parishes. Any time we step into the public square, let us mindfully do so as instruments of peace and love. In Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis urges us to seek “a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good.” In response, our US Bishops created a program entitled “Civilize it: A Better Kind of Politics” which urges us to seek the truth, build bridges, and find solutions together that promote the common good. The following are excerpts drawn from the “Civilize It” pledge:

### I Pledge:

#### Charity

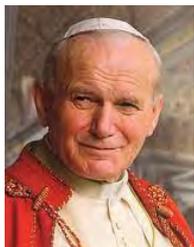
- To affirm through my words and actions the dignity of every person, each made in God’s image. Even those with whom I disagree are made in his image.
- To respectfully listen in order to understand experiences different from my own.

#### Clarity

- To form my conscience through prayerful reflection, study of scripture and Church teaching, and guidance from reputable experts.
- To be open to the process of dialogue that can require change of perspective—my own and others’—in service to the inviolable dignity of all and the common good.

#### Creativity

- To be a bridge builder who participates in constructive dialogue based in shared values, a mutual exchange of gifts, and the humility to together seek the good.
- To see differences in perspective as opportunities for creative tension which can yield solutions for the common good.



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### Wisdom from Pope John Paul II

“Human life is not just an idea or an abstraction; human life is the concrete reality of a being that lives, that acts, that grows and develops; human life is the concrete reality of a being that is capable of love, and of service to humanity.”

-Holy Mass at the US Capital Mall, 1979



[Read now...](#)

## EXPLORE



Our diocese invites us to participate in the **2022 San Diego Walk for Life**, a free event at Waterfront Park on January 15 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

[Explore now...](#)

## WATCH



This video encourages us to **expand our definition of “pro life” to include the unborn and the born.** It highlights the fact that additional human lives are in danger.

[Watch now...](#)

## READ



Learn about **Civilize It: A Better Kind of Politics**, a

program developed by US Catholic Bishops to help address our polarized Church and divided nation.

[Read now...](#)