

My Dear Parish Family,

Since I did not get a chance to write an article for last Sunday's bulletin, I wanted to give a little update on the March for Life that some from Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church and myself attended a little over a week ago.



In case you are not familiar with the march, here is a little history on it. The first March for Life occurred on January 22, 1974 and this was one year after the *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion during all nine months of pregnancy in our country. There were 20,000 people who attended this first march.

During the March for this year it is estimated that at least 650,000 people attended, but probably more as the crowd size was amazing. Last year there was 500,000 people that attended and I could tell there were more this year.

It is something that grows every single year since it has started. As I looked back this year at all the marchers, they were a long ways back on Constitution Ave. I remember back in the day you could stand on Capitol Hill and see the end of the crowd. Today that is not the case, you do not see the end until all the marchers have gotten closer.

Back in the 1990's there were probably 50,000 people that attended and up to the year 2000 it was around 100,000 people. Today it is 650,000 and above. Plus there were other March for Life's that were scheduled around the United States as well, including Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco. The reason why the numbers are growing like crazy is because of the young people. I feel like one of the older one's there if that gives you an idea.

These young people, including myself were born after the *Roe v. Wade* decision and quite frankly we are scandalized that we were not considered persons in the womb by the government and others. Over one-third of my generation was lost to abortion and so a majority of the two-thirds is not remaining silent and so they are on fire for the Gospel of Life.

The young people today are very pro-life and the energy at the March reveals this. They are definitely the pro-life generation. Most of them traveled on buses through the night and some of them for days to come to Washington DC. Where is this pro-life trend coming from? Its not promoted by the media, it is not

encouraged by our government or our schools. It is their parents that enstilled this in them, but also even if their parents are pro-abortion, their children are not following them. The March for Life is a sign of great hope for the end of legal abortion.

Just a note to let you know as well that this Wednesday February 4th is the 42nd Anniversary of Fr. Jim Carlson's Ordination to the Priesthood. I'm sure it was sunny and 75 degrees on that February day back then.

As St. John Vianney (who was a Priest himself) says on the Holy Priesthood so beautifully, *Saint Bernard tells us that everything has come to us through Mary; and we may also say that everything has come to us through the priest; yes, all happiness, all graces, all heavenly gifts. If we had not the Sacrament of Orders, we should not have Our Lord. Who placed Him there, in that tabernacle? It was the priest. Who was it that received your soul, on its entrance into life? The priest.*

Who nourishes it, to give it strength to make its pilgrimage? The priest. Who will prepare it to appear before God, by washing that soul, for the last time, in the blood of Jesus Christ? The priest -- always the priest. And if that soul comes to the point of death, who will raise it up, who will restore it to calmness and peace? Again the priest. You cannot recall one single blessing from God without finding, side by side with this recollection, the image of the priest.

As we come upon this joyous day, congratulations Fr. Jim on your Anniversary to Holy Priesthood and thank you for your service to the Diocese of Saginaw. Please keep him in your prayers on that day and we ask that our Blessed Mother keep you safe under the mantle of her protection all the days of your life.

May God Bless you and Mary keep you,
Fr. Christopher Coman