

The Department of Pastoral Care invites you to join us for a prayerful Pastoral Care Week 2019

You may notice that Pastoral Care Week coincides with Respect Life Month. You may also notice that each ministry area encompassed by the Department of Pastoral Care is concerned with a place of human suffering. And within that place, we uphold the indisputable dignity and sacredness of all human life. We believe that all of our brothers and sisters are deserving of the healing love and compassion of God, regardless of their circumstances. During this week, we recognize the generosity of all Pastoral Care ministers who give freely of their time and energy in revealing God's love and mercy to others.

**Pastoral Care Week 2019
October 20-26, 2019
Daily Prayers and Reflections**

Sunday, October 20, 2019

Pastoral Care of Persons Struggling with Addictions



Quotation: “In the (12-step) meeting rooms—where there is always an open door, a warm welcome, a cup of coffee—the message is that this is a place where hope grows. You are not castoffs or rejects. This is the place where Jesus sits among you, with you in your pain and disbelief, hoping for your joy to begin to take root.” (*What Pope Francis Says about Recovery: 30 Days of Reflections and Prayers*)

Prayer: Lord, you come to give us life, fullness of life. We pray that you will bestow abundant grace and help upon all those who are enslaved by any form of addiction, so that they may live in freedom and in peace. May all of your children know that they are worthy of the mercy, love and healing which you have to offer. With your help, the bonds of addiction can be broken. May we all seek your help in bringing us to greater freedom, so that we may know, love and serve you in joy and gladness, all the days of our lives. In *Christ who is Our Liberator*, we make our prayer...Amen.

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Monday, October 21, 2019

Pastoral Care of Persons who are Sick or Dying



Quotation: “Who can save a child from a burning house without taking the risk of being hurt by the flames? Who can listen to a story of loneliness and despair without taking the risk of experiencing similar pains in his own heart and even losing his precious peace of mind? In short: ‘Who can take away suffering without entering it?’” (Henri Nouwen, *The Wounded Healer*)

Prayer: Lord, God. All who visit and care for the sick enter into the pain, loneliness and despair which is so often found in the midst of suffering. Grant our clergy, chaplains, physicians and nurses, pastoral visitors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, family caregivers and all who tend to the needs of the sick and dying, the courage, strength and love necessary to “suffer with” others. May they know the blessings of Faith, Hope and Love, and share those blessings with those for whom they care. In *Christ Who is Our Hope* we make our prayer...Amen.

Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Pastoral Care of Persons who are Incarcerated



Quotation: “The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1:5. “There are fewer places darker than a prison cell. There, separated from all that they ever knew or loved, men and women struggle with feelings of despair and hopelessness. As they search for some sense of meaning and purpose for their lives, they wonder if anyone outside the walls of the prison knows or cares about their struggles. But even in the darkest places, there is Light.” ~Prison Fellowship

Prayer: All-merciful God, filled with compassion for all of your children, help all those who bring your Light to our sisters and brothers who live ‘behind the walls’ of jails or prisons, to recognize your face in theirs. Mindful of our own broken nature, we reach out to our incarcerated sisters and brothers without judgment, but with compassion, which we too have gratefully received from you, Lord. May all who are incarcerated, encounter your love, your mercy and your hope, via the pastoral visitors who serve in your Holy Name. Through *Christ, Who is the Light which Shines in the Darkness*, we make our prayer...Amen.

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Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Pastoral Care at the Beginning of Life and at the End of Life: Sacredness of All Human Life



Quotation: “Let faith and perseverance be our guide. We will never recognize the true value of our own lives until we affirm the value in the life of others, a value of which Malcolm Muggeridge says, ‘however low it flickers or fiercely burns, it is still a Divine flame which no man dare presume to put out, be his motives ever so humane and enlightened.’” (Ronald Reagan, *Abortion and the Conscience of the Nation*)

Prayer: Prayer: Lord, God, Creator of all Life, help all people to see the Divine flame in every human life, from conception to natural death, whether healthy or ill, young or old, contributing to society or simply existing...help us all to recognize the sacredness of each and every life. Bless those who work to defend the right to life of all, and touch the hearts of those who are entrusted with crafting the laws of our land with eyes to see the true dignity and value of all human life. In the Name of Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, we make our prayer...Amen.

Thursday, October 24, 2019

Pastoral Care of Persons Grieving a Loss



Quotation: From a widower: “I knew when my wife died that there would be many humps to climb over. I just didn’t know there would be so many bumps in the humps.’ From a widow: ‘There are many ironies when somebody dies. The person you need most to help you through this experience is the person who died.’” (Linda Feinberg, *I’m Grieving as fast as I Can*)

Prayer: Lord, you come to heal the broken-hearted. We pray that you support those who have lost someone dear to them, and accompany those who accompany them through the process of grieving and mourning. Your ministers of bereavement stand in the darkest places with those in deep sorrow, and we ask you to encourage and strengthen them for this ministry of care. May Our Lady of Sorrows, and her beloved Son, Our Savior, bless all who journey with the sorrowful. In the name of *Christ, Our Lord, who Bears all of our Sorrows, we make this prayer...Amen.*

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Friday, October 25, 2019

Pastoral Care of Persons with Different Abilities



Quotation: “A true friend knows your weaknesses but shows you your strengths; feels your fears but fortifies your faith; sees your anxieties but frees your spirit; recognizes your disabilities but emphasizes your possibilities” – William Arthur Ward

Prayer: Lord, you have created each of us, as we are, that through any circumstance of life, we might know you, love you, praise you, glorify you, and serve you. Bless your children of different-abilities, that they may live fully the life to which each is called. Bless those who minister with and for them, that they may convey the bountiful love of God to all of God’s children without reserve. Bless their families, that they may be strengthened and encouraged to face the challenges which fill their days, and grant that they may be open to seeing the grace of God at work in all circumstances. In the name of *Jesus, who Cares Deeply for all of His children...we make this prayer Amen.*

Saturday, October 26, 2019

Pastoral Care of Persons Facing Separation or Divorce



Quotations: “The end of a marriage has to be one of the saddest events one can experience. The pain of divorce is second only to an actual death in the family.” –Danica McKellar

“Going through divorce is a lot like getting hit by a Mack truck on a deserted highway in the middle of winter—it’s cold, lonely and it hurts like hell.” –Karen Covy

Prayer: Lord, you created Holy Matrimony as a sacrament, which is a sign and a symbol of your love for the Church. Sadly, the stain of original sin has tarnished the human condition to the degree that scarcely half of all marriages survive in our current cultural climate. Only you know the pain and sorrow which accompanies every broken vow, every family torn apart by separation or divorce. We pray for all those suffering through this experience, especially the children who are affected by divorce. May your peace pervade, may your help guide and reassure, and may your grace heal the broken hearts left in the wake of this regrettable reality of our modern world. In *Christ who Heals all Wounds*, we make our prayer...Amen.

-Thank you for sharing in this Week of Prayer and Reflection on the Various Pastoral Care Ministries-