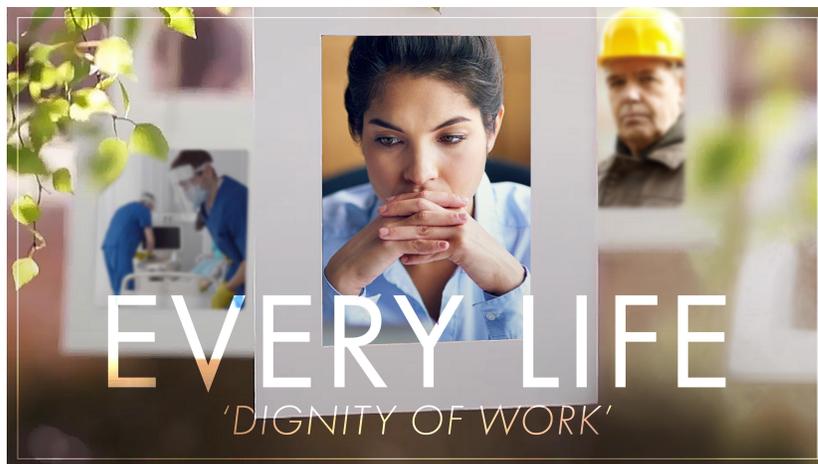


*EVERY LIFE  
is precious in God's sight.*

**OCTOBER MESSAGE SERIES  
WEEK 2 – OCTOBER 10, 2021**



October is Respect Life Month. We are calling these first four weeks of October, **"Every Life,"** with the goal of reinforcing that every life is precious in God's eyes, every life begins with God and hopefully ends with God, every life stands as testimony to that sacred covenant forged between God and His created order – a covenant of dignity, purpose and peace.

**This Week:** The Dignity of Work and Workers

### **28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

#### **Gospel of Mark: 10:17-30**

*As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother." He replied and said to him, "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.*

*Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were amazed at his words. So Jesus again said to them in reply, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were exceedingly astonished and said among themselves, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God." Peter began to say to him, "We have given up everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come."*

## REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

- **Wisdom 7:7-11:** The author “seeks wisdom more avidly than health and good looks, because the brightness of wisdom sheds on his path and never sleeps.” Wisdom is richer than all good things.
- **Hebrews 4:12-13:** The power of the Word of God is infinite. It penetrates soul and spirit of the human being and no one can hide anything from Him.
- **Mark 10:17-30:** A young man runs to Jesus, a question burning in his heart. He shares all the good he has done in following the commandments and all he has “earned” – a young life well lived so far, and a response from Jesus that he is loved. But he is not yet ready to surrender – he cannot comprehend that all he has “worked” to store up is for a different purpose, an eternal purpose.
- **The rich young man in the Gospel:** “went away sad, for he had many possessions.” Jesus shares, “how hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God.” Not because wealth is a sin, but because it’s so easy for those with wealth to rely on themselves rather than God. What is a step that we can make that will move us to giving our whole selves in trust to God? What can we do so that we don’t walk away sad?
- **The Psalms this Sunday:** “Prosper the work of our hands!” No matter where work is – an office, a home, a hospital, a store, etc. - Why do you work? What does “prosperity” look like to you?
- **Jesus tells the disciples:** The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve. Who is a model of Christian servanthood in your life? In your work experiences?

### *Exploring our Catholic Social Teaching*

Work is a big part of our identity. Work is a place where we intersect with so many of our brothers and sisters. Work is a place where the social, moral and ethical are regularly at play. Discuss our Catholic Social Teaching and Pope Francis’ writing (below):

- **Do we further dignity in the workplace?** Is there “no worse poverty”? Is acting in a Christian way part of our work identity? Do we accompany those who need support?
- **If we feel we are on the receiving end of not being respected** - do we seek God as a source of hope?
- **Is there one step we can take to move closer to this teaching:** *“The economy must serve people, not the other way around....”*

**Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti 162** - *“There is no poverty worse than that which takes away work and the dignity of work. In a genuinely developed society, work is an essential dimension of social life, for it is not only a means of earning one’s daily bread, but also of personal growth, the building of healthy relationships, self-expression and the exchange of gifts. Work gives us a sense of shared responsibility for the development of the world, and ultimately, for our life as a people.”*

**The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers:** *The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God’s creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected--the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.*