

Dear Friends,

How do we measure the value of human life? This is an age-old question that cannot be answered in financial terms alone. We drive by palatial new homes many of which remain empty because in this economy no one but the wealthiest of people can afford to buy them. But is the value of their lives of higher quality or degree than for those who cannot afford the homes?

I have always had a lot of respect and awe for athletic people. Athletes are graceful, they have competitive drive, they want to succeed, and they want to win. The very best of them make their sport look more like art. They are often the picture of health, their bodies are beautiful to behold. But is the value of their lives greater than mine? Do we determine that their lives have more value because they make lots of money, are famous and are considered to be our greatest heroes?

How do we determine the value of human life?

Maybe we don't. Perhaps that is not up to us. The value of our lives is determined by God who gives us a dignity that is eternal. The value of our lives cannot be fully determined by human standards because, by God's grace, we are given the gift of life. Our lives have eternal value. Our lives are given the dignity of infinite love given to us without condition.

Rather than thinking about how much value my life has in terms of human understanding, or concrete data, our attitude must be that we are willing to do all that we can to uphold and defend the sanctity and the dignity of human life because for all of us, it is the same. God's love cannot be differentiated based upon race, creed, social status or physical attributes.

We are called to be a culture of life; a culture that is aware of the infinite value of every human being who comes into this world, every human

being who longs to be with God for all eternity in a dwelling place that reflects the value of our lives given to us by God.

We are called to be a culture that respects the sanctity and dignity of all human life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death into the eternal life God so desires for us.

We now have a new “Respect Life Bulletin Board” with lots of good information on how we can grow in our respect for human life. We will have more information in our bulletin as well. I hope that you will find this material to be helpful in forming within our community a deeper respect for the sanctity and the dignity of all human life.

In joyful hope,
Fr. Tim Seigel