



THY KINGDOM COME (Mt. 6:10)

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PASTORAL LETTER ON PROLIFE SUNDAY

(21 September 2025)

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and my dear people,

Thy Kingdom Come!
Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Holy Mother Church observes every year Pro-life Sunday in January. In connection with the "Year of Sanctity of Life" we shall observe it in the diocese on 21 September Sunday 2025 in the month when we celebrate the feast of Nativity of Mary our Mother. I exhort everyone to celebrate it in every parish and institution befittingly. It is not just a question of respect and love for life but it is also recognition of dignity of human life which is solely a gratuitous gift of God. The fifth commandment of God "Thou shall not kill" (Ex. 20:13) bans any form or practice of voluntarily taking away of life – abortion, murder, euthanasia, suicide, capital punishment etc. The Declaration on Human Dignity, promulgated by Holy See in April 2024 asserts; "The dignity of every human being has an intrinsic character and is valid from the moment of conception until natural death" (# 47). The Declaration continues, "The acceptance of abortion in the popular mind in behavior and even in law itself is a telling sign of an extremely dangerous crisis of the moral sense which is becoming more and more incapable of distinguishing between good and evil, even when the fundamental right to life is at stake" (# 47).

On medical assistance in dying, the Declaration says: "There is a widespread notion that euthanasia or assisted suicide is somehow consistent with respect for the dignity of the human person. However, in response to this, it must be strongly reiterated that suffering does not cause the sick to lose their dignity which is intrinsically and inalienably their own" (# 51).

We must take every opportunity to proclaim the sacred value of human life by prayerful intercession, by witnessing to others and supporting organizations whose goal it is to help those facing tensions of crisis. Ours is the voice of truth about life to our family, friends

and the wider community. Let us ask the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of life to guide in our efforts to increase reverence for life and culture of life in our world.

Respect of life refers to the idea of human life being sacred, holy and precious. It is inherent as man is incapable of creating life and therefore, people have no right to take their own lives or those of others. The respect of life or the sanctity of life is usually often contrasted and conflicted with "quality of life" to some extent, is the foundation on which all catholic teachings about the fifth commandment in the Decalogue are built. The right to life comes up in debates about capital punishment, abortion, euthanasia, suicide and 'just' and unjust wars.

As we have set apart 2025 as the Year of Sanctity of Life, I exhort everyone in the diocese to observe some of the following befittingly so as to create an awareness of Sanctity of Life among our people and in the society:

- i) Pro-life Sunday in parishes – Homily on the theme.
- ii) Pro-life Day in schools.
- iii) March for life – Rally in parish level and in schools.
- iv) Sanctity of Life awareness in hospitals + dispensaries.
- v) Respect for life drawing competition – for catechism children.
- vi) Day for unborn babies.
- vii) Day for the sick.
- viii) Day for grandparents and elderly.
- ix) Mothers' Day.
- x) Fathers' Day.
- xi) Family Day.
- xii) Environment Day - Respect for all forms of life.
- xiii) Animals Day - Blessing of Animals etc.

These observances may guide our people to build up a strong society where there is mutual respect, seeking welfare of one another and deep awareness of our participating role in divine life. We shall resolve to make conscious efforts to create awareness of dignity of life among our faithful and others. Kindly do needful to curtail any tendency of voluntary termination of human life in any form. Cherish and nourish a dignified life to every human person in whatever way possible. May God bless everyone.



Yours devotedly in Christ

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

NB: Kindly explain the context and content of this Pastoral Letter during homily 21 September Sunday and do what is needful to create awareness of sanctity and dignity of human life among our faithful and others.