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From the Editor's Desk: The Sacredness and Dignity of Human Life

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From the Editor's Desk



The Sacredness and Dignity of Human Life

As we contemplate the trends in modern society it has become quite apparent that there is an increasing lack of respect for the sacredness and dignity of life. This lack of respect for life did not begin recently but rather has been with human society a long time. In a recent text by Alan Bullock, a British historian, *Hitler and Stalin: Parallel Lives*, he recounts the terrible tale these two megalomaniacs, autocratic dictators, visited upon civilization. Hitler's crimes are well known to us but Stalin's less so. His ruthless treatment of his own people throughout his career is truly appalling. Estimates of fifty to sixty million individuals liquidated by Stalin in the USSR are recounted in telling detail by Bullock. This utter disregard for the rights and dignity of the individual are being continued in our own day but in less vivid forms. Witness the massacres we have heard about in Cambodia and more recently in Yugoslavia and South Africa. In the United States, a massacre of the unborn to the tune of 1.7 million per year has been reported.

We greet these statistics with less shock today than we used to because of our increased accommodation to these phenomena. We continue to be bombarded daily by euthanasia stories and the reasons for it. The newspapers report frivolous killings over coats, petty disputes, etc. in which human passion is unleashed with deadly force. In the field of medical research, death is trivialized in fetal tissue research in which living fetal tissue is used in transplantation procedures for the benefit of another.

In all of the foregoing, the sacredness and dignity of the individual is sacrificed and violated. It is as if the world has gone mad with human society turning upon itself.

While the foregoing has been most depressing to contemplate, the Christian view of life is one of faith, hope, and love. Christ's message to us is to lift up

our hearts, confess our sins, repent for our faults, and to join with Him in His Life. The eternal message for us in this life is to have faith in Him and to continue to believe in Him and His Church. While modern society seems to be hell-bent on its own destruction, we must continue to trust in Him and His message.

Perhaps the Creator has His own purposes in seeing His creation going through so much turmoil. Perhaps we cannot fathom His reasons but like Job we must continue to trust in His Providence. When we see the generosity and goodness of the young it is like balm to the troubled spirit. Young people devoting themselves to the poor, the destitute, and the afflicted is a sign to us all that the Spirit of Christ is with us still, that this Spirit will continue to permeate human society for all time to come.

While evil penetrates the world and finds its ultimate expression in a disrespect for the dignity and sacredness of human life, it is reassuring to know that Christ Himself assured us that He has overcome the world and will be with us forever.

— **John P. Mullooly, M.D.**
Editor
