

Pray, Grow, & Serve

Learning about the dignity of the human person

The PELICAN
PROJECT

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 14th | Green

Truth Matters!

“Human life is sacred and inviolable at every stage and in every situation; it is an indivisible good” (Gospel of Life, 87)

$$2 + 2 = 4$$

Grow: I’m sure you know that $2+2=4$. Whether you’re counting chocolate bars, brussels sprouts, or basketballs, when you have two and add two more, you have four! This is an objectively true statement, which means that it is not influenced by outside conditions, opinions, or feelings. It does not matter if I am happy, sad, frustrated, anxious, if I enjoy math, or dislike the number four; $2+2$ always = 4.

Can you think of any other objectively true statements?

I can think of two! **1.) Human life is sacred. 2.) Every human person has dignity.** These are always true statements and will never change!

The Truth Holds Us Accountable

Serve: If I take a test at school and don’t answer $2+2$ with the number 4, my teacher will mark the answer wrong. If I am at a store and purchase two books that are \$2 a piece, the cashier will charge me \$4. If I give her \$3 and run out with the two books, she will likely call the police because I have taken something I haven’t paid for (that is stealing)! As you can see, often the truth requires a specific response, or there is a negative consequence.

In the same way, **knowing that human life is sacred requires a specific response** – we must respect, protect, love, and **serve** every human life from the moment life begins (conception) to the moment life naturally ends.

A Consistent Ethic of Life

The Church helps us to understand this responsibility. The USCCB explains that when a person is most vulnerable (unable to care for or protect themselves), such as when they are very old, very sick, or very young (including the unborn), they *especially* need our commitment of love and care. **In every situation involving a human person, their life must always be carefully protected from harm!** The Church calls this a “consistent ethic of life.”

Just like $2+2$ always equals 4, human life is always sacred, deserving love and protection. When someone denies this truth there are negative consequences – they deeply hurt their neighbor, the heart of God, and themselves.

Blessed Marianna Biernacka

Pray: Marianna was born into a humble family in the late 1800’s. While she did not have the opportunity to go to school for very long, she did learn to love God deeply! When she was 20, she married a farmer named Ludwig. Together, they had four children. Their son, Stanislaw grew to be big and strong. He married a beautiful girl named Anna and lived with his parents to help with their farm. Soon, Anna had a daughter named Genia and was pregnant with another child on the way! Marianna loved being a grandmother very much.

In 1939, Hitler invaded Poland. Hitler allowed his heart to be taken over by evil and targeted all Jewish people, sentencing them to death. One day, Hitler’s troops, the Nazis, knocked on Anna and Stanislaw’s door; they had orders to kill them both. Anna was 8 months pregnant. Marianna begged the Nazis to take her instead of Anna. The Nazis agreed and led Stanislaw and Marianna to their death.

Marianna gave her life in the place of her daughter-in-law and her unborn grandchild. She understood the precious value of human life. She was a brave, faith-filled woman. Pope St. John Paul II declared her “blessed” as a martyr for the Catholic faith. This week, pray for the intercession of Blessed Marianna!

