

DEAR FATHER JOE,...

A sampling of letters from our 2nd year Confirmation students

"Now that [Confirmation] classes have started I make it a priority to get to church for both the mass but also my religion class. This has moved me even closer to God and my prayer life has been much more significant."

"I am asking to receive Confirmation because I want to do it to be an adult member of the Church, and not feel as if I still am the 'young' church-goer. To be honest, I would also like to go to Mass, to go to Mass. In other words, I would like to go to Mass and not have the requirement of placing a card in the basket and being treated as a student (which I am) that has requirements like in school. I would like to go to church knowing that I am going not because I have to, but because I want to."

"I want to be united to God, the fullness of Truth."

"...we can always trust in God when you don't understand because you are part of his plan."

"...no matter what happens within my life and the actions that I make, God will always be there to help and forgive through confessions."

"Also, through Mass, I have learned that all the readings and gospels connect to our modern day lives if we think deeper about the meanings."

"I don't look at this event as an end, but as a beginning."



A MESSAGE FROM OUR
CULTURE OF LIFE MINISTRY

Physician-Assisted Suicide: Trivializing the Value of Life

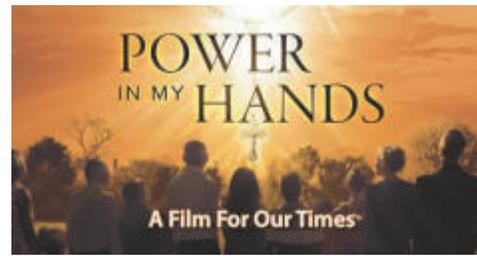
The effort to legalize Physician-Assisted Suicide in CT was recently (again) defeated in our state's legislature. Why should this defeat be so meaningful to us? We, as Christians, need to understand the answer to this question, and promote the protection of life as a gift from God, regardless of circumstances.

From the Arlington Catholic Herald:

So how do we as Christians respond? First, both the dignity of each individual person and the gift of life are sacred. We respect the sacredness of the continuum of life from conception until death. Each person has been willed by God, and each person has a purpose — no matter what the particular circumstances of the present moment. We have a vision not only for life here and now on this planet and in this time frame, but also for eternal life, hopefully with Almighty God in Heaven. Therefore, each person is bound to lead his life in accord with God's plan and with openness to His will, looking to life's fulfillment in Heaven. Rather than looking at the end of a physical life without hope, we have hope: death is only a passing to the fullness of life with Our Lord.

Second, although Our Lord suffered a slow, debilitating, excruciating death, we see this as the greatest act of redemptive love. Therefore, our own pain and suffering does not lessen our dignity, just as it did not lessen Our Lord's dignity. Our own pain and suffering is not worthless, but is redemptive when united with Our Lord. Each of us has been baptized into Christ's passion, death and resurrection. We all share in Our Lord's cross, and that at times may be very painful. This suffering, however, especially at the last moments of one's life, must be seen as a sharing in Our Lord's sufferings. By uniting our suffering with Our Lord's, we expiate the hurt caused by our own sins and help to expiate the sins of others, just as some of the early martyrs did who offered their sufferings for sinners. Sometimes, such suffering finally heals the wounds that have divided families. Our Lord offers tremendous graces to those who suffer and those who suffer with them.

Third, when we love, can a dying person really be an unbearable burden on the family? The family members who care for the dying relative share in suffering. They support the person with love, showing that the dying relative has dignity, is loved, is wanted, and will be cared for until death. Rather than cut short precious time that can be spent together in this life, they support each other in life and love. I do not know a person who has lost a beloved spouse, parent, or child who would not say, "If only I could have had more time with that person."



SAVE THE DATE!

Power In My Hands Movie Coming To Our Parish

May 18, 2019

6:00pm-7:30pm in St. Paul Church

A story of Hope and the Power of Prayer

81 minute film for all ages

St. Paul Parish has the opportunity to experience the Rosary like never before. *Power In My Hands*, featuring a 13 member all-star cast, conveys the timeless message of hope and the power of the Rosary in a way that speaks to the heart of modern viewers. Don't miss this opportunity to transform your life!

Find out more at powerinmyhandsthemovie.com.

This amazing film has captivated audiences worldwide and inspired people of all ages to encounter Jesus Christ through the Rosary. This is a unique opportunity for members of our parish to come together and to share in the beauty and the power of this devotion.

Join us and invite a friend!

ADMISSION IS FREE! After the movie, enjoy refreshments and Q&A with Fr. Michael in the Church Hall.

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #3675

Thank you for your continued support in promoting
a Culture of Life.



Doctors predicted
Gianna Jessen
would never even
lift her head.... →

Read Gianna's story at
<http://giannaajessen.com/>



Unplanned is the inspiring true story of one woman's journey of transformation. For information and local showtimes, visit: <https://www.unplannedfilm.com/> Now showing in Plainville.

The overwhelming circumstances of a moment can be endured and conquered by knowing the love of Jesus and the family members who care.