

A Letter from Fr. Patrick Kizza

October 5, 2025

Respect Life Month: *"...Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is Necessary"*

Dear brothers and sisters; In his first address to the Diplomatic Corps of the Holy See, Pope Leo XIV reminded the world: *"... no one is exempted from striving to ensure respect for the dignity of every person, especially the most frail and vulnerable, from the unborn to the elderly, from the sick to the unemployed, citizens and immigrants alike."* These words echo the very heart of the Gospel and resound with urgency in our own time.

Every October, the Catholic Church in the United States observes **Respect Life Month**, beginning with Respect Life Sunday. It is a sacred moment to renew our unwavering commitment to the dignity of every human life from conception to natural death. **This year's theme, "Life: Our Sign of Hope," flows beautifully from the Jubilee Year of Hope, inviting us to be the light in the darkness and witnesses to God's promise, that His vision of life, love and "hope will not disappoint" (Romans 5:5).**

Our longing for hope is depicted in the prophet Habakkuk who is speaking to us today: *"How long, O Lord? I cry for help, but you do not listen! I cry out to you, 'Violence!' but you do not intervene."* He decried the breakdown of society of Judah and why God seemed to permit it. Even in our time we cry like Habakkuk; violence and strife, abortion, assisted suicide, capital punishment, gun violence, poverty, war, and the mistreatment of the vulnerable. Yet Habbakkuk did not just complain but rather he engaged directly with honest cry to God; *"How long, O Lord? Like in his time, the Lord assures us: that the righteous will live by their faith in His plan "...will not disappoint, if it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late."* Our faith anchors us in this promise: even in hardships, life remains God's greatest gift, and faith itself, grounded in the encounter with Christ and supported by hope, provides the authentic meaning of life and allows believers to face life's difficulties with secure trust in God's promises. *"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed... it would obey you.* This is the power; that even a tiny amount of true faith Jesus says can accomplish great things.

In the same faith, Christ invites us to pray as we decry like Habbakkuk against the injustices in our society today. May this Respect Life Month, be a time of interceding that all those involved in all sorts of injustices may heed to God's Voice *"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts., (Psalm 95),* Let us pray for the world to see life as a sign of hope as willed by God. As Benedict XVI taught us *"Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is Necessary"*.



Fr. Patrick