

MASS FOR GIVING THANKS TO GOD  
FOR THE GIFT OF HUMAN LIFE



DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE  
MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

## LIFE AS A GIFT FROM GOD

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (2271) states: “Since the first century, the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law.” From the earliest times, Christians sharply distinguished themselves from surrounding pagan cultures by rejecting abortion and infanticide. Early abortion was seen as attacking a being with a human destiny, being prepared by God to receive an immortal soul (cf. Jeremiah 1:5: “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you”).

With the discovery of the human ovum, scientists increasingly understood that the union of sperm and egg at conception produces a new living being that is distinct from both mother and father. Modern genetics demonstrated that this individual is, at the outset, distinctively human, with the inherent and active potential to mature into a human fetus, infant, child and adult. Secular laws against abortion were being reformed at the same time and in the same way, based on secular medical experts’ realization that “no other doctrine appears to be consonant with reason or physiology but that which admits the embryo to possess vitality from the very moment of conception” (American Medical Association, *Report on Criminal Abortion*, 1871).

Thus, modern science has not changed the Church’s constant teaching against abortion but has underscored how important and reasonable it is by confirming that the life of each individual of the human species begins with the earliest embryo. Given the *scientific* fact that a human life begins at conception, the only moral norm needed to understand the Church’s opposition to abortion is the principle that *each and every human life has inherent dignity, and thus must be treated with the respect due to a human person*. This is the foundation for the Church’s social doctrine. Conversely, to claim that some live human beings do *not* deserve respect or should *not* be treated as “persons” (based on changeable

factors such as age, condition, location, or lack of mental or physical abilities) is to deny the very idea of *inherent* human rights. Such a claim undermines respect for the lives of many vulnerable people before and after birth.

The over 60 million abortions since the 1973 decisions of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* reflect with heartbreaking magnitude what Pope Francis means by a “throwaway culture.” However, we have great trust in God’s providence. We are reminded time and again in Scripture to seek the Lord’s help, and as people of faith, we believe that our prayers are heard.

- *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

*A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer.*

Pope Saint John Paul II  
Evangelium Vitae

## Prelude

*Prelude on 'Urbs Beata'*

Richard Dirksen

“Blessed City, Heavenly Salem, vision dear of peace and love, who, of living stones upbuilt, art the joy of Heav'n above, and, with angel cohorts circled, as a Bride to earth dost move! Bright with pearls her portal glitters; it is open evermore; and, by virtue of His merits, thither faithful souls may soar, who for Christ's dear Name, in this world pain and tribulation bore.”

*Virgo Dei Genetrix (from Trois Esquisses Gothiques)*

Jean Langlais

“O Virgin Mother of God, He whom the whole earth cannot contain, enclosed Himself, made man, within your womb. The true faith of the Son has cleansed the world's sins, and your virginity remains inviolate. Mother of tenderness, the world is crying out to you for your help: come to the aid of your servants, O blessed lady. Great glory be to the Father, equal glory be to the Son; and the Holy Spirit, great glory to God. Amen.”

*Cortège et Litanie, Op. 19 No. 2*

Marcel Dupré

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***Please note:*** *Congregational singing is temporarily suspended at the Cathedral as a health precaution; therefore, we ask you to please refrain from singing in today's Mass.*

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## Processional Hymn

*Christus Vincit*

Jan Kunc

Christ conquers! Christ reigns! Christ commands! To Francis, Supreme Pontiff and universal Father: peace, life and continual health. To John, Most Reverend Bishop, and all the clergy entrusted to him: peace, life and continual health. May good times come; may the peace of Christ come! May Christ's kingdom come!

## The Introductory Rites

### Sign of the Cross and Greeting

*Bishop:* In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*Assembly:* Amen.

*Bishop:* Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ. (*or similar*)

*Assembly:* And with your spirit.

### Penitential Act

*Assembly:* I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

### Kyrie

*Mass of All Saints, Russell Weismann*

*Cantor alone:*

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

### Collect

*Assembly:* **Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading

Isaiah 49: 1-6

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

Hear me, O islands, listen, O distant peoples. The Lord called me from birth, from my mother's womb he gave me my name. He made of me a sharp-edged sword and concealed me in the shadow of his arm. He made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me. You are my servant, he said to me, Israel, through whom I show my glory.

Though I thought I had toiled in vain, and for nothing, uselessly, spent my strength, yet my reward is with the Lord, my recompense is with my God. For now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb, that Jacob may be brought back to him and Israel gathered to him; and I am made glorious in the sight of the Lord, and my God is now my strength! It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*Assembly:* Thanks be to God.

## Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 139: 1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15*

Peter Latona

*Cantor alone:*

℟. I praise you, for I am wonderfully made.

and my rest you scrutinize, with all my ways you are familiar.

O Lord, you have probed me,  
you know me: you know when I sit  
and when I stand, you understand  
my thoughts from afar. My journeys

Truly you have formed my inmost  
being; you knit me in my mother's  
womb. I give you thanks that I am  
fearfully, wonderfully made;

wonderful are your works.

My soul also you knew full well;  
nor was my frame unknown to you

when I was made in secret,  
when I was fashioned in the depths  
of the earth.

## Second Reading

1 John 3: 11-21

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John.

Beloved: This is the message you have heard from the beginning: we should love one another, unlike Cain who belonged to the Evil One and slaughtered his brother. Why did he slaughter him? Because his own works were evil, and those of his brother righteous. Do not be amazed, then, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him? Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*Assembly:* Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation

*Cantor alone:*

℟ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

℣ In your mercy, give me life, O Lord,  
and I will do your commands.

## Gospel

Luke 23: 35-43

*Deacon:* The Lord be with you.

*Assembly:* And with your spirit.

*Deacon:* A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*Assembly:* Glory to you, O Lord.

The rulers sneered at Jesus and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God." Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself." Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews."

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*Assembly:* Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

### Profession of Faith

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,



## RENEWAL OF THE CONSECRATION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*(All bow while saying)*  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated  
at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Universal Prayer

*Assembly:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

# Liturgy of the Eucharist

## Preparation of the Altar and the Gifts

### Hymn

*Come, Let Us Worship and Acclaim Our Maker*

arr. Healey Willan

Come, let us worship and acclaim our Maker; boundless in power, bountiful in mercy, who has bestowed on Mary ever-Virgin grace without measure. He who is mighty has done great things for her; first of these wonders, which in song we honor, is her conception, holy and untainted, free from corruption. Eve by her sin brought death to all the living; Mary, the new Eve, sinless and unsinning, mends Eve's offense and offers to her children hope of redemption. God has prepared her, clothed her with salvation, made her a temple where the Word incarnate, finds a fit dwelling faultless and unblemished, gracious and loving. Worship and honor render to the Father, praise to the Son and glory to the Spirit; sing we with Mary hymns of adoration, joy and thanksgiving.

## Preface Dialogue

*Bishop:* The Lord be with you.

*Assembly:* And with your spirit.

*Bishop:* Lift up your hearts.

*Assembly:* We lift them up to the Lord.

*Bishop:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*Assembly:* It is right and just.

## Preface Acclamation

*Assembly:* Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## Memorial Acclamation

*Assembly:* We proclaim your death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

## Great Amen

*Assembly:* Amen.

# Communion Rite

## Lord's Prayer

## Sign of Peace

*Bishop:* The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
*Assembly:* And with your spirit.

## Lamb of God

*Mass of All Saints, Russell Weismann*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.

## Communion Antiphon

Psalm 36: 10

Mode IV

With you, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in your light, we see light.

## Communion Procession

*Blessed Are the Pure in Heart*

Peter Latona

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who suffer persecution for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. O blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. O blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted. O blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth. O blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be satisfied. O blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy. O blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God. O blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God. O blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. O blessed are you when the world reviles you and persecutes you and utters all manner of evil against you for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad for great is your reward in heaven.

## The Concluding Rites

### Solemn Blessing and Dismissal

### Closing Hymn

*Now Let Us from This Table Rise*

DEUS TUORUM MILITUM

Now let us from this table rise renewed in body, mind and soul; with Christ we die and rise again, His selfless love has made us whole. With minds alert, upheld by grace, to spread the word in speech and deed, we follow in the steps of Christ, at one with all in hope and need. To fill each human house with love, it is the sacrament of care; the work that Christ began to do we humbly pledge ourselves to share. Then grant us courage, caring God, to choose again the pilgrim way and help us to accept with joy the challenge of tomorrow's day.

### Postlude

*Tocatta (from Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Op. 13)*

Charles-Marie Widor