



Diocese of Palm Beach

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THE BISHOP

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October 24, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord:

It is a great joy for me to welcome you to the 2020 *Culture of Life Conference* which is virtually taking place from the Diocese of Palm Beach. The coronavirus pandemic prevents us from hosting this Conference in the usual manner but we are all joined in prayer and spirit as we continue to give witness to the gift of life which is at the heart of these days together, no matter where we may be.

It is fitting that the theme for this year is *Conception to Natural Death*. It is also fitting that it is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the great encyclical on life, *Evangelium Vitae*, of Saint John Paul II. That encyclical which begins with the words, “The Gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus’ message,” inspires us for this Conference. Indeed, Jesus embraced our human life by taking it to Himself which was the sign of its inviolable dignity as a gift from His Father from the moment of His conception in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

I thank all of you for your commitment to the protection of the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. Your efforts and prayers make a great difference to a world and society that need to appreciate the gift of life. May the Patroness of the Diocese of Palm Beach, Our Lady Queen of the Apostles, continue to share with all of us what she treasured in her heart, the Gospel of life.

With every prayerful wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito
Bishop of Palm Beach