



**NATIONAL PASTORAL INITIATIVE  
FOR LIFE AND THE FAMILY**

**Suggestions for Homilies and Prayers of the Faithful**

**“I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly.” ~John 10:10b**

When Jesus reminds us that he came that we might have life, he does so in the context of laying down his own life for our sake. Defending life in our country and even in our faith communities can cause division, fear of judgment and limit our relations with others. Yet Jesus continues to offer abundant life to all, and invites us to be one with him in receiving, protecting and nurturing life.

Proclaiming the “Gospel of Life” is unavoidable if the Good News is to be incarnated in the lives of his disciples. Why not take up the challenge to include some element of the culture of life each Sunday in your parish, and whenever possible in your daily life? To be consistent with “the Gospel of Life”, we need to do it in a way that inspires unity, and dissipates fear and judgment. All of us, ordained and lay, are called to open others to the kind of relationships that make discipleship truly life-giving.

Each week, you will find here suggestions for a homily, a prayer of the faithful or an insight which can be used to foster the abundant life that Jesus came to bring us. These suggestions can also be easily adapted for family and personal prayer, or for presentations when participating with other groups or organizations. Every parish and each of us individually, are invited to make Christ’s life abundant, relevant and approachable for all.

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**JUNE 7, 2020 – SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**

**Homily Idea:** *God’s life gives us life.*

In the middle of the mystery that is the Trinity, there is a beautiful truth for us to live into: the relationship between the persons of the Trinity is the life of the persons inside the relationship as well as gives life to the persons beyond it. As we live in relationship, with God and one another, we are invited into this same life-giving abundance. Do our friendships have space for others to join us? Does our family draw others in? Are our relationships at work and school a gift for others? This week, spend some time thinking about how your relationships spill over with grace, so that the grace of Jesus, and the love of the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit flows out of your faith.

**Prayer of the Faithful:** For life to flow out of our relationships for ourselves and for the world, we pray to the Lord.

**Prayer for Bulletins, Small Groups or Families:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, draw us into the dance of life, where there is always room for more of your people. Help us make space for the people you want to bless through our relationships. Amen.

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## **JUNE 14, 2020 – SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (*Corpus Christi*)**

**Homily Idea:** *God feeds our bodies and our souls, to fill us with life now and into eternity.*

The Eucharist is a gift and a mystery, one we have been longing for this spring in light of the pandemic fasting we have been living. Sacraments are always about the coming together of the spiritual and the physical: visible signs that point us to an invisible reality. It seems like an abstract idea, but it has really practical application. God feeds our hearts and our bodies. One is not above the other. The life that comes from the Eucharist is both physical, in that it nourishes us, and spiritual in that it offers us grace. Long before Jesus walked on the earth, Moses reminds us, God offered manna in the desert even while He reminded us we do not live on bread alone. While we have hungered for the Eucharist, and gathering together, God has also been showing up in the prayers and meals of our domestic churches, in our forgiveness and our washing. While we long for the Sacraments, our experience of them can give us eyes to see sacramental reality where we are until we can celebrate together again.

**Prayer of the Faithful:** For a hunger for the Sacraments that allows us to see God showing up in our ordinary lives, we pray to the Lord.

**Prayer for Bulletins, Small Groups or Families:** Jesus, you have loved us by your Body and Blood, that we might taste and see how faithful you are. Eternal life is the continuation of what we taste, see and celebrate now. May we look for you now and always. Amen.

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## **JUNE 21, 2020 – 12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, Year A**

**Homily Idea:** *People have immeasurable value in God's eyes.*

In the world we inhabit, value is always measured. The most valuable things are more valuable than others. But in the economy of God, we are immeasurably valuable, which is how sin fails to threaten our worth. Nothing can separate us – or anyone else – from God's love. So next time you're looking in the mirror, ask how God sees you. When someone cuts you off in traffic, or says something you disagree with, ask how God sees them. So often our inclination is to compare ourselves with others to see who is worth more. This is a trap. We are all immeasurably valuable, which lets us step outside of competition and allow ourselves to love and be loved without measuring.

**Prayer of the Faithful:** For eyes to see ourselves and each other as God does, we pray to the Lord.

**Prayer for Bulletins, Small Groups or Families:** God of love, teach us your abundant economy of love. May we see ourselves how you see us, so when we look out at your people we see immeasurable value and worth. Amen.

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## **JUNE 28, 2020 – 13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, Year A**

**Homily Idea:** *We need to speak God's goodness to remember its power in our lives.*

In the midst of challenges, it can be easy to forget God's goodness. Death, loss, fear, struggle – so many things threaten our memory of God's goodness. The Psalmist offers us an invitation to sing *forever* of God's goodness. Right where things are difficult for us now, what goodness is there in the middle of it? God has been faithful throughout generations before us, and His faithfulness has carried us into the present moment. After all the ways God has blessed us, why do we let fear and doubt carry this moment? In part because we start speaking

the fear instead of the faith. When we speak God's goodness *forever*, we have less space for fear: "*Forever* I will sing the goodness of the Lord."

**Prayer of the Faithful:** For faith to sing of God's goodness *forever*, we pray to the Lord.

**Prayer for Bulletins, Small Groups or Families:** Good and gracious God, open our lips to proclaim your faithfulness. Especially when our lives are overwhelming or difficult, help us draw deeply on the roots of your goodness, in our own lives and for generations before us. Give us deep trust that you will work all things for good. Amen.

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