

# Remembering the Common Good

In his letter, *Gaudete et Exsultate* ("Rejoice and Be Glad"), Pope Francis links many life issues together and urges us to see them as essential parts of a whole understanding of life.



“ Our defense of the innocent unborn, for example, needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development. Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection.[1] ”



Pope Francis reminds governments, corporations, society and the whole world that no one is expendable and that each person made in God's image and likeness is to be cherished and protected.

We have seen our society go to great lengths to protect people, especially the vulnerable from COVID 19. Such efforts are admirable and in line with our Catholic understanding of the sacredness of life and our duty to protect and uphold life.

There are other areas in which the Sanctity of Life is under attack and Pope Francis clearly names them in the above quote. Now, as the Queensland election approaches is a good time to reflect on these issues and how our elected representatives have responded to them. Please take a moment to read through the Queensland Bishops' Statement *The Common Good in a COVID World*, prepared especially with the forthcoming state election in mind.

There are many issues before us but the defence of human life and how each party and candidate views issues such as abortion, euthanasia, care for the poor, the unemployed, and the environment are among the most important we face as a community. The upholding of human life and the dignity of human life needs to be the primary concern of our elected representatives. On Sanctity of Life Sunday Bishop Michael will share a pastoral letter on these issues.

Prepared by Bishop's Advisory Panel on Sanctity of Life Issues 2020

[1] *Gaudete et Exsultate* 101