## SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY

"And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."" (Matthew 9:35-38)

"Then God said, 'Let us make humanity in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." (Genesis

"We affirm that all human life—at whatever stage of development, from conception to death; at whatever socio-economic status; and at whatever level of physical or intellectual capability—is sacred, because all human beings are created in God's image. Even when this image has been corrupted by our sin, every human being is still worthy of honor and respect. There is nothing more valuable in all of creation than a human life."

"As such, we work to defend the dignity, worth, and wonder of every human life, especially the vulnerable, as we labor to promote their welfare and seek their salvation by God's grace."

### Psalm 146:5-6

5 Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, 6 who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever...

#### Psalm 146:7-9

7 ...who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free. 8 The LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. The LORD loves the righteous. 9 The LORD watches over the sojourners. He upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.



- Prov. 14:31
- Prov. 22:22-23
- Prov. 23:10-11
- Ps. 68:5-6
- Matt. 18:5-6
- 1 Thess. 4:4-6

# Our Objection: "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Christ's Response: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."

### "And who is my neighbor?"

- O Whose worth and value are being questioned in our community?
- Who is left vulnerable, without an advocate or defender?
- Who is ignored, downplayed, and dehumanized?

# You know God's heart. What do you discern love requires of us today?