

A Link In The Life Chain

By the Most Rev. James A. Tamayo, D.D.

How can I make a difference?

How do I know what God's will is for me?

These are just two questions of many that faith believers often ask themselves. These days, with all the distractions of the modern world, it is sometimes difficult to hear what God is saying.

Sometimes, we just need to slow down, take a break and reflect.

Tomorrow afternoon presents a perfect opportunity with the annual Life Chain that starts on the corner of Hillside and McPherson and moves north.

Hundreds of people, young and old, of faith and goodwill take to the streets in a peaceful and prayerful gathering as witnesses to the sanctity of life from the moment of conception until natural death.

And all of you are welcome to become a link in the Life Chain and spend time in prayer from 2:30 until 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 4, 2009.

For the past nine-years, citizens of our community have gathered along this major thoroughfare in a peaceful effort to bring awareness to our community that all human life is sacred. Through this Life Chain, faithful followers pray the Holy Rosary and give grateful witness for the life we have received from our parents and from the Divine Creator, God.

The Catholic Church in the United States recognizes October as the month of Respect Life and of the Holy Rosary.

As a result, the Office of Respect Life in the Diocese of Laredo welcomes this opportunity to spread the Good News about our compassionate and merciful Father.

The annual Life Chain becomes a vehicle to educate others on the gift of life given to us by God and on the sanctity of human life.

How can I make a difference?

Participate in the annual Life Chain on October 4th by becoming a strong link protecting and respecting the life of every person born and unborn.

This brings to mind the words of St. Dorotheus of Gaza who asked us to imagine that the world is a circle, that God is the center and that the radii are the different ways human beings live. When those who wish to come closer to God walk towards the center of the circle, they come closer to one another at the same time as to God. The closer they come to God, the closer they come to one another.

And the closer they come to one another, the closer they come to God.

From 2:30 to 3:30 at the corner of McPherson and Hillside, we will not be forming a circle but our Life Chain will link us closer to each other and draw us closer to God who gives us life.

How do I know what God's will is for me?

Many times over, in Scripture and in everyday life, we hear of, or experience, the miraculous effects of prayer and trust in God.

Remember the Blessed Virgin Mary's words at the wedding at Cana. "Do whatever he tells you," (John 2:5).

So how do you start to pray and listen for His will?

Live a life that gives honor and glory to the one who created us in His divine image. One person who did that and who lived her life doing God's will was our Blessed Mother.

The Blessed Mother exclaims, "my soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior." (Luke 1:47)

On Wednesday, October 7th, Catholics throughout the world will observe the feast day of *Nuestra Señora del Rosario* (Our Lady of the Rosary).

You can learn the different prayers and the different mysteries of the rosary, which highlights the life of Christ and of the Blessed Mother, by listening every morning at 6 a.m. and every evening at 10 p.m. to KHOY 88.1 F.M. for the recitation of the Holy Rosary.

This is a great way for the family to learn and pray together.

In the privacy and comfort of your home, you can pray with your parents, grandparents, children and whomever else resides with you.

What better way to start and conclude your day than by praying?

So next time you pray the rosary and offer your prayer intentions to the Lord, be assured our merciful Father hears your prayers and will continue blessing each and every one of you *Todo Con Amor*.

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