



March 3, 2010

Dear Friends:

Fifteen years ago, Pope John Paul II wrote a landmark encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae*.

What Pope John Paul II wrote in *Evangelium Vitae*, *The Gospel of Life*, is that life gives us a million opportunities to make the world a better place; death gives us only one lonely answer to contemporary fears.

“We are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the ‘culture of death’ and the ‘culture of life,’” Pope John Paul II wrote. We are “in the midst of this conflict: we are involved and we all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life” (#28).

The call to be a life-affirming people is a simple one: we must do all we can to secure protection for all human life and to promote the dignity of every human being without exception. Then, we must take an active interest in public discussion of every issue that impacts the dignity and sacredness of human life. Nothing can exclude us from this discussion, no matter the efforts to marginalize us, no matter the efforts to ridicule us.

“We are asked to love and honor the life of every man and woman and to work with perseverance and courage so that our time, marked by all too many signs of death, may at last witness the establishment of a new culture of life, the fruit of the culture of truth and love” (#77).

This is the call of the Missionaries of the Gospel of Life. This is the call we celebrate and renew in ourselves today.

We as the Church of Pittsburgh welcome the Missionaries of the Gospel of Life who help us mark the 15th anniversary of *Evangelium Vitae*. Please join them and myself in Saint Paul Cathedral at Mass at 12:05 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, 2010, the great Solemnity of the Annunciation.

Grateful for our belief that “Nothing is Impossible with God,” I am

Your brother in Christ,

Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh

DAZ:jkb