

What is being Pro-Life
&
How can that prove there is value in human suffering?

God's love does not differentiate between the newly conceived infant still in his or her mother's womb and the child or young person, or the adult and the elderly person. God does not distinguish between them because he sees an impression of his own image and likeness (Gn 1:26) in each one. He makes no distinctions because he perceives in all of them a reflection of the face of his Only-begotten Son, whom "he chose...before the foundation of the world....He destined us in love to be his sons...according to the purpose of his will" (Eph 1:4-6) This boundless and almost incomprehensible love of God for the human being reveals the degree to which the human person deserves to be loved in himself, independently of any other consideration-intelligence, beauty, health, youth, integrity, and so forth. In short, human life is always good, for it "is a manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory" (Evangelium Vitae, n. 34)

Saints to look to for guidance:

Saint Pope John Paul the Great: "It is suffering, more than anything else, which clears the way for the grace which transforms human souls."

Saint John Vianney: "God commands you to pray but forbids you to worry."

Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska: "If the angels were capable of envy, they would envy us for two things: One is the receiving of Holy Communion, and the other is suffering."

Saint Peregrine Laziosi: "No one loves suffering for itself. But to suffer out of love, and in an attitude of acceptance and trust is to follow Jesus."

Saint Nunzio Sulprizio: "Jesus suffered so much for us and by his merits we await eternal life. If we suffer a little bit we will taste the joy of paradise. Jesus suffered a lot for me, why should I not suffer for him? I would die in order to convert even one sinner."

Question for discussion from the video:

1. We have been hearing a lot about "human dignity", how/where do we see "dignity for human life" in this video?
2. For many people who suffer illness or disease, the #1 option in the *culture of death* is *Euthanasia* (the taking of one's life to end suffering). Why is that option in direct

opposition to the culture of life we as Catholics are called to live? (Think of more than just the obvious answer to this question)

3. After watching this video, how will it change the way you think of those who are sick or suffering?

Going Deeper:

- Learn more about each of the Saints mentioned in this lesson.
- Read Saint John Paul the Great's Apostolic Letter "Salvific Doloris"
- Study CCC# 2299, 2300, 2301
- Read "Life and Dignity of the Human Person" on the USCCB website

Scripture:

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

James 1:2

Genesis 1:27

Job (in its entirety)

Call to Action:

As Terry asked the question in the video, "How will you face your trial when it comes? Are you growing in faith now to prepare, or pushing it aside to grow later?"

- Answer those two questions after prayer and reflection as honestly as you can.

Then begin to do what she suggests.....

"Develop a habit of offering up your little daily sufferings in faith, hope and love so that it will be easier to do when big trials come."