



*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. (Matthew 16:16b)*

God is the source of life. And the very fact that life exists is in itself a powerful testimony to His deep love and His desire for ones on whom to bestow that love. God wills to bring new life into the world and to nurture and sustain it, through the marital union of one man and one woman. The Father's intent is that marriage and the nuclear family be a reflection of the bond of deep love between the Son and His Church, now and into eternity. As the wife is to the husband, God intends for us all to be "flesh of (Jesus') flesh and bone of His bone."<sup>1</sup>

When Adam fell and brought death to all humanity, God continued to love and care for the ones whom He creates. In the fullness of time, He sent His Son to take on human flesh to be the perfect Lamb of God, to take all human sin of all time to the Cross, and then to rise again that, by grace through faith, all might be saved. Note that being saved means being brought back to life, as flesh and bone of the Son and children of the Father. Ultimately, God desires this for all people, bar none! This includes babies still in the embryonic and fetal stages of development, those who are weak and disabled, and those who are approaching the end of their earthly lives. Indeed, there is great joy in heaven every time a person believes and is baptized! And when our earthly lives do end, we can die in the confidence that we will be bodily resurrected on the Last Day to eternal life in His presence.

The annual commemoration of Life Sunday reminds us that God is a God of life. This means that all human life is precious to Him. When we proclaim the sanctity of life, we join our Gospel-motivated voices to those of St. John the Baptizer and St. Peter in proclaiming to all, including those with hardened hearts and seared consciences, that God deeply loves them and desires salvation and life, both temporal and eternal, for them too. Thanks be to God for His love and gift of life and for the privilege of sharing these with our neighbors!

Note:

1. See the Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord, Article VIII, Paragraph 78, referring to Ephesians 5:30, using the language of Genesis 2:23.