



Respect Life Sunday Homily Reflection by Paul Muller

Taken from liturgical readings, October 3rd, 2021

From the second reading:

For it was fitting that he, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the leader to their salvation perfect through suffering.

There's a phrase in today's second reading from Hebrews that is very appropriate for today's Respect Life Sunday. The phrase refers to how God brings many children to glory. The "children" that Paul wrote about refers to the early Christians of his day; and all Christians since then. And it certainly includes all the pre-born children since Paul's time. So we can take comfort in knowing that God cherishes all pre-born children and brings them into His glory.

From the Gospel reading:

And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them.

14 When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

15 Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it."

16 Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

And how fitting for today's Respect Life Sunday that the Gospel reading emphasizes Jesus' love for children. He places his hands on them. He embraces them. He blesses them. He said that the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. Jesus' intense love also includes all pre-born children. We know this because Psalm 139 speaks about the Lord knowing us; knitting us together while we were still in our mother's womb. So again, we can take great comfort in Jesus' intense love for all pre-born children. As He insisted - "let the children come to me."