



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII
DIOCESE OF HONOLULU
WITNESS TO JESUS

September 21, 2017
Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

Dear Friends of the Diocese of Honolulu,

Peace be with you!

Earlier this year our Hawaii State Legislature considered a bill that would allow physician assisted suicide in our beloved State (euphemistically called "Compassion in Choices"). I asked you to stand up for life, and you responded overwhelmingly. One media source even "blamed" the Catholic Church for the death of the bill. Thank you for being instrumental in convincing the Legislature not to pass the proposed bill! You took to heart Jesus' often spoken words, "Be not afraid!" and in love proclaimed the truth of the value of all life from the moment of conception until natural death.

While we thank God that legislation was not passed in the last session, we anticipate the issue will be presented again. Moreover, there are many other areas where the sanctity of human life is threatened, and these will continue to call for our vigilance and our courage in speaking out cogently and lovingly as the voice of those who cannot speak for themselves, such as the unborn. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has designated October as "Respect Life Month," a month in which we take time to educate ourselves on the issues of life and how we can be instruments of preserving life and enhancing the dignity of each person. Resources have been provided to each parish, and we pray that our commitment to the sanctity of life will be renewed and strengthened during these days, so that our prayer and study will bear much good fruit throughout the year.

"Be not afraid" to embrace life, and to continue to be good stewards by using the gift of your education, your vote, and your voice to enshrine the sanctity of every human life in every heart and every one of our institutions.

God bless you always!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Larry Silva
Bishop of Honolulu