

Respect Life Apostolate Steubenville Scholarship

St. Mother Teresa once said, "It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish." God tells us in the Ten Commandments, "Thou shalt not kill". Therefore it is unlawful in God's eyes to take away the life of his son or daughter. I believe that the Lord decides when people die and that we have no authority to take the precious gift of life into our own hands. This means respecting life, no matter how young or old, born or unborn. One way that anyone can respect life is to follow the virtue of chastity. Pope John Paul II says, "Chastity is a difficult, long term matter; one must wait patiently for it to bear fruit, for the happiness of loving-kindness which it must bring. But at the same time, chastity is the sure way to happiness."

What is chastity? It is a branch of the virtue of temperance, which, in short, is the moderation of action, thought or feeling. Chastity is linked to temperance because it is defined as the moderation of indulgence of the sexual appetite, or in some cases, exclusion. The Holy Spirit guides us through a life of chastity so we can learn to respect life. When people live a chaste life, the only opportunity to conceive a child is within the bond of marriage. Being chaste also means being open to life, therefore a pregnancy would be a cause for celebration, not a reason to have an abortion. If we are all chaste, there would be no need for abortion.

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