

Cycle A 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday October 8th, 2017

St. Paul says to us today, **“have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving make your requests known to God.”**

This passage of Scripture is easy to embrace when, **overall**, things are going well. However, when there is great trial and suffering and it seems like people are all alone and suffering in silence; this passage of Scripture can seem very empty. As we continue through the month of October which is respect life month, I would like to talk with you today about two life issues that cause married couples to suffer in silence.

The first life issue that is very real and very painful is when couples experience the miscarriage of an unborn baby. All of the joy and excitement of this new life is suddenly gone. This causes deep mourning for the parents, siblings grandparents and family and friends. For those parents and families who have experienced this great loss, the Church, the Body of Christ, fellow believers extend our sympathies and prayers. We want to walk with you and **listen** to you during this difficult time. The key word in this statement is “listen.” The only words that give some assurance and express our truth of faith is: **“I will pray for you.”** And, **“know that you have your own personal saint in heaven praying for you right now.”**

We believe in the communion of saints. And, Jesus Himself said this, **“Let the children come to me and do not prevent them for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”** We take Jesus at His Word since He is God.

For those couples who continue to struggle after a miscarriage there are people who have experienced what you have experienced and now offer a ministry to hurting couples such as Heaven’s Gain Ministry right here in Cincinnati with my friend Donna Murphy . The Church in her wisdom also has a rite of Christian burial for babies who die before birth. So, the Church extends prayers and sympathies to hurting couples and desires to walk with you.

The second life issue that is very real and very painful for couples is when couples are unable to have children due to infertility. This is also a cause of great suffering. Couples generously desire children and to love them. Here too, the Church wants to walk with you and listen to you during this difficult time. The words we offer today are: **“we will pray for you.”** The reason or reasons as to why a couple may not be able to have children is unique to each couple. There is not a one size fits all solution. New medical technology has developed called NaPro Technology. NaPro stands for natural procreative technology. This science is in harmony with God’s design. The science is being further developed at the Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction. Slowly we are having more medical professionals become trained in NaPro Technology.

This technology can also help those couples who have previously experienced miscarriages. Perhaps this will give some hope to hurting couples.

We pray for all couples who are suffering with miscarriage or infertility. If you know a couple that is suffering share this homily with them. It is on the parish website. In closing may these words of St Paul give hope and comfort, **“Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”**

<http://www.heavensgain.com/>

<http://www.popepaulvi.com/about.php>