



October 3, 2017

Dear Friend in Christ,

How fitting that Sunday we celebrated Respect Life Month and the feast of St. Therese of Lisieux, the “little flower.” Such a beautiful and humble woman, a doctor of the Church, showed us in her life that “without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing.” My prayer this Respect Life Sunday is that we live by her example, doing all things with great love.

The Lord tells us not to fear because He is always with us. Assured by this promise, like the disciples, we are on a mission to bring hearts to Christ.

I challenge you today to ask the Holy Spirit to help you find the person in your life who needs you. Maybe she needs someone to listen. Maybe he is hurting. Maybe she’s hungry. Maybe he’s aging and afraid. Or she’s pregnant and scared. Or their marriage is struggling.

When we step out, unafraid, we walk with people in their grief. We listen to their stories. We support the domestic church. We help people encounter Christ. And Christ can make all things beautiful.

St. Teresa of Calcutta, who took her name after St. Therese, famously spoke of catechism summed up on one hand, pointing to each finger - “You did it to me.” Every time we welcome, listen, smile, accompany, we are doing these things for Christ.

As you celebrate Respect Life Month in your parishes and bring the joy of the Gospel of Life throughout the year to your communities, let us “be not afraid” to reach out in love to those on the peripheries.

St. Therese said “when I die, I will send down a shower of roses from the heavens, I will spend my heaven by doing good on earth.” Confident in her intercession for those in need of the love and charity she poured out during her life and those who minister to those in need of that love, we humbly and courageously join in doing that “good on earth.”



Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Lori