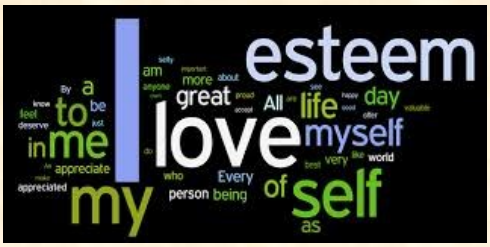
Human Dignity and Respect for Life

For a Community of God's Beloved gathered on Sunday - the teaching of the Church on the value of human life from conception to natural death is for us as Catholics a conviction in faith.

The value of human life and its dignity is generally the topic of every homily. It may not be couched in language of 'abortion 'or 'euthanasia'; however it is always explicitly and implicitly implied in the terminology of the Beloved of God. Every human person from conception to natural death is the Beloved of God. Respect for life and the right of the unborn is the first principle that guides all the others. Without protecting the initial stage of human life, then all the other stages become a rather mute point. However, once we guarantee the right to birth, then we need to guarantee the right to life—through out all the stages of human life.

I believe that we consistently include the defense of human life from conception to natural death in the context of our sermons and writing, etc. I remember using our technology in showing the life of two twins at Akron Children's Hospital and speaking of the dignity of human life. Church teaching on the value of human life implies more than being only pro-birth; rather it implies the entire context of human life as experienced. That experience can be prior to birth and following birth. The experience of human life can include those seeking immigration, those in prison, those hungry on the streets, and those living toward the end of life's journey. It includes our beliefs on war and peace; on a just economy; minimum wage, education, domestic violence, child abuse, human trafficking, etc.



Our greatest witness to the defense of human life is in the manner in which we live and the witness we give each day to those who do not have or share the conviction of our faith. As I have mentioned many times the greatest sign in our church building is the EXIT sign. It is how we live and what we do each day that defends human life. LGaetano