



DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG
Office of the Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I invite you to attend the 2022 **Culture of Life Conference**, October 14-15, 2022, so that together, we may proclaim the Good News of the Gospel of life. This conference will take place at the Bethany Center, in Lutz, and is co-hosted by the Diocese of St. Petersburg and the Florida Catholic Conference.

In his encyclical letter, *Evangelium Vitae*, Saint John Paul II wrote, "All together, we must build a new culture of life." As Catholics, we are called to ensure that the life of every human person is protected and cherished, particularly at its most vulnerable stage: in the womb.

This year, we have seen progress in our efforts to end the tragedy of abortion. However, there is still much work to be done to ensure that pre-born babies are protected in law and welcomed in love. We also must address the needs of vulnerable persons, including the elderly, mothers and babies in crisis, the incarcerated, and human trafficking survivors. We are also called to respect the human dignity of those who struggle with gender dysphoria, while still recognizing the God-given physical reality that we are created male or female.

All of these topics will be addressed at this year's **Culture of Life Conference**. This statewide conference will help inform, inspire, and equip the faithful to address the most pressing issues of our culture. Any faithful Catholic who seeks to be more deeply formed in the Church's beautiful teachings on life would greatly benefit from attending this event. It will be a time of fellowship, reflection, prayer, and dialogue on topics integral to the pro-life movement.

I encourage you to be strengthened in faith by attending this conference. You will help to transform our culture while witnessing to the hope and love of Jesus Christ. May God bless you as you strive to *Courageously Live the Gospel!*

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Gregory Parkes
Bishop of St. Petersburg