



We often hear discussion of the sanctity of human life as extending from fertilization to “natural death.” Yet, as Scripture teaches, the sanctity of life extends all the way into eternity! Indeed, we proclaim this every time we confess the Creed, “... and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.” We are baptized in body and soul. When we die, our souls leave our bodies to remain with Jesus. Our still-baptized bodies sleep, awaiting the resurrection. On the Last Day, our sleeping bodies will be raised in perfection and will be joined again with our souls to live into eternity with God in peaceful bliss. Consider that to make this happen, God had to send His Son to take on our flesh and die an excruciating death to atone for our sins (of note: the very word *excruciating* points squarely to the Cross). We mean that much to Him!

On All Saints’ Day, we remember our loved ones and all of the saints who have gone before us, who died in the faith and now rest in Jesus. We are reminded that we will see them again on the Last Day and feast with them eternally at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. In the meantime, we remain closest to them every time we receive God’s gifts in His Divine Services to us, as we join with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven (which includes them), lauding and magnifying His glorious name, evermore praising Him.

Like every day in the Church Year, All Saints’ Day truly proclaims the sanctity of human life, from fertilization *to forever!* Thanks be to God!

On a related note, the video recordings of many of the presentations at the *Dying Well in Christ* forum held this past July at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, have been posted and may be viewed at https://scholar.csl.edu/sem/dying_well/. We highly commend these to you. Once the written proceedings are available, we will share the details.