

# Encountering Dignity through Christ

*By: Cathedral Parishioner Bailey Plumlee*

Sitting down near the front I look up at Father as he begins his homily, only to be abruptly cut off by the unwavering cries of a new baby, a sound so loud and droning one could hardly believe it comes from such small mouth. The child carries on without regard to Father's words or the few in pews shaking their heads or casting disapproving glances at its mother who are wondering why the poor mother doesn't just go out the back. I just continue to sit there however now with a smile on my lips. It's at Mass that I see how life can come full circle in love. All life is a blessing, and new life comes to show that God is continually creating beauty within our midst just as the old show the experience and strength of His love.

Not too long later, I'm watching everyone file forward to receive communion. An expectation mother catches my attention first. Next, a large family with their children whose arms are crossed walk down, look up expectantly for their blessing then are scooted away. Then, near the back of the line slowly shuffling down hand in hand is an elderly man with his wife. He has to gently help open her mouth to receive the Body of Christ. In that line of people, I see the innate dignity of each and how in buildup compassion and love we are creating a culture of life.

From conception to natural death, life is a gift. Human life and the care we show to the most vulnerable is a powerful embodiment of God's love. We as humans and children of God are called to love, preserve life, and care for His creation. We share in pain of losses and have our faith tested by the violence we see in the world. We can work to diminish evil and promote the dignity of life. With dignity, we are capable of acknowledging God's work within ourselves. We finally see ourselves as living reminders of His love, instead of passive observers. By being a living and breathing promise, we spread the goodness.