

IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND



PRAYERS TO END ABORTION
REVISED EDITION

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PRAYERCAMPAIGN.ORG

Prayer to End Abortion



Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life,
And for the lives of all my brothers and sisters.
I know there is nothing that destroys
more life than abortion,
Yet I rejoice that you have conquered death
by the Resurrection of Your Son.
I am ready to do my part in ending abortion.
Today I commit myself
Never to be silent,
Never to be passive,
Never to be forgetful of the unborn.
I commit myself to be active in the pro-life movement,
And never to stop defending life
Until all my brothers and sisters are protected,
And our nation once again becomes
A nation with liberty and justice
Not just for some, but for all,
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen!



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“Without Me, you can do nothing” (Jn. 15:5).

These words of the Lord to His disciples make clear the necessity of prayer and union with God for the success of any worthy undertaking. Prayer is not just a “good thing.” It is, rather, absolutely necessary. The Lord Jesus does not only “help us.” Without Him, we can do nothing at all.

The tragedy of abortion demands the constant and vigorous response of the Disciples of Christ. We have prepared this booklet to assist believers to ground that response in prayer, and to find in prayer the constant source of their pro-life activity.

When dealing with a bitter public controversy like abortion, some may be tempted to use prayer as an escape from activity which may cause them inconvenience or rejection. Yet prayer is never meant to turn us in on ourselves. Instead, it is supposed to propel us into action.

For this reason, our “Daily Prayer to End Abortion,” as you will see in this booklet, does not simply ask God to end abortion, but commits us to do everything we can to be active in the pro-life movement.

It is our hope that you will pray daily for an end to abortion, and also use this booklet in your churches, at abortion facilities, and in prayer groups.

Please keep in contact with Priests for Life to receive updated prayer resources and other information about what you can do to end abortion.

Pro-life prayers for different seasons of the year and for many different occasions, can be found at **PrayerCampaign.org**. Also join our online cause, “Pray to End Abortion”, at **ProLifePrayers.com**.

Pro-Life Examination of Conscience

Questions to help me defend life more effectively

Am I fully convinced that every abortion, at every stage of pregnancy, is the destruction of an innocent human life, which has the same value as my life, my parent’s lives, my children’s lives? Do I foster and nourish this conviction by reflecting often on the tragic loss of life occurring daily around me? Do I ever allow myself the thought that someone else’s abortion is “none of my business?” Do I sometimes think that I have “more important” things to do than to save innocent lives? Do I believe I am responsible for my preborn brothers and sisters and accountable to God for what I do to save them? Do I have the courage to remind myself of the horror of abortion by actually looking at the pictures of aborted babies?

Do I pray daily and explicitly for an end to abortion? Do I pray for the babies, the mothers, the abortionists, the legislators, the media, the clergy, and the whole pro-life movement? Do I fast or make other significant sacrifices for this cause? Or do I believe the fight against abortion can be easy and convenient? Am I too afraid of displeasing others, and do I think I need to be liked to be successful? Am I willing to undergo financial loss, ridicule, or other sacrifices, to save a child’s life?

Do I see the link between abortion and other assaults on human life and dignity? Do I acknowledge that progress in any arena for the defense of life facilitates progress in all the other arenas?

Do I have faith that God is the Lord of Life? Do I believe the whole struggle is in His hands, and that He has already conquered evil, falsehood, and death? Do I trust Him? Do I ask His guidance? Do I keep my eyes on Him, or do I allow discouragement by focusing only on the problem and myself?

Am I learning more about abortion and about the pro-life movement? Do I read good pro-life books? Do I subscribe to at least one pro-life publication so that I can be well informed on the issue? Do I escape from taking action by thinking that prayer alone is enough? Am I developing all the talents God gave me so that I can use them to advance the Culture of Life?

Do I speak up in defense of life? Do I make full use of the opportunities I have, such as wearing pins or using bumper stickers or decals? Do I write letters to the paper or to legislators or to doctors? Or do I allow a lack of self-confidence to paralyze my activity? Do I only do what's comfortable, or do I try to discover what activities will be most effective? Do I gladly participate in projects that need to be done, even if I don't particularly want to? Do I try to come up with new ideas for pro-life work? Do I suggest these ideas to others?

Do I take proper care of myself, physically and spiritually, so that I can be more effective in my pro-life work? Do I rest when I need to?

Do I foster unity in the movement? Do I encourage my fellow pro-lifers? Are all of my efforts guided by charity? Do I allow unhealthy competition between pro-life persons or groups? Do I foster collaboration, without demanding uniformity? Do I follow the advice or direction

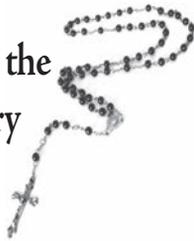
of those who bear responsibility for pro-life projects or groups? Do I seek the advice and input of others in the movement, especially of those more experienced than I?

Do I try to grow in compassion for women who are tempted to have abortions or who have had them in the past? Do I try to understand their situation and learn more about their needs? Do I help women find alternatives to abortion? Do I inspire hope in women I know who have had abortions? Do I help them find forgiveness and healing? Do I foster charity in thought, word, and deed toward those who disagree with me, or who perform or promote abortion? Am I fully committed to non-violence in this struggle?

Am I ready from this day forward to be a better pro-lifer? Am I ready to launch out with new strength, generosity, and determination to bring an end to abortion, without counting the cost to myself? Am I grateful enough for the gift of life to work to give life to others? Do I thank God for the privilege of being part of the pro-life movement?



Pro-Life Meditations on the Mysteries of the Rosary



Joyful Mysteries



The Annunciation

Mary is troubled by the angel's greeting, yet rejoices to do God's will. Let us pray that those who are troubled by their pregnancy may have the grace to trust in God's will.

The Visitation

John the Baptist leapt for joy in his mother's womb. We pray that people may realize that abortion is not about children who "might" come into the world, but is about children who are already in the world, living and growing in the womb, and are scheduled to be killed.

The Nativity

God Himself was born as a child. The greatness of a person does not depend on size, for the newborn King is very small. Let us pray for an end to prejudice against the tiny babies threatened by abortion.

The Presentation

The Child is presented in the Temple because the Child belongs to God. Children are not the property of their parents, nor of the government. They - and we - belong to God Himself.

The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

The boy Jesus was filled with wisdom, because He is God. Let us pray that all people may see the wisdom of His teachings about the dignity of life, and may understand that this teaching is not an opinion, but the truth.

Luminous Mysteries ✝

Christ is Baptized in the Jordan

When Jesus is baptized, the Father's voice is heard: "This is my beloved Son." All are called to become adopted sons and daughters of God through baptism. We pray that children in the womb may be protected, so that they may be born and welcomed into the Christian community by baptism.

Christ is made known at the Wedding of Cana

Jesus revealed His glory by the miracle at Cana. The new couple was blessed not only with wine, but with faith in Christ. Let us pray for strong marriages, rooted in the Lord, and open to the gift of new life.

Christ proclaims the Kingdom and Calls All to Conversion

"Repent and believe the Good News." Let us pray that these first words of Jesus' public ministry may be heard by all who have committed abortion. May they know that the Lord calls them to conversion, and may they experience life-giving repentance.

The Transfiguration

Christ is transformed on the mountain, and the disciples see His glory. May the eyes of all people be transformed, that they may see each and every human life as a reflection of the glory of God Himself.

Jesus gives us the Eucharist

"This is My Body, given up for you." The Eucharist teaches us how to live and how to love. Let us pray that parents who sacrifice their babies for the sake of themselves may learn instead to put themselves aside for the sake of their babies.

Sorrowful Mysteries

The Agony in the Garden

Let us pray for mothers and fathers who are in agony because they are tempted to abort a child. May they be given the good news that there are alternatives, and may they make use of the help that is available.

The Scourging

As Christ's flesh was torn by the instruments of those who scourged Him, so the bodies of babies in the womb are torn by the instruments of the abortionists. Let us pray that abortionists may repent of these acts of child-killing.

The Crowning With Thorns

Jesus suffered the pain of thorns in His head, and did so silently. We pray for the mothers and fathers of aborted children. So many of them suffer deep grief and regret over a choice they can never reverse. So many suffer in silence, because others tell them it's no big deal.

The Carrying of the Cross

Jesus was not condemned by the power of wicked people. He was condemned because of the silence of good people. Silence always helps the oppressor, never the victim. Let us pray that we may never be silent about abortion, but rather will clearly speak up to save babies from death.

The Crucifixion

As we ponder the death of Christ, let us remember the many women who have died from so-called "safe, legal" abortions. Let us ask forgiveness and mercy for them. May their memory save other women from making this tragic mistake.

Glorious Mysteries

The Resurrection

Christ is Risen! By His Resurrection, He has destroyed the power of death, and therefore the power of abortion. The outcome of the battle for Life has already been decided: Life is victorious! Let us pray that all pro-lifers will spread this victory to every segment of our society.

The Ascension

By ascending to the Father's throne, Christ takes our human nature, given to us in the womb, to the heights of heaven. He shows us that human beings are made to be raised to heaven, not thrown in the garbage. Let us pray that the world may learn this truth and reject abortion.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Advocate: He pleads our cause, for we cannot save ourselves. We pray that He will make us advocates for the babies, who cannot speak or write or vote or protest or even pray.

The Assumption

The Blessed Virgin Mary was taken body and soul into heaven because she is the Mother of God. Mother and child are united. The Assumption reminds us that they belong together. We pray that society will see that it cannot love women while killing their children, and cannot save children without helping their mothers. We pray that people will be touched by the pro-life question, "Why can't we love them both?"

The Coronation

Mary is the Queen of the Universe. The Church teaches

that she is the greatest creature, second only to God Himself. The Church defends the dignity of women. We pray that people will understand that to be pro-life means to be pro-woman, and that to be pro-woman demands that we be pro-life.



Prayer of Reparation for Roe vs. Wade

The Catholic bishops of the United States have designated January 22 as a special day of prayer and penance in reparation for the massive killing that has resulted from the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision (handed down January 22, 1973) which permitted abortion throughout pregnancy.

Therefore, we at Priests for Life invite you to prepare spiritually for that day by joining a Novena that starts on January 14 and concludes on the 22nd.



**God and Father of Life,
You have created every human person,
And have opened the way for each to have eternal life.**

**We live in the shadow of death.
Tens of millions of your children have been
killed because of the Roe vs. Wade decision
legalizing abortion.**

**Father, have mercy on us.
Heal our land
And accept our offering of prayer and penance.
In your love for us,
Turn back the scourge of abortion.**

**May each of us exult in hearts full of hope
And hands full of mercy
And work together to build a culture of life.**

We pray through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Alternate Prayer for January 22 Novena

Prayer for Mercy and Conversion



God our Father,
You are rich in mercy,
Overflowing with compassion,
And eager to forgive.

You have created all life,
Entrusting each person to the mercy
Of his or her mother's womb.

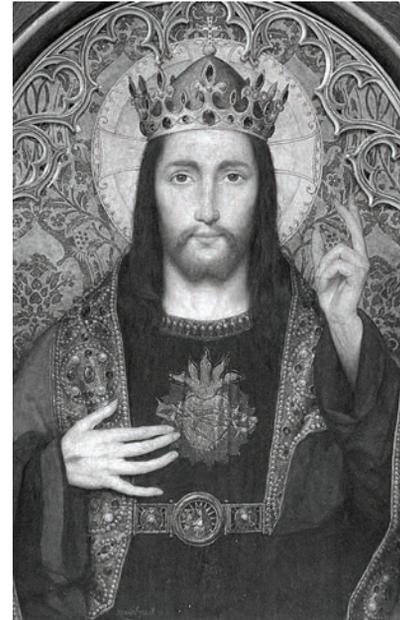
Yet our nation
Has allowed that life to be taken
From its safest place.
We have pretended that the decree of a Court
Makes it all right to kill your children.

Now we approach that date
When each year we remember that tragic decision.

Lord, as your people prepare
To pray, to march, and to work
To end the tragedy of abortion,
Make us a sign of your great mercy.

Make us instruments through which
Your forgiveness will heal our land

And convert those who tolerate abortion.
Bring our courts before Your Court,
And our hearts before Your heart,
And purify us completely.
Give us, individually and as a nation,
The joy of holiness,
The peace of salvation,
And the blessing of life eternal,
Through Christ our Lord. Amen!



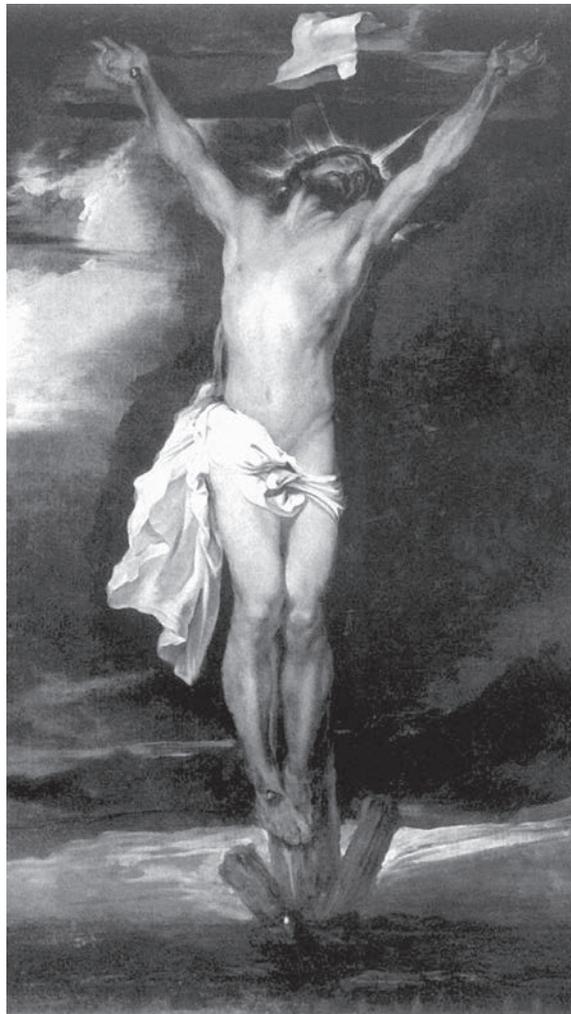
Lenten Pro-life Prayer

Lent is a season of repentance, which leads to life. Priests for Life urges all Christians to join us in saying the Lenten Pro-life Prayer, and making a special commitment to help others to see and defend the dignity of every human life, starting with the unborn.



Father of all mercy, we thank you for
this season of grace and light.
We know that sin has blinded us.
Draw us ever closer to you, in prayer and penance.
Give all your people a clearer understanding of the
profound dignity of every human life,
Including the children in the womb.
As we prepare to celebrate the death
and Resurrection of Christ,
Strengthen our joy in the fact that life
has already conquered death.
As we prepare to renew the promises
of our own baptism this Easter,
Grant that we may live more
faithfully as the children of God
And the People of Life.
We pray through Christ our Lord.

Amen



Meditations for Pro-Life Stations of the Cross

The First Station: Jesus is Condemned to Death

Though innocent, Jesus is condemned by the power of the State. In like manner, our innocent brothers and sisters in the womb have been condemned. Their rights and dignity are not recognized. In this, they bear a special likeness to Jesus.

The Second Station: Jesus is Made to Bear His Cross

The salvation of the world carried a heavy price for our Lord, the agony of the cross. As He accepts His cross, let us also resolve to endure suffering that others may live. Let us pay the price for standing up for our preborn brothers and sisters.

The Third Station: Jesus Falls the First Time

Almighty God was weak because He chose to be like us. He had power and glory from all eternity, yet He chose to be immersed in the world of suffering. We pray that the benefits and advantages we have in life may not cause us to forget our pre-born brothers and sisters.

The Fourth Station: Jesus Meets His Afflicted Mother

There is no deeper relationship than that of mother and child. They belong together. When one suffers, the other suffers. To love and defend one means to love and defend the other. To be pro-life means to serve both the child and the mother. It means to ask our society, "Why can't we love them both?"

The Fifth Station: The Cyrenian Helps Jesus to Carry His Cross

Many watched the Lord suffer. Simon the Cyrenian helped alleviate that suffering. Many lament abortion. Some actually get involved to help to stop it. We pray that all people may take their active place in the pro-life movement.

The Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

The compassion Veronica shows reflects the compassion of so many medical doctors and nurses who treat their patients with dignity. We pray for repentance and renewal in the medical profession. May the tools and skills meant for healing nevermore be used for killing.

The Seventh Station: Jesus Falls the Second Time

In working to defend life, there are many setbacks and obstacles. Yet we know the meaning of the cross. In weakness, power reaches perfection. We do not look to our own strengths and talents alone, but to Christ. His own strength will sustain us.

The Eighth Station: Jesus Speaks to the Women of Jerusalem

Christ told these women to weep for themselves and for their children. He does not want false worship, but repentance. He does not want followers who cry out to Him but then ignore injustice and bloodshed. May all who believe in Christ likewise stand up for the defenseless children.

The Ninth Station: Jesus Falls the Third Time

Despite the falls, nothing can stop our Lord, because He is on a mission of love. If the pro-life movement is not a movement of love, it is nothing at all, but if it is a movement of love, then nothing will stop it. Love is stronger than death, more powerful than hell.

The Tenth Station: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

Nobody can stop us from loving our preborn brothers and sisters. Those stronger than we may strip us of popularity, possessions, or power, but they cannot strip us of love. We love others with the same love that Christ showed for us.

The Eleventh Station: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

The powers of this world crucified the God who made this world. All power and authority come from God. All who exercise power have to account for it before the throne of God. We pray that those in government may use their powers to protect the innocent babies in the womb.

The Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

Our Lord died. So many of His children have died with Him. His passion is re-lived with every abortion, one every twenty seconds in our country. We only know a fraction of the horror of this act in the sight of God. We only know a fraction of the horror of Christ's crucifixion. May all our brothers and sisters killed by abortion rest in Christ's peace and be saved by His cross.

The Thirteenth Station: Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

Mary experienced the pain of holding her dead Son. So many mothers grieve after their abortions. We ask that Mary may comfort them, help them face the truth about abortion, and lead them to forgiveness and healing.

The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

A tomb is a memorial. It helps us remember the one who can no longer speak. May we and our society remember the babies who cannot speak. May we also remember Our Lord's Resurrection, and His promise of eternal life. He has conquered abortion because He has conquered death. May we bring His victory to every part of our world!



Prayer in Remembrance of Terri Schiavo

On March 31, 2005, Terri Schiavo died after being deliberately dehydrated, with the consent of the courts. Fr. Frank Pavone of Priests for Life was at her side and presented the truth about her death, and about the value of her life, to the national and international media.

Priests for Life, along with Terri's family foundation (TerrisFight.org) have declared March 31 to be "Terri's Day" and have prepared various materials to help individuals, families, and parishes remember her (see TerrisDay.org).



Fr. Frank Pavone blesses Terri's grave.



Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life,
And for the lives of all my brothers and sisters.

I know that life is always a good,
and that it never loses its value
when it is beset by weakness or injury.

Lord, thank you for the life of
Terri Schindler-Schiavo.
Even in her suffering and death
She revealed Your glory
and truth that life is always sacred.

As I remember Terri, I also commit myself
to be active in the pro-life movement,
And never to stop defending life
Until all my brothers and
sisters are protected,

And our nation once again becomes
A nation with liberty and justice
Not just for some, but for all,
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen!





An Easter Prayer for Life

Easter is the season of life. We therefore invite all believers to pray this prayer during the Easter season, from the Easter Vigil to Pentecost Sunday, to counteract the most widespread and violent attack on human life in our day, which is abortion.

**Lord Jesus Christ,
You are the Author of Life,
Who died and now lives forevermore.**

**May we who work and pray
That children in the womb may be protected
Always draw strength, confidence, and joy
From Your victory over death,
For you are Lord forever and ever. Amen.**

Holy Spirit Novena for Life

In the days leading up to Pentecost, the disciples prayed for the coming of the Holy Spirit. We too pray for His coming, and for His power that renews the face of the earth and brings about the victory of life.



**Holy Spirit,
At the dawn of creation,
You brought order out of chaos,
Light out of darkness,
Life out of nothingness.**

**Breathe on us once again,
And change this culture of death
Into a Culture of Life.**

**Inspire in your people
A spirit of generous welcome
For each and every life,
No matter how unexpected or dependent
That life may be.
Holy Spirit,
You are the Advocate.
As you fill us with Yourself,
Make us advocates
For the unborn and all the vulnerable,
Until we are all united
In the endless life and joy
of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever. Amen.**

Prayer to the Holy Spirit, the Advocate

O Holy Spirit of God, You were promised to us by the Lord Jesus as an Advocate, as one who pleads our cause and speaks up for us in the heights of heaven. "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever..." (Jn.14:15).

The apostle Paul has taught us that You intercede for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in speech (Rom. 8:26).

We praise You today for the gift of salvation, for we are deeply aware that we cannot save ourselves. We have sinned, and we cannot win forgiveness on our own. We need an Advocate.

We ask You, O Holy Spirit, to make us ever more aware of those who need us as advocates. Grant that we may hear the cries of our youngest, smallest brothers and sisters, those still in the womb, who cannot speak or defend themselves, and who cannot even pray.

Holy Spirit, as You are the Advocate, so make us advocates. As You hear our cries for mercy, so let us hear the cries of others for mercy. Save us from the misfortune of seeking mercy only for ourselves, while being deaf to others. As you loosened the tongues of the apostles at Pentecost, so grant us today a Pentecost for the unborn, that we may speak for them before the great and the small, before governments and institutions, and before all Your people. Amen.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit, Giver of Life

Come Holy Spirit, Creator of all things...You who breathed over the waters at the dawn of creation and brought forth all living beings...You who filled the apostles when the Risen Lord breathed on them on the first Easter night, giving them the power to restore life to those dead in sin... You who, on the last day, will breathe again over all the dead and raise them from the grave--Come! Come and breathe on our world again, immersed as it is in the Culture of Death! Come, O Lord and Giver of Life! Defeat the works of death in our midst, that abortion may no longer stain our land.

We worship You, O Holy Spirit, and we rejoice in You. We know that no matter how strong the forces of death may be, we can still find in You the endless source of life. Renew that life in each of us, and make us worthy apostles of the Culture of Life in our day! Amen.



Prayer to the Spirit of Truth



Holy Spirit, You are the promised Spirit of Truth, constantly revealing the splendor of truth to Your people, and leading us deeper into the Mysteries of our Faith.

Come to us today, and deepen in our minds and hearts the truth about life: its greatness, its dignity, its reflection of the eternal God. Make us appreciate ever more the truth that life is always a good, and that every life is of equal dignity, despite all the different characteristics people have, or the different circumstances under which they come to be.

Come, Spirit of Truth. Free all Your people from the falsehoods that lead to the evil of abortion. Free them from the false and harmful ideas which make a god out of their own choices, or which fail to recognize the right to life of children in the womb.

Come, O Holy Spirit, and as You immerse us in Your truth, so make us effective witnesses of that truth within our families, among our friends, and to all the world. Amen.





Prayer of Thanks for our Nation's Independence

As the United States of America approaches the Fourth of July Independence Day celebration, we invite all believers to join us in saying the following prayer each day from June 26 through July 4.



God our Father, your Son Jesus spoke to us a message of peace and taught us to live as brothers and sisters.

His message took form in the vision of our Founding Fathers, as they fashioned a nation where all people might live as one.

This message lives on in our midst as a task for us today and a promise for tomorrow.

We thank you, Father, for your blessings in the past, and for all that, with your help, we must yet achieve.

Bless our nation and bless each of us. As we thank you for our independence, may we extend its blessings to our youngest brothers and sisters, the children in the womb.

Hasten the day when our nation will be a nation with liberty and justice, not just for some, but for all, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assumption Novena Prayer

From August 7 to August 15, Priests for Life invites believers to pray the Novena in honor of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

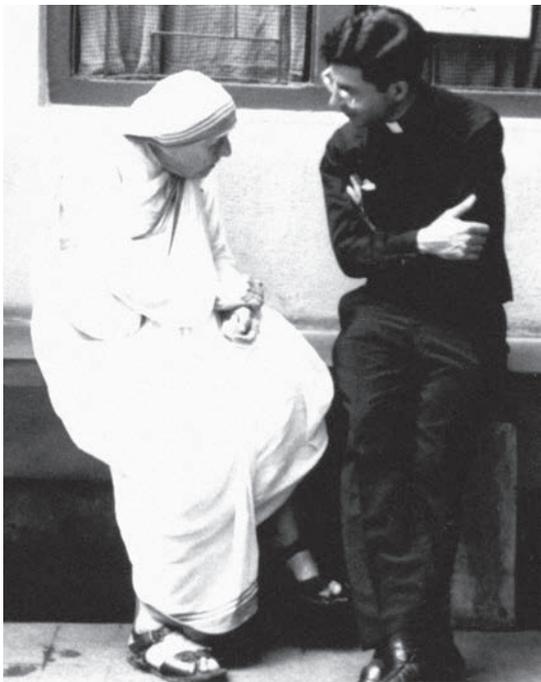


**Lord Jesus Christ,
You have conquered the power of death
And opened for humanity
The hope of eternal life in body and soul.
You granted your Mother
A share in heavenly glory,
And did not allow decay to touch her body.
As we rejoice in the Assumption of Mary,
Grant us new confidence in the
victory of life over death,
And renewed reverence for the human body.
As we honor Mary, Assumed into Heaven,
May we proclaim the hope of Your Gospel:
That you want every human life seated on your throne.
May that hope strengthen us to protect every life
here on earth.
You live and reign forever and ever. Amen.**



Prayer of Gratitude for Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Mother Teresa was called from this world on September 5, 1997. As we approach the anniversary of her death, we invite you to say this special prayer each day of the special novena from August 28 to September 5.



*Fr. Frank Pavone discusses pro-life strategy with
Mother Teresa in Calcutta.*



Father of Life,
You always defend the poor and oppressed.

In Blessed Teresa of Calcutta,
You raised up a voice for the voiceless
And a friend to the poorest of the poor,
the unborn child.

She brought women away from the despair
of abortion clinics
To the hope of a loving community
That cared for her and her child.

She spoke the truth to men and women of power,
Asking them how we could tell people not
to kill one another
While allowing a mother to kill her own child.

Father, as we honor this humble and faithful woman,
We ask you to give us the grace
To follow her example.

May we be bold in word and generous in action
To love and serve the unborn
And to awaken our world to know,
as Mother Teresa said,
That the greatest destroyer of
love and peace is abortion.

Fill us with love, bring us peace, and let us
share your life forever.
We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for our Nation as we Prepare to Elect our Leaders

*For nine weeks before Election Day, Priests for Life calls upon
believers to participate in an Election Novena.*



O God, we acknowledge you today as Lord,
Not only of individuals, but of nations and
governments.

We thank you for the privilege
Of being able to organize ourselves politically
And of knowing that political loyalty
Does not have to mean disloyalty to you.

We thank you for your law,
Which our Founding Fathers acknowledged
And recognized as higher than any human law.

We thank you for the opportunity that this election
year puts before us,
To exercise our solemn duty not only to vote,
But to influence countless others to vote,
And to vote correctly.

Lord, we pray that your people may be awakened.
Let them realize that while politics is not their
salvation,

Their response to you requires that they be politically
active.

Awaken your people to know that they are
not called to be a sect fleeing the world
But rather a community of faith renewing the world.

Awaken them that the same hands lifted up to you in
prayer
Are the hands that pull the lever in the voting booth;
That the same eyes that read your Word
Are the eyes that read the names on the ballot,
And that they do not cease to be Christians
When they enter the voting booth.

Awaken your people to a commitment to justice
To the sanctity of marriage and the family,
To the dignity of each individual human life,
And to the truth that human rights begin when human
lives begin,
And not one moment later.

Lord, we rejoice today
That we are citizens of your kingdom.

May that make us all the more committed
To being faithful citizens on earth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer to St. Gerard Majella

Patron Saint of Pregnant Mothers and of Childbirth

We invite you to say the following prayer in preparation for the Feast of St. Gerard Majella (October 16), and to let us know of any prayer intentions you have for couples who are seeking to conceive a child, or for women having difficult pregnancies, for those who have lost children, or who have special prayer intentions for their living children.



St. Gerard,
You worshiped Jesus as the Lord of Life.
I ask you today to pray
For my special intention.
(Mention your intention here.)

Lift up to Jesus
All those who seek to conceive a child,
All those having difficult pregnancies,
All who have suffered the loss of a child,
And all who lovingly lift up their children to God.
Pray that all of us,
By caring for mothers, fathers, and children
born and unborn
May build a Culture of Life,
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Priesthood Sunday

Priesthood Sunday, the last Sunday of October, is a special day set aside to honor priesthood in the United States. It is a day to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priesthood in the life of the Church as a central one.

To observe this celebration, Priests for Life invites you to join our Novena for Priests. You can say the special prayer below.

We also invite you to send us the names of priests you want us to remember in our prayer intentions, as well as your favorite priest stories. Who are the priests you want us to know about, and what are the things they have done to show the truth and compassion of Christ, the Good Shepherd? Let us know at PrayerCampaign.org.

Priesthood Sunday is coordinated by the USA Council of Serra International, an organization of lay men and women whose mission is to foster and affirm vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the USA.



Prayer for Priesthood Novena



Father,
You sent your Son Jesus Christ
To be our High Priest,
And you gave us the gift of the priesthood
To continue His saving work.
Bless our priests, and give us more of them.
Make them holy.
Strengthen them to proclaim the Gospel of Life,
And to defend the rights of all,
Especially the unborn.
Bring us, your priests and people
To the life that never ends.
We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Advent Prayer for Life

Priests for Life invites all believers to celebrate each Advent as an "Advent for Life." Among other things we invite you to say the following prayer each day.



God of Life,
We rejoice in the promise of your coming.
You have sent your Son, born in Bethlehem.
He is the Prince of Peace, and
The one in whose name all oppression shall cease.
May we welcome His coming each day
And prepare for His coming at the end of time.
May we build a culture that welcomes Him
By welcoming every child, born and unborn.
We pray through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.



Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Pro-life Movement. In preparation for her Feast Day, Priests for Life invites all believers to join in a special novena for life from December 4th through 12th.

The image of Our Lady, given to St. Juan Diego (whose feast is Dec. 9), shows Mary as pregnant with Jesus. The Aztec Indians, among whom this image circulated, practiced human sacrifice because they believed the gods were against them. This image proclaimed the Gospel that “God is with us” (Emmanuel) and that therefore we can have the hope that gives us the courage to say “Yes” to life, just like Mary did.

In our day, the image is helping to end child sacrifice as it is brought to abortion facilities worldwide.



**Oh Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of Life,
We honor you as Our Lady of Guadalupe.**

**Thank you for pointing us to Jesus your Son,
The only Savior and hope of the world.**

**Renew our hope in Him,
That we all may have the courage to say Yes to life,
And to defend those children in danger of abortion.**

**Give us your compassion
To reach out to those tempted to abort,
And to those suffering from a past abortion.**

**Lead us to the day when abortion
Will be a sad, past chapter in our history.**

**Keep us close to Jesus, the Life of the World,
Who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.**



General Intercessions for use at Pro-Life Mass or Prayer Service

CELEBRANT:

We trust in the mercy and power of God. Therefore, we now pray with confidence.

DEACON OR LECTOR:

For the Holy Catholic Church throughout the world, that She may carry on Her mission of life with faith and joy, we pray to the Lord...

That God may protect all unborn babies, and keep them safe from the scourge of abortion, we pray to the Lord...

For all women who have had abortions, and for those who feel tempted and afraid, we pray to the Lord...

That God may bless all doctors and nurses, and help them use their skills to heal and foster life, we pray to the Lord...

For all elected officials, that they courageously advance the cause of life, we pray to the Lord...

For all who work in the pro-life movement, that they move forward with haste to the great day of victory, we pray to the Lord...

That God strengthen all pro-lifers who suffer ridicule, rejection, or imprisonment, we pray to the Lord...

For all who have died, that they share the full glory of Heaven, we pray to the Lord...

CELEBRANT:

We praise you, O God, Lord and Giver of Life, and we look to you in the sure hope that you will grant these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Litany in Response to Abortion

Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*
Christ, have mercy. *Christ, have mercy.*
Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*
Christ, hear us. *Christ, graciously hear us.*

God the Father, Creator of the world,
have mercy on us.
God the Son, through whom all things were made,
God the Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life,
Lord Jesus, the Beginning and the End,
Lord Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life,
Lord Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life,
Lord Jesus, Eternal Word of Life,
Lord Jesus, living in the womb of the Virgin Mary,
Lord Jesus, Lover of the poor and weak,
Lord Jesus, Defender of the helpless,
Lord Jesus, Bread of Life,
For every sin against life,
For the sin of abortion,
For the daily killing of innocent babies,
For the bloodshed throughout our land,
For the silent screams of Your children,
For the killing of Your future disciples,
For the exploitation of women by abortion,
For the silence of Your people,
For the apathy of Your people,
For the co-operation of Your people in this tragedy,

For our pre-born brothers and sisters killed by
abortion, *Lord, hear our prayer.*
For our pre-born brothers and sisters threatened by
abortion,
For our brothers and sisters who have survived
abortion,
For mothers who have had abortions,
For mothers tempted to have abortions,
For mothers pressured to have abortions,
For mothers who have refused to have abortions,
For the fathers of aborted babies,
For the families of aborted babies,
For the families of those tempted to have abortions
For abortionists,
For all who assist and cooperate in abortions,
For doctors and nurses, that they may nurture life,
For government leaders, that they may defend life,
For the clergy, that they may speak up for life,
For the pro-life movement,
For those who speak, write, and work to end abortion,
For those who help provide alternatives to abortion,
For those who promote adoption,
For national and local pro-life groups,
For unity in the pro-life movement,
For courage and perseverance in pro-life work,
For those who suffer ridicule and rejection for their
stand for life,
For those imprisoned for defending life,
For those who have been injured and mistreated for
defending life,
For legal professionals, courts, and judges,

For police officers,
For educators and media professionals,
In thanksgiving for the babies saved from abortion,
In thanksgiving for the mothers saved and healed from
abortion,
In thanksgiving for the former abortion providers who
have become pro-life,
In thanksgiving for all those who take a stand against
abortion,
In thanksgiving for the call to be part of the pro-life
movement,

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
graciously hear us, O Lord,

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

(Leader) Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, You have created all
things through Your Son Jesus Christ. He trampled
the power of death by His Paschal Mystery. May all
who acknowledge You promote the sacredness of life
and always serve You faithfully, through the same
Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Blessing Over Memorial for the Unborn

Father of Life and Love, we thank you today that you
have called us to share in the life of the one human
family. We thank you for all our brothers and sisters,
and ask You to deepen the bonds of love among us.

We thank you especially for our youngest and smallest
brothers and sisters, those in the womb. Today, Oh
Lord, we remember them, while so many choose to
ignore and forget them. We remember those who are
living, and commend them to Your protection. We
remember those who have died and we commend them
to Your mercy.

Father, we dedicate to You this memorial stone. We
pray that it will serve as a witness to the humanity of
our youngest brothers and sisters. We pray that it will
serve as a testimony that we are responsible for them.
We pray that it will provide a place where those who
have lost their children may mourn and find comfort.

We pray, Father, that we who are the living stones of the
Church, may likewise be witnesses to the dignity of life.
Give us the grace to confront the evil of abortion and
eliminate it. May we see the day when all people who
look upon this stone will remember abortion only as
a thing of the past, and may praise You forever for the
victory of life.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Prayer to God the Father of All Life



Eternal God, You have revealed Yourself as the Father of all Life. We praise You for the Fatherly care which You extend to all creation, and especially to us, made in Your image and likeness.

Father, extend Your hand of protection to those threatened by abortion, and save them from its destructive power. Give Your strength to all fathers, that they may never give in to the fears that may tempt them to facilitate abortions.

Bless our families and bless our land, that we may have the joy of welcoming and nurturing the life of which You are the source and the Eternal Father. Amen.



Prayer to the Virgin Mary



O Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of us all, we turn to you today as the one who said “Yes” to Life. “You will conceive and bear a Son,” the angel told you. Despite the surprise and the uncertainty about how this could be, you said yes. “Be it done unto me according to your word.”

Mary, we pray today for all mothers who are afraid to be mothers. We pray for those who feel threatened and overwhelmed by their pregnancy. Intercede for them, that God may give them the grace to say yes and the courage to go on. May they have the grace to reject the false solution of abortion. May they say with you, “Be it done unto me according to your word.” May they experience the help of Christian people, and know the peace that comes from doing God’s will. Amen.



Prayers to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist

“My Body”

“This is My Body, given up for you.” Lord Jesus, we hear Your words each day at Mass. You have used these words to teach us the meaning of Your love for us, a love that brought You to the cross to give Your life so we might live. You use these words also to teach us the meaning of our love for one another, a love which leads us to give ourselves away that others might live.

“This is my body.” Lord, we also hear these words used by those who think they can take life, just because that life is growing within their body. We hear these words distorted by those who support abortion.

Grant that all Your people may learn that human fulfillment is never found by pushing someone else out of the way, but only and always by pushing ourselves out of the way. May all Your people live their lives according to Your most sacred words, “This is my body, given up for you!”

Unity

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for the gift of the Holy Eucharist, Your Sacred Body, by which You unite us as one body in You. “For we, many though we are, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf” (1 Cor. 10:17)

As we receive You, O Lord, You also receive us. As You draw us up to Yourself, You draw us also into one another. “You are the Body of Christ, and individually members of it” (1 Cor. 12:27).

Lord, grant that we may never exclude any of the other members of Your Body from our love. As we receive Your Body in Communion, so let us receive and welcome all the members of Your Body, no matter how inconvenient they may be. Help us especially to welcome those who have become the most unwelcome members of our world, namely, those who have just entered it. Bless our brothers and sisters in the womb. Rid our world of the sin of abortion, which divides parents from their own children, from one another, from their very selves, and from You, O Lord.

Grant that the power of Unity which we find in the Eucharist may overcome the fear of the unborn child, and may enable us to welcome that child as a brother, a sister, a member of Your Body. Amen.

Faith

Lord Jesus, I firmly believe that the Blessed Sacrament is Your very Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. Senses cannot grasp this marvel. Faith, however, reaches beyond what the eyes can see and assures us that You are present.

Grant, O Lord, that our faith in the Eucharist may also strengthen our ability to recognize the dignity of

every human life. We know that the senses can fool us there as well. Some may not be attractive, others may seem too small, some may appear as less than human. But we, who can see You in the Sacred Host, can certainly see You in our brothers and sisters. We can also see You, O Lord, in the children in the womb. In a day when so many have forgotten these children, and dismiss them as less valuable than those who are born, grant that we may grow all the more convinced of their dignity and worth.

Then grant, O Lord, that we may act accordingly.
Amen.



Redeemer in the Womb



Lord Jesus Christ, You took our human nature upon Yourself. You shared our life and death, our childhood and adulthood.

You also shared our time in the womb. While still God, while worshiped and adored by the angels, while Almighty and filling every part of the universe, You dwelt for nine months in the womb of Mary. You were our Redeemer in the womb, our God who was a preborn child.

Lord Jesus, we ask You to bless and protect the children who today are in their mothers' womb. Save them from the danger of abortion. Give their mothers the grace to sacrifice themselves, in body and soul, for their children. Help all people to recognize in the preborn child a brother, a sister, saved by You, our Redeemer in the womb. Amen.



Prayer for Those who have Lost a Child to Abortion



Lord of all Life,
You have entrusted us to the care of one another,
And called us to be one Body in Christ.

You call us to rejoice with those who rejoice,
And to weep with those who weep.

Hear our prayer today
For our brothers and sisters who have lost
children to abortion.
Help us to understand
The pain that is in their hearts,
And to be a living sign to them
Of your welcome, your mercy, and your healing.

Help them to undergo with courage
The process of grief and the journey of healing.
Never allow them to feel alone;
Always refresh them with the presence of Your Spirit
And of their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Console them with the sure hope
That you love and care for their children.
Give them new strength,

That even while they grieve what they have lost,
They may look forward to all the good
That you still have in store for them.
Lord of healing and hope,
Give us all the forgiveness of our sins,
And the joy of your salvation.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.



Prayer of a Mom who lost a child to abortion



Lord God of Peace,
I thank you for your love for me,
Which is more tender than the love
Of a mother for her child.

I thank you for your forgiveness,
Which is more generous
Than the forgiveness human beings can offer.

Thank you for helping me to know
That I am not my abortion.
Rather, I am your daughter, Beloved and Redeemed,
For whom your Son would have died
If I were the only one who needed salvation.

Save me always
From the menacing voice of useless guilt and the
oppressive force of shame.

Rather, lift me up in the light, peace, and grace
Of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ,
Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.



Prayer of a Dad who lost a child to abortion



Lord God,
You are the Father of all,
And the source and pattern of all fatherhood.

You are our Provider, our Protector, our Encourager,
And you enable us to do the same for others.
I thank you for your mercy and healing,
Of which I stand in need
As I grieve my own lost fatherhood.
I turn to you, the Eternal Father,
And ask to be renewed
And to start again.

And I ask you to receive
Into Your endless Life and Love,
the child you once entrusted to me.
Give me new hope and new strength.
Always remind me
That you have more blessings for me in the future
Than there is pain in the past,
And that for everyone whom I may
have failed to serve before,
You have many that you call me to serve
From today forward.
Lead me, Lord, in new hope and new strength.
I pray with confidence in Jesus' Name. Amen.

A Prayer of Offering by the Sick for the Unborn



God of love and consolation,
You always draw us closer to yourself.
You ask us to trust you
And you make us always more like Jesus your Son.

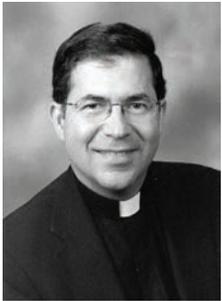
Through his cross,
You give our human suffering
Divine meaning and purpose.

I pray today for all my brothers and sisters,
And especially for those most in need,
The children living in their mothers' womb.

Father, I offer my sufferings for them,
In union with the sufferings of Jesus.
Through my weakness, may they be protected,
Through my pain, may they be safe,
Through my loneliness, may they know the joy of life.

God of Life,
Bring an end to abortion in our world,
And bring peace and healing
To me and to all who are sick.

I pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.



FR. FRANK PAVONE was appointed in 1993 by John Cardinal O'Connor to serve as national director of Priests for Life, and has done so full-time since then. He is also a member of the Vatican's Pontifical Academy for Life, and has served as an official of the Pontifical Council for the Family, which coordinates the pro-life activities of the Catholic Church. He is a priest of the Amarillo, TX Diocese and leads Priests for Life with his bishop's permission.

Prayer for the Closing of the Abortion Mill

Father, all life is in Your care.
You have entrusted us to one another,
that we may show our brothers and sisters
the same love You have for us.
We pray, then, for the least among us,
the children in the womb.
Protect them from the violence of abortion.
We pray for those who are scheduled to die at
(Name the abortion mill assigned to you).
Save them from death.
Give new hope to their parents,
that they may turn away from the desperate
act of abortion.
Grant conversion to the abortionist and to the staff.
Show us how we are to respond to the bloodshed
in our midst,
And lead us to the day when this place of death
Will be transformed into a haven of life.
Guard us with your joy and your peace,
For in You, life is victorious.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Priests for Life is a family of ministries aimed at fully activating and equipping the entire Church in the fight to protect life from abortion and euthanasia. The efforts of Priests for Life include training of the clergy and laity in pro-life spirituality, provision of healing after abortion, fostering political responsibility, conducting outreach to youth, Hispanics, and African-Americans, equipping lawmakers throughout the world, and much more. Priests for Life coordinates the worldwide work of Rachel's Vineyard and co-sponsors the Silent No More Awareness Campaign.

For information on all these ministries, visit
PriestsForLife.org.

Facebook: [Facebook.com/ProLifePage](https://www.facebook.com/ProLifePage)

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