

EVERY CHILD
BRINGS US GOD'S SMILE



Liturgy Guide
RESPECT LIFE 2009-2010

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We also wish to thank Kathy Jones for permission to reprint the "Litany to Mary, Mother of Life."*


*Scripture quotations, unless noted, are taken from the New American Bible with Revised New Testament and Revised Psalms,
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RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY OCTOBER 4, 2009

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Gen 2:18-24 / Heb 2:9-11 / Mk 10:2-16

HOMILY NOTES

- “It is not good for man to be alone.” (Gen 2:18) God has made us in his own image and likeness, allowing us to reflect certain attributes of our Creator. Although in an infinitely limited way, we mirror the nature of God through our intellect, will, and social nature. “Then God said: ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.’” (Gen 1:26) God, One and Triune, has allowed us to reflect his spiritual, divine, and Trinitarian nature.
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- The reciprocal love between the Father and the Son is so great that a third Person results from it: the Holy Spirit. By analogy, when husband and wife are united in love, they are able to produce a third person: a child, a fruit of their love. The conception of a child is a reflection of the Holy Trinity, of God himself.
 - Moses saw the hardness of heart of the Jewish people and allowed them to divorce. But Christ reminds the Pharisees of the Father’s original plan, devised since the beginning of creation, which is for the man to leave behind his father and mother, and become one with his wife in a permanent covenant.
 - Today life is being attacked from every angle: abortion robs children of their fundamental right to life; embryonic stem cell research involves destroying living human beings for speculative medical research; legalized assisted suicide and euthanasia arise out of the false view that some lives are not worth living, that some people are not worth protecting; and the attempt to redefine marriage is undermining the sacred institution that God established at the very beginning of creation. “What God has joined together, no human being must separate.” (Mk 10:9) No human being has the authority to separate husband from wife, nor procreation from marriage.

- In his letter to the Hebrews, Paul writes that “he who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin. Therefore, he is not ashamed to call them ‘brothers’” (Heb 2:11). Christ himself was conceived in the womb and born of a woman, following God’s original design. God’s plan, made manifest through revelation and tradition, is always simple and straight-forward, but it often requires self-discipline and sacrifice. Modern culture seeks to control and manipulate God’s design, introducing in vitro fertilization, embryo transfer, and surrogate motherhood, while God’s plan remains firm and constant. Authentic happiness is found only in those who follow God’s design, in those who accept the kingdom of God like children. Christ asks us to trust in the Father as children trust their parents, gently being guided by his loving hand.



- “Let them come to me.” In today’s Gospel, the disciples who rebuked the children who wanted to approach Jesus display the attitude of many today. In her famous speech at the National Prayer Breakfast on February 3, 1994, Mother Teresa of Calcutta quoted Jesus: “‘Anyone who receives a child in my name, receives me.’ By adopting a child, these couples receive Jesus but, by aborting a child, a couple refuses to receive Jesus.” She continued: “Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion.”
- Every child is a precious gem of incalculable worth. Accepting a new life into one’s family is an opportunity to embrace Christ, the Author of every soul. With their simplicity, openness, and love, children show us the path to salvation, bringing Christ into the world and leading us back to him.

INTERCESSIONS FOR LIFE



That our President, members of Congress, and all political leaders throughout the world may recognize the sacredness of life, and defend the fundamental right of every human being to live, from the moment of conception until natural death;

We pray to the Lord:

That all children with disabilities will be loved and cared for in healthy and nurturing environments;

We pray to the Lord:

That the sick may find strength and courage in the cross of Christ and discover the redemptive value of their suffering;

We pray to the Lord:

That all who have been involved in abortion may come to true repentance and seek God's merciful and healing love;

We pray to the Lord:

That all bishops and priests may teach the lay faithful to love the Gospel of Life, encouraging them to embrace each new child;

We pray to the Lord:

That our country stop resorting to use of the death penalty in response to violence, and that the merciful love of God convert the violent and heal the victim;

We pray to the Lord:

That the elderly may cherish each moment of their lives, and in their sunset years experience the love and attention they need;

We pray to the Lord:

A DAY OF PRAYER AND PENANCE FOR LIFE JANUARY 22, 2010

In all the dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. The Mass "For Peace and Justice" (no. 22 of the "Masses for Various Needs") should be celebrated with violet vestments as an appropriate liturgical observance for this day.

General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 373

FRIDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME
1 Sm 24:3-21 / Mk 3:13-19

HOMILY NOTES

- Today we commemorate the unborn, the most innocent and helpless of our brothers and sisters. The Lord cries out to us just as he did to David when asking him to spare the life of Saul. David heard the voice of God and realized that Saul was the Lord's anointed. If the Lord could plead on behalf of Saul, a sinful persecutor, how much greater are his pleas on behalf of the thousands of voiceless children brutally killed before their births every day in the United States.
- An innocent child is a human person created by God with a specific purpose in life. Every unborn boy and girl should be cherished, since each one has been created out of love.
- God knows each and every one of us by name; he has counted every hair on our heads and every minute of our lives. We must cherish all human beings, including the new children with which he blesses us.
- Today's psalm reads: "have mercy on me, God, have mercy." May the Lord have mercy on those who may never leave the womb alive; may the Lord have mercy on doctors who are destroying human lives; may he have mercy on all those who are misleading others into thinking that abortion is a legitimate expression of personal liberty. May the Lord teach us all to respect and cherish the gift of human life.



INTERCESSIONS FOR LIFE



That every child may be given the opportunity to live in an environment of love and care;
We pray to the Lord:

That politicians and world leaders may guide society according to the principles of right reason,
respecting the most fundamental and basic right of each person, which is to live;
We pray to the Lord:

That all parents may seek the good of their children, bringing them ever closer to God;
We pray to the Lord:

That any mother contemplating an abortion may realize the beautiful gift of new life and
embrace her child with gratitude and joy, with the support of family and friends;
We pray to the Lord:

That women and men who have been scarred by abortion may turn away from the temptation of
discouragement and despair, and find light and joy in the forgiveness of Christ;
We pray to the Lord:

That all who defend life may find the necessary strength and courage to continue
despite great challenges;
We pray to the Lord:

LITANY TO MARY, MOTHER OF LIFE

*The Response is: **Mary, pray for us.***

Mary, Mother of all Life,
help us to respect human life from the moment of conception
to the moment of natural death. **R.**

Mary, Mother of Compassion,
You showed us how valuable a single life can be;
Help us to guard and protect the lives of all people entrusted to our care. **R.**

Mary, Mother of the Child Jesus,
with St. Joseph you formed the Holy Family.
Guard and protect all families in this earthly life; **R.**

Mary, Mother Most Holy,
You sanctified the vocation of motherhood;
Pour out your heavenly aid on all mothers and help them to be holy. **R.**

Mary, Mother of Sorrows,
Simeon's prophecy foretold that a sword of suffering would pierce your heart;
Bring comfort and hope to all mothers who suffer over their children. **R.**

Mary, Full of Grace,
You had a choice in responding to God's call;
Help us always to say "Yes" to the will of God in our lives,
And strive always to do whatever he tells us. **R.**

Mary, Comforter of the Afflicted,
Pour forth your heavenly grace on all who are in need of God's healing,
Especially those involved in abortion;
Help them to experience the love and mercy of Christ, your Son. **R.**

Mary, Intercessor and Advocate,
We lift up the poor, the displaced, the marginalized and vulnerable members of society;
Help them to never abandon hope, but to place their trust in the God who gave them life. **R.**

Mary, Mother of the Word Incarnate, you bore in your womb him whom the heavens cannot contain;
Help us to bear witness to Christ by the example of our lives
And show the world the extravagant love of God. **R.**

All:
Remember, o most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, we fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, our Mother. To you we come, before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer them. Amen.



NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE



*Recite the following prayer for nine days from Friday, December 4 – Saturday, December 12
(or at a minimum on the first and ninth days of the novena).*

Pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe

(Pope John Paul II, January 25, 1979)

O Immaculate Virgin, mother of the true God and mother of the Church! You, who ... revealed your clemency and your pity to all those who ask for your protection, hear the prayer that we address to you with filial trust, and present it to your Son Jesus, our sole Redeemer.

Mother of Mercy, teacher of hidden and silent sacrifice, to you ... we dedicate on this day all our being and all our love. We also dedicate to you our life, our work, our joys, our infirmities, and our sorrows.

Grant peace, justice, and prosperity to our people, for we entrust to your care all that we have and all that we are, our Lady and Mother.

We wish to be entirely yours and to walk with you along the way of complete faithfulness to Jesus Christ and his Church: hold us always in your loving hand.

Virgin of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas, we pray to you for all the bishops, that they may lead the faithful along paths of intense Christian life, of love and humble service of God and souls. ...

Grant to our homes the grace of loving and respecting life in its beginnings, with the same love with which you conceived in your womb the life of the Son of God. Blessed Virgin Mary, protect our families, so that they may always be united, and bless the upbringing of our children. ...

Thus, Most Holy Mother, with the peace of God in our conscience, with our hearts free from evil and hatred, we will be able to bring to all true joy and true peace, which come to us from your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

Day One

Holy Mother, you appeared to Saint Juan Diego as a maiden of his own race to reveal that you are the mother of all God's children. Draw close to your heart those who are facing an unexpected pregnancy, so that like you they will say yes to the new life with which God has blessed them.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Two

Mary, Mother of divine grace, you appeared to Juan Diego standing on the moon and robed in a royal mantle adorned with stars, showing that you are the Queen of Heaven and Earth, yet far from a haughty or distant Queen. With hands folded in supplication, eyes cast downward in humility and compassion, you did not ask for a temple where you could be honored, but one where you could attend to the "weeping and sorrows of ... all the people of this land, and of the various peoples who love me...." May all who are sorrowing due to abuse, violence, exploitation, neglect, and all sins against the dignity of life, fly to you, Mother, for comfort and hope.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Three

Mother of God, your ribboned sash identified you as a pregnant woman, a woman who bore the Christ Child to a world in darkness and who through two millennia has borne the light and love of Christ to a world that has largely rejected Him. May the love of your Son awaken a hymn of thanksgiving and praise in all pregnant mothers, as happened long ago in the home of Elizabeth and Zechariah.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Four

Virgin most wise, you chose a humble farmer to announce your motherly concern to the people of Mexico. Although Juan Diego felt unequal to the mission you gave him, you encouraged him to persevere. Faced with powerful anti-life forces today, we also feel unequal to the mission God has given us of building a culture of life and a civilization of love. Help us to persevere always in this great campaign for life, assured of your help and prayers.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...



Day Five

Virgin gentle in mercy, in Juan Diego's anxiety to bring a priest to his dying uncle he failed to keep his appointment with you. Yet, you rewarded his filial love by restoring his uncle to health. Your compassion allowed Juan Diego to fulfill the mission you gave him, returning to the bishop with the proof the bishop sought. Teach us, Mother, to put God's holy will ahead of all created things, including our loved ones, and help remove the obstacles that prevent us from following God's will.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Six

Holy Mary, comfort of the troubled, you sought out Juan Diego when in fear and confusion he took a different route to avoid encountering you. Then you restored his hope and confidence so he could carry out the task you had entrusted to him. Many people today face decisions of life and death filled with fear and confusion. Mother, we ask you to restore their trust and hope in God so that their actions will always affirm the sanctity of human life.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...



Day Seven

Mystical Rose, your miraculous signs of Castilian roses in winter and your image on the tilma of Juan Diego led to the conversion of eight million Aztec people to Catholicism in just seven years. Mary, Mother of the Americas, intercede again for your children in the Americas, and convert the hearts of all who deny the sanctity of every human life.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Eight

Mary, Mother of the Church, your apparitions at Tepeyac and the miraculous image you left fostered unity between Catholic conquerors and clergy and the millions of Aztec converts. Bring unity, Mother, to the various factions within the Church and the wider public so that all may work to establish a culture of life.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Nine

Mother of our Savior, the conversion of your Aztec children brought an end to infant sacrifice in Mexico. Holy Mary, we implore your help to end the infant sacrifice by abortion throughout the Americas.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

A HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE

Procession

After all have assembled, a priest or deacon, wearing cope and humeral veil, brings the Blessed Sacrament to the altar for adoration in a monstrance. He may be accompanied by altar servers with candles.

A suitable song may be sung (e.g., *O Salutaris Hostia*). The Blessed Sacrament is placed on the altar. The presiding minister then kneels before the altar and incenses the Blessed Sacrament. The opening song is concluded, followed by a period of silent prayer.

Opening Prayer

O God,
who adorn creation with splendor and beauty,
and fashion human lives in your image and likeness,
awaken in every heart
reverence for the work of your hands,
and renew among your people
a readiness to nurture and sustain
your precious gift of life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

A reading from the Book of Genesis 1:24-31a

Then God said,
“Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures:
cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds.”
And so it happened:
God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle,
and all kinds of creeping things of the earth.
God saw how good it was.
Then God said:
“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.
Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,
the birds of the air, and the cattle,
and over all the wild animals
and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”
God created man in his image;
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.





God blessed them, saying:

“Be fertile and multiply;
fill the earth and subdue it.

Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air,
and all the living things that move on the earth.”

God also said:

“See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth
and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food;
and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air,
and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground,
I give all the green plants for food.”

And so it happened.

God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.

The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 139:1b-3, 13-14b, 23-24)

R. Guide me Lord, along the everlasting way.

O LORD, you have probed me, you know me:
you know when I sit and stand; you understand my thoughts from afar.
My travels and my rest you mark; with all my ways you are familiar.

R. Guide me Lord, along the everlasting way.

You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother’s womb.
I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works!

R. Guide me Lord, along the everlasting way.

Probe me, God, know my heart; try me, know my concerns.
See if my way is crooked, then lead me in the ancient paths.

R. Guide me Lord, along the everlasting way.

Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will live forever. (Jn 6:51)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
(Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14)

The disciples approached Jesus and said,
“Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?”
He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said,
“Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children,
you will not enter the Kingdom of heaven.
Whoever becomes humble like this child
is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.
And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones,
for I say to you that their angels in heaven
always look upon the face of my heavenly Father.
What is your opinion?
If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray,
will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills
and go in search of the stray?
And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it
than over the ninety-nine that did not stray.
In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father
that one of these little ones be lost.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Silent Prayer or Recitation of the Rosary

The Lord's Prayer

The presiding minister then sings or says:

Now let us offer together the prayer our Lord Jesus Christ taught us:

All: Our Father...



Benediction

At the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, the presiding minister goes to the altar, genuflects, and then kneels. As he kneels, Tantum Ergo or another suitable Eucharistic song is sung and he incenses the Blessed Sacrament. After the hymn is finished, he rises and sings or says:

Let us pray. After a brief period of silence, the presiding minister continues:

Lord Jesus Christ, (HCWEOM, 98)
 you gave us the Eucharist
 as the memorial of your suffering and death.
 May our worship of this sacrament of your body and blood
 help us to experience the salvation you won for us
 and the peace of the kingdom
 where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

After the prayer, the presiding minister puts on the humeral veil, genuflects, and takes the monstrance. (Those gathered should be kneeling.) He makes the sign of the cross with the monstrance over those gathered, in silence.

The presiding minister removes the humeral veil and resumes kneeling in front of the altar to lead those assembled in the Divine Praises. Each acclamation is repeated by all together.

Blessed be God.
 Blessed be His Holy Name.
 Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.
 Blessed be the name of Jesus.
 Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.
 Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.
 Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
 Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
 Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.
 Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.
 Blessed be her glorious Assumption.
 Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
 Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
 Blessed be God in His angels and in His Saints.

REPOSITION

After the Divine Praises, the presiding minister removes the Blessed Sacrament from the monstrance and returns it to the place of reservation. Thereafter, a hymn is sung (e.g., Holy God We Praise Thy Name), and the presiding minister and the servers bow to the altar and leave.

EVERY CHILD BRINGS US GOD'S SMILE



SECRETARIAT OF PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
3211 Fourth Street, N.E. • Washington, DC 20017-1194
Tel: (202) 541-3070 • Fax: (202) 541-3054
Website: www.usccb.org/prolife

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