



MADE IN HIS IMAGE

Respect Life 2004-2005



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For additional liturgical resources, please see www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy and Preaching on Abortion, available from Priests for Life: 888-PFL-3448.



RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY (OCTOBER 3, 2004)

INTERCESSIONS FOR LIFE

For our President, members of Congress, and the Supreme Court, that they might renounce the death of the unborn, and imbue within our laws respect for all life from conception to natural death;

We pray to the Lord:

For medical researchers, that they may be inspired and strengthened by a love for every human person, from the first moment of conception;

We pray to the Lord:

For all who have grown very old, that we might cherish their presence in our midst and drink deeply of their wisdom;

We pray to the Lord:

For those who pray before abortion clinics, who march for life, or who witness to the rights of all human beings: that God might strengthen and guide them;

We pray to the Lord:

For a spirit of repentance and conversion, that the culture of death may be defeated by the power of the Cross of Jesus;

We pray to the Lord:

For the families of those condemned to die: that the hope of the resurrection and the truth of the Gospel of life might strengthen them in their time of need;

We pray to the Lord:



PREACHING FOR LIFE

TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4/ 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14
Luke 17:5-10 (141)

Respect Life Sunday

Do you ever get discouraged? Have you ever looked back on all the work you've done to end abortion, to protect every human life from violence, and wondered why there are still laws which allow killing, mothers who abort, and people who die at the hand of the state? On those days, when you're feeling sorry for yourself, you have a friend in Habakkuk: "How long, O Lord?" he laments loudly: "I cry for help but you do not listen! I cry out to you, 'Violence!' But you do not intervene. Why do you let me see ruin: why do I look at misery?"

Habakkuk lived at a time when Israel was in exile and had to live among a foreign people who hated them. He and the faithful few tried to continue to do God's will against terrible odds, but sometimes became so discouraged that they thought that God was not doing his part. To Habakkuk and to us, the Lord responds:

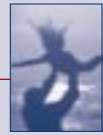
"The vision still has its time!" Not my time. Not your time. But God's time. The day when all little babies will be safe in their mothers' wombs will come! The day when no one is executed for any reason, will come! The day when old men and dying women are cherished as God's most precious gifts, will come! The day when every human life from the first moment of conception to the last natural breath will be protected and nourished and respected — that day will come...God's day will come! "If it delays," God says, "wait for it. It will surely come, it will not be late."

Sometimes we get high and mighty, following our own agenda rather than trying to discern God's will. But, Jesus tells us to remember that at the end of the day we can have but one best boast: "we are unprofitable servants; who have done what we were supposed to do."



Certainly we are called to work for the Kingdom of God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Certainly we are to preach the Gospel of Life with every resource at our disposal. Certainly we are to "stir into flame the gift God gave us." But in the end, this great work of defending human life is not our work: it is the work of God!

God, give us the patient endurance to carry on! Give us the hope to know you will win the victory! And give us the faith to trust only in you, the author and keeper of the Gospel of Life.



A DAY OF PRAYER AND PENANCE FOR LIFE (JANUARY 22, 2005)

INTERCESSIONS FOR LIFE

For an end to all laws which legalize the taking of a human life, that our nation might embrace truth and justice;

We pray to the Lord:

For little children who await the birth of a brother or sister: that they may learn to cherish the child in their mother's womb;

We pray to the Lord:

For doctors, who in their practice abort unborn children: that God might give them the grace to turn from sin and remember the Gospel;

We pray to the Lord:

For all who work in abortion clinics: that through the intercession of the Mother of God, they might come to love the unborn child;

We pray to the Lord:

For mothers broken by the memory of a child lost to abortion, that through the intercession of the Mother of God, the gentle and merciful love of God may heal their innermost being;

We pray to the Lord:

For fathers of children lost to abortion, that through the intercession of good Saint Joseph, they may repent of all sin, receive God's mercy, and live lives of exemplary goodness;

We pray to the Lord:

In November, 2001, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the following adaptation of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. Following confirmation by the Holy See in February, 2002, the following became particular law for the dioceses of the United States of America:

"In all the dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when the 22nd 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. 21 from 'Masses for Various Needs') should be celebrated with violet vestments as an appropriate liturgical observance for this day."

PREACHING FOR LIFE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2005

Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14/ Mark 3:20-21 (316)

A Day of Prayer and Penance for Life

Jesus upset his relatives. In today's very short Gospel we hear that they were so upset, they tried to stop him from speaking to the crowds.

It's never popular to preach the truth, whether on the shores of Galilee or in front of an abortion clinic in your city. There will always be plenty of people to condemn you when you speak the truth, whether in front of the temple in Jerusalem or before a Senate panel in Washington. Yet from the cross to the pulpit to Capitol Hill, every Catholic is under an obligation to preach the Gospel of Life.

Saint Paul tells us today about Christ, our great High Priest. This High Priest entered once and for all into the Holy of Holies, performing the one, true and perfect sacrifice. His sacrifice was not with the blood of sheep or goats, but with his own blood. His sacrifice was not on an altar of stone, but on the altar of the cross. Christ was the Priest and the Victim for our sins.

By his death we have come to know the gift of life. It is a gift which does not belong to us, but only to God, the author and custodian of life. To take life is wrong, whether it is growing in a mother's womb or in a laboratory dish, whether condemned in a prison cell, or has grown weak from age: *all life is sacred*. Christ died for every human being, and every human life is precious beyond measure.



Pray for an end to abortion. Pray for an end to capital punishment. Pray for a growing appreciation of the sacredness of every human life from conception to natural death. Pray and work for justice and they will be upset with you, they will make fun of you, and they will try to silence you. Just like they tried to silence him.



PRAYING FOR LIFE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

INTERCESSIONS FOR LIFE

The following intercessions may be inserted periodically into the General Intercessions at Mass or used in private prayer.

For every unwed father and mother,
and for their child: that, with God's grace,
their love might bind them together
and truth might preserve and protect them;
We pray to the Lord:

For grandparents and uncles and aunts:
that their expectant love might nurture
and preserve the life of every unborn child;
We pray to the Lord:

For those who prepare to receive
the Sacrament of Marriage:
that they might embrace their role
as sharers in God's creative love;
We pray to the Lord:

For families who have grown very old:
that we might rejoice in the gift of their
presence and cherish their wisdom;
We pray to the Lord:

For all who are about to die:
that through our love, care, and devotion,
they might know the beauty of life,
to the moment of their final breath;
We pray to the Lord:

For guards on death row,
and all who touch the lives of those condemned
to die: for compassion, respect, and an
appreciation of the dignity of all human life;
We pray to the Lord:

For those who long for the equality of all persons:
that their dedication to the unborn, the old,
the condemned, and the forgotten
may grow every day;
We pray to the Lord:

That justice, truth, and a love for the gift of life
might inspire all legislators, governors,
and our President;
We pray to the Lord:

For all who do not embrace the rights of the unborn
that, in love, they may come to know and treasure
the infinite value of every human person;
We pray to the Lord:

For those who study medicine:
that they may be driven by a desire
to heal and protect every human person;
We pray to the Lord:

For all who work for an end to abortion:
that they might be strengthened by prayer,
and that God might reward them for their goodness;
We pray to the Lord:

For all who teach the Gospel of Life:
that they might be driven by love alone;
We pray to the Lord:

For those who work to change our laws
to reflect the Gospel of Life, that God
might inspire and shepherd them;
We pray to the Lord:

A ROSARY

THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

Pope John Paul II has given us two great gifts: the mysteries of light as a part of the Holy Rosary, and the Gospel of Life in his great encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*. The following meditations on the mysteries of light are offered as a prayer for all life, from conception to natural death.

FIRST MYSTERY OF LIGHT: BAPTISM IN THE JORDAN

The Lord Jesus is Baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, as a voice cries to us from the heavens: "This is my beloved Son, hear him!" Let us listen to Christ and, with his grace, work for the protection of every person from conception to natural death.

Our Father...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Bless each unborn child, with the abundance of your love

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Nurture the unborn child and make him stronger each day

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Protect the unborn child from all selfishness and sin

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Embrace the unborn child, with the tenderness of your love

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Fill the heart of each unborn child with a love for your Son

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Fill the heart of each unborn child with the wonder of God's love

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Remember new fathers, whose hearts are afraid: make them strong

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Remember new mothers tempted by abortion

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Stand by grandparents of each child in the womb

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Comfort those whose unborn child has died

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.



FOR LIFE

SECOND MYSTERY OF LIGHT: SELF MANIFESTATION AT THE WEDDING AT CANA

When they had run out of wine, Jesus blessed water and turned it into wine.
May Jesus transform the darkness of sin and death in the proclamation of the Gospel of Life.

Our Father...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Help us to keep your words: Do whatever he tells you

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Be with all newly married couples

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Lead all newly married couples to Jesus, your Son

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Inspire those who prepare for marriage with your faithful love

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Intercede for all couples in the first year of their marriage

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Rejoice with us in the gift of married love

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Be present with all the saints and angels at every wedding

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Stand vigil with parents by the sick bed of their child

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Be with each child on the day of First Communion

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Inspire each parent with your unselfish love

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THIRD MYSTERY OF LIGHT: PROCLAMATION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Jesus called the crowds to conversion, proclaiming that the Kingdom of God is at hand.
May this world choose life and turn from all that leads to darkness and death.

Our Father...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Pray for all new mothers in need of your example

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Pray for all new fathers, that they might be like Saint Joseph your spouse

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Stand by all godparents who seek to lead their children to your Son

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Inspire the Church to follow your example of holiness of life

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Inspire us that we might turn from sin, and be faithful to the Gospel

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Intercede for parents who do not believe in your Son

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Cradle each little baby in your loving embrace

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Stand vigil by the cribs of crying infants

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Intercede for parents tempted by fear or despair

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Remember new parents who are confused or alone

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.



FOURTH MYSTERY OF LIGHT: TRANSFIGURATION

The Lord Jesus led Peter, James and John with him to the top of the mountain where he was transfigured in light, and his garments shown whiter than snow. May Christ's glorious light shine on all who dwell in the shadow of darkness and sin.

Our Father...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Show us the sacredness of newborn life in Jesus your Son

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Brighten our hearts with the joy of those who see new life

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: From out of the darkness of sin, lead an aching world to the light of your Son

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Be at the cradle of each newborn child

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Guide the hands and hearts of obstetricians and those who help them

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Hear the cries of women in painful labor

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Stand at the beds of all whose labor brings tears and pain

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Cradle each stillborn child in your maternal tenderness

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Weep with us at the wonder of new life

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Stand vigil with every expecting father

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Be present in each neo-natal unit

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

FIFTH MYSTERY OF LIGHT: INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST

On the night before he suffered, he took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said, *Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body...* When supper was ended he took a cup filled with wine, gave it to them, and said, *Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the cup of my blood.* Strengthened by the Holy Eucharist, may we work to proclaim the Gospel of life and defend all who are endangered by the culture of death.

Our Father...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Give your courage to newly pregnant mothers

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Intercede for those fearful of a child's impending birth

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Hasten to pray for all expectant parents

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Stand by the relatives and friends of all expectant parents

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Remember those forgotten by the world.

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Bless all who shelter pregnant mothers

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Watch over children abandoned or uncared for

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Look with compassion on single mothers who expect a child

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Be a model of expectant joy for all your children

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Holy Mary, Mother of Life: Hasten to proclaim the fruit of your womb to all peoples

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile show us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.



A NOVENA TO SAINTS ANNE AND JOACHIM

For Faith and Perseverance

Each year the Church venerates the memory of Saints Anne and Joachim on July 26th. An ancient story dating to the first centuries of the Church's life recalls how Saints Anne and Joachim, like Abraham and Sarah, were scorned by their neighbors because they had no children.

Years of longing did not weaken their trust in God, but grief eventually drove Saint Joachim into the wilderness to fast and pray. Saint Anne, remaining at home, dressed in mourning clothes and wept because she had no child of her own. Seeing her mistress distressed, a servant girl reminded Anne to put her trust in God. Saint Anne washed her face, put on her bridal clothes and went to a garden to plead with God for a child.

Angels appeared to Saint Anne in her garden and Saint Joachim in the desert, promising that, despite their old age, they would give birth to a child who

would be known throughout the world. The new parents ran to meet one another at Jerusalem's Golden Gate, and with a kiss rejoiced in the new life which God had promised would be theirs.



Saints Anne and Joachim are powerful intercessors for all married couples, expectant mothers and married couples who are having difficulty conceiving, as well as all who have grown old. Pope John Paul II encouraged devotion to Saints Joachim and Anne when he wrote:

On the threshold of the New

Testament, it is precisely Joachim and Anne who prepare for the Messiah's coming by welcoming Mary as a gift of God and offering her to the world as the immaculate "ark of salvation." According to the apocryphal Gospel of James, they in turn were welcomed and revered by the Holy Family of Nazareth, which thus becomes a model of tender care for them. (Angelus, 25 July, 1999)

NOVENA TO SAINTS ANNE AND JOACHIM

Sign of the Cross.

Good parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
grandparents of our Savior, Jesus Christ,

When life seems barren,
help us to trust in God's mercy.

When we are confused,
help us to find the way to God.

When we are lost in the desert,
lead us to those whom God has called us to love.

When our marriage seems lifeless,
show us the eternal youth of the Lord.

When we are selfish,
teach us to cling only to that which lasts.

When we are afraid,
help us to trust in God.

When we are ashamed,
remind us that we are God's children.

When we sin,
lead us to do God's will.

You who know God's will for husband and wife,
help us live chastely.

You who know God's will for the family,
keep all families close to you.

You who suffered without children,
intercede for all infertile couples.

You who trusted in God's will,
help us to respect God's gift of fertility.

You who gave birth to the Blessed Mother,
inspire couples to be co-creators with God.

You who taught the Mother
of God,
teach us to nurture children
in holy instruction.

You whose hearts trusted in
God,
hear our prayers for ...
(mention your requests here)

Pray with us for the ministry of Catholic family life.

Pray with us for the ministry of Natural Family Planning.

Pray with us for all who give their time, talent and treasure
to this good work.

Hail Mary ... Our Father ... Glory to the Father ...

God of our fathers,
you gave Saints Anne and Joachim
the privilege of being the parents of Mary,
the mother of your incarnate Son.

May their prayers help us to attain
the salvation you have promised to your people.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.¹

Amen.

Sign of the Cross.





ABOUT THE MOSAIC

The art of mosaic dates back some five thousand years to ancient Babylon. The mosaic of Saints Anne and Joachim was made of an Italian glass called smalti. Its intentionally uneven surface makes it highly reflective. The gold around the halos of Saints Anne and Joachim is 14 kt gold-leaf pressed onto the smalti. The thousands of pieces that make up the mosaic were hand cut to form the design.

The mosaic depicts the moment of the meeting of Saints Anne and Joachim at the Golden Gate of Jerusalem. It was a moment of "knowing." They shared their joy in the angel's message. They knew that what they hoped for had been granted to them. They knew they were to be blessed with a child. They conceived a daughter who would change the world forever.

This child would become the Mother of the Savior, the "New Eve," the mother of us all. Through Mary blossomed a new springtime for the world.

The words surrounding the mosaic are from the Marriage Liturgy. They echo something we already sense in our hearts and souls, that "the very meaning of life is found in the giving and receiving of love" (John Paul II , *Evangelium vitae*). As the beauty of a mosaic is in its reflected light, so we too are all called to be reflections of the love in which we were created.

Artist: Adrienne M. Keogler, © 2004

¹Collect from the *Roman Missal*. ©1973, ICEL.