



NINE DAYS OF PRAYER, PENANCE AND PILGRIMAGE

PRAYERS AND ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF *ROE V. WADE* WITHIN THE YEAR OF FAITH

Whether you come to Washington for the March for Life or you plan to attend rallies, marches or liturgies in your own diocese, please consider participating in “Nine Days of Prayer, Penance and Pilgrimage” from January 19-27, 2013:

- **On the weekend of January 19-20**, diocesan pro-life and youth ministry directors will be invited to assemble local students/pilgrims who will be making a pilgrimage to distant Masses, rallies, marches, and other events marking the *Roe* anniversary.

As schedules allow, bishops are encouraged to preside at Mass or a Holy Hour for these young pilgrims, and to formally bless them before their journey, using the “Order for the Blessing of Pro-Life Pilgrims Before Their Journey” (see the bottom half of page 10, [2012 Respect Life Liturgy Guide \[en español\]](#)). A brief get-together with refreshments could follow, during which a leader could underscore the spiritual purpose of the pilgrimage and provide instructions on how to sign up for the daily novena. Downloadable prayer and educational resources, as well as suggested acts of reparation during the journey, will be available to diocesan staff to assist them in their planning.

- **During the 9-day period between January 19 and 27**, a simple novena will be made available with daily prayer intentions for the healing and conversion of our nation, for elected officials who support abortion, and for all people whose lives have forever been changed by an abortion, including the children whose lives were ended, their mothers and fathers, their grandparents and siblings and the spouses of those who’ve been involved in an abortion in the past. Parishes could also be encouraged to hold a “40 Hours Devotion,” or a Holy Hour for Life, including a “Prayer Service for Forgiveness and Healing” (a model of which can be found on page 13 of this year’s [Respect Life Program Liturgy Guide \[en español\]](#)).

The youth-friendly Novena will assist both pilgrims and those participating in their parishes and homes via social media/text messages/emails with a web-link to the day’s prayers and activities:

- a) An intercession of the day
- b) Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be
- c) A very brief reflection on the saint of the day or a lesson from the daily readings
- d) Daily suggestions for concrete acts of prayer, penance and charity, which would help to introduce students to traditional prayers and personal sacrifices

e) One powerful abortion-related myth/reality fact

Pro-Life and Youth Ministry directors are encouraged to sponsor a video contest for their high school-age pilgrims. Although the promotion of this activity should begin by early January, the videos would actually be taken while the students are attending events during the January 19-27 period of “Nine Days of Prayer, Penance and Pilgrimage.” Student videos (30 to 60 seconds in length) could illustrate what it means personally to take part in the pro-life pilgrimage (and in the pro-life movement generally). Further details about the video contest will be available soon at www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/january-roe-events/video-contest-for-high-school-age-pilgrims.cfm.

A blessing of the pilgrims may also be offered on their return (see the “Order for the Blessing of Pro-Life Pilgrims As They Return from Their Journey” on the bottom half of page 12 in the [Respect Life Program Liturgy Guide](#) [[en español](#)]).

- **On Sunday, January 27**, concluding the 9 days of prayer, parishes are asked to offer a [Holy Hour for Reparation and Healing](#) for all those impacted by abortion.

If you plan to be in Washington, D.C. for the March for Life, please consider attending the [National Prayer Vigil for Life](#) at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The all-night prayer vigil begins with an Opening Mass at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 24, and ends with a Closing Mass the next morning at 7:30 a.m. Later that day, Friday, January 25, the [March for Life Rally](#) begins at 12:00 noon on the National Mall.