

## LITURGICAL RESOURCES: DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

### SAMPLE INTERCESSIONS

For the legal protection of unborn children  
and for loving support for mothers  
before and after birth;

*We pray to the Lord:*

For all who suffer from  
participation in abortion:  
May they repent and turn  
to God's loving forgiveness;

*We pray to the Lord:*

### HOMILY HELPS

*Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children | January 22, 2019*

*Homily suggestions for unpacking the theme are based on the readings indicated below, selected from among the many choices available for this day. See no. 373 of the GIRM or an Ordo for more information on the liturgical observance of this day of prayer and penance.*

**First Reading:** 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 3:14-21

**Gospel Acclamation:** See John 6:63c, 68c

**Gospel:** Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

### YOU FORMED MY INMOST BEING

God creates us (*Responsorial Psalm*) and invites us to eternal, loving union with Himself. He sends us to share this message with others and to love one another as He loves us.

### LOVE THEM BOTH

Decisions against human life are often influenced by feeling afraid, unsupported, pressured, or alone. Consider a college student whose boyfriend tells her to choose between him and their unborn child, or expectant parents who have just been told their baby may have a serious disability. We need to love both the unborn children and their parents, providing concrete support to help those in difficult pregnancy situations welcome their children (*Gospel Reading*)— before and after they are born.

### BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

To best serve the needs of others, we must humble ourselves like children (*Gospel Reading*) so we can receive the Lord's guidance. When Christ dwells in our hearts, He can "accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us" (*Second Reading*, Eph 3:20).