

9 DAYS FOR LIFE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 18 – FRIDAY, JANUARY 26
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Day Eight: Thursday, January 25, 2018

Intercession: For an end to the use of the death penalty in our country.

Prayers: *Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be*

Reflection: As Catholics, we believe and put our hope in a merciful and loving God. We are conscious of our own brokenness and need for redemption. Our Lord calls us to imitate him more perfectly by witnessing to the inherent dignity of every person, including those whose actions have been despicable. Our faith and hope is in the mercy of God who says to us, “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy” (Mt 5:7) and “I desire mercy, not sacrifice” (Mt 9:13). As Christians, we are called to oppose the culture of death by witnessing to something greater and more perfect: a gospel of life, hope and mercy.

Acts of Reparation (choose one):

- Do something kind for someone else without being asked or telling anyone. Pray for him or her while you do so.
- Smile. Ask God today for the grace to be extra joyful and share Christ’s love with those who need encouragement the most today.
- Read about the life of a modern saint. You might be surprised by how much you have in common with him or her.

One Step Further: For some people who are committed to upholding the sanctity of human life, the death penalty can present a challenge. Properly understood, however, Catholic teaching against the death penalty is both persuasive and eminently pro-life. Learn about the death penalty within the context of respect for God’s gift of human life in “**Death Penalty: Catholic Q & A**” (www.usccb.org/death-penalty-faq).

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