

INTERCEDE



May God show each of us how we can live out radical solidarity with moms in need and their children.

PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

Shortly before he suffered his Passion, Jesus proclaimed to his disciples: *“I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another”* (Jn 13:34). The Church’s entire social doctrine is guided by the fundamental principle that every human life has innate dignity and incomparable value. As disciples of Christ, we are called to make a sacrificial gift of ourselves for the sake of our neighbor.

Fulfilling Christ’s command to love one another takes shape in our practice of solidarity. Solidarity means putting our love for others into action and making the good of others our own. Solidarity “is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people... On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good...to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all” (*Sollicitudo rei socialis* 38).

While some areas of the country now protect the child in the womb, others are doing all they can to increase access to abortion. Radical solidarity

compels us to be at the side of vulnerable mothers in profound friendship, compassion, and support for both them and their children, born and unborn. It requires us to address the fundamental challenges that lead an expectant mother to believe she is unable to welcome the child God has entrusted to her. This cannot be accomplished by laws or policy alone, but requires the continual transformation of our own hearts, so that we may recognize in every person the face of Christ and place their needs before our own. We each have our particular gifts, role, and obligation within the Body of Christ to help build a culture of life. May we work together to bring about a culture of life through radical, sacrificial, Christ-like love.

Reflection adapted from “Radical Solidarity” (respectlife.org/radical-solidarity-reflection).

ACT (choose one)

- Offer the “Prayer for Radical Solidarity” for this month’s intention (respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity).
- Contact your diocese to learn more about how you can help mothers in need in your area (<https://bit.ly/diocesan-directory>).
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for this month’s intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

This October marks the 50th anniversary of Respect Life Month. Visit respectlife.org/celebrate to find out how to mark the occasion.

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