

## INTERCEDE



May all persons with disabilities be treated with respect and their lives protected.

## PRAY

*Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be*

## REFLECT

We live in a culture that idolizes productivity, efficiency, and independence, often measuring a person by what he or she can *do*. These and other false standards are used to determine whether someone's life is considered worth living. We may sometimes be tempted to believe that a person's identity lies in what the world values. But God's love—individual, real, unchanging—is the true source of our identity. Because His love will never change, nothing can reduce our God-given dignity, and nothing can diminish the immeasurable worth of our lives.

The Gospels recount that Jesus constantly drew close to the blind, the sick, and the lame. We can easily recall the stories of how Christ stooped down to heal the paralytic, the hemorrhaging woman, the leper, and the man born blind, raising them to new life in his love. Jesus shows us that a person's innate goodness is never diminished by physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities because human dignity is not dependent on ability. Rather, every life is a *good* and *perfect* gift, created

for an eternal destiny. Looking through the eyes of His love, we can see “in every person his living image” (*Evangelium Vitae* 83). Every person is a *wonder* of God's creation, reflects God Himself, and has been created for eternal life with Him. Every person, every life is a gift. Let us bear witness to this truth in our words and actions.

## ACT (choose one)

- Offer “A Prayer for Life” for today's intention ([bit.ly/a-prayer-for-life](https://bit.ly/a-prayer-for-life)).
- Learn more about the National Catholic Partnership on Disability ([ncpd.org](https://ncpd.org)) and their mission to advance the full and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in the life of the Church and society. Consider one concrete action you can take to make persons with disabilities feel welcome and included in your parish or community.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for this month's intention.

## ONE STEP FURTHER

In a culture that so often judges our worth based on what we can do, produce, or achieve, the beauty of a life lived with disabilities can be difficult to understand. Yet, God assures us that every human life is a precious gift, filled with inherent value, dignity, and worth. A mother of a child with Down syndrome shares her personal experience of witnessing the beauty of life in all circumstances in, “A Perfect Gift” ([respectlife.org/a-perfect-gift](https://respectlife.org/a-perfect-gift)).

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