

Prayer and Reflection Resources for the March for Life

Diocese of Camden Life & Justice Ministries

For use during travel to the March for Life on January 27, 2017

Bishop Sullivan will greet pilgrims at the corner of **New Jersey Ave. and Constitution Ave.** Look on the left side of the street as you approach the intersection.

On social media? Use the hashtag **#prolifeSNJ** to connect with other South Jersey pilgrims.

Follow Life & Justice on Facebook (www.facebook.com/camdenlifejustice) and Twitter (@lifejusticemin) for updates.

Pro-Life Rosary Prayer Intentions:

The Sorrowful Mysteries (*traditionally prayed on Fridays*)

The Agony in the Garden: For all who are suffering from abandonment or neglect, that compassionate individuals will come forward to offer them comfort and aid.

The Scourging at the Pillar: That the victims of violence, torture and slavery will be delivered from their suffering, find healing and know that God is close to them.

The Crowning with Thorns: That the persecution of Christians will end in a new era of tolerance and respect for the religious freedom and conscience rights of all.

The Carrying of the Cross: For all who labor under burdens that seem too great to bear—due to illness, age, poverty, cruelty or injustice—that our prayers and aid will lighten their crosses.

The Crucifixion: For an end to the death penalty and for the release of all prisoners of conscience and all who have been wrongfully convicted.

Prayer for Human Life

Father, we praise you for the work of your hands:

For human life, made in your image;

For the gift of your Son, our Savior;

For the power of your Spirit, who fills our hearts.

For all you bestow upon us, we praise you and we thank you.

Help us to protect the life you gave us: support the aged, guide the young, lift up the falling, and heal the sick. To all people grant your truth in its fullness. May those who are yet unborn soon see the light of day and live to give you glory, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Our Nation

God Our Father, Giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to Your loving care. You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Send Your Spirit to touch our hearts, especially the hearts of our nation's leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Remind Your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing Your will. Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our land, grant us the courage to reject the "culture of death." Lead us into a new age of life. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



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Every Life is Worth Living *(from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' Life Issues Forum)*

By Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap.

My dear friends in Christ:

One of the deepest desires of the human heart is to discover our identity. So often, as a society and as individuals, we identify ourselves by what we do. We base our worth on how productive we are at work or at home, and we determine our lives to be more or less good depending on the degree of independence or pleasure. We may even begin to believe that if our lives, or those of others, don't "measure up" to a certain standard, they are somehow less valuable or less worth living.

Our worth is based not on our skills or levels of productivity. Rather, we discover our worth when we discover our true identity found in the unchangeable, permanent fact that we are created in God's image and likeness and called to an eternal destiny with him.

Because of this, absolutely nothing can diminish our God-given dignity, and therefore, nothing can diminish the immeasurable worth of our lives. Others may fail to respect that dignity—may even try to undermine it—but in doing so, they only distance themselves from God's loving embrace. Human dignity is forever.

Whether it lasts for a brief moment or for a hundred years, each of our lives is a good and perfect gift. At every stage and in every circumstance, we are held in existence by God's love.

An elderly man whose health is quickly deteriorating; an unborn baby girl whose diagnosis indicates she may not live long; a little boy with Down syndrome; a mother facing terminal cancer—each may have great difficulties and need our assistance, but each of their lives is worth living.

When we encounter the suffering of another, let us reach out and embrace them in love, allowing God to work through us. This might mean slowing down and taking the time to listen. It might mean providing respite care or preparing meals for a family facing serious illness. It might mean simply being present and available. And of course, it always means prayer—bringing their needs before the Father and asking him to work in their lives.

Experiencing suffering—or watching another suffer—is one of the hardest human experiences. Fear of the unknown can lead us into the temptation of taking control in ways that offend our dignity and disregard the reverence due to each person.

But we are not alone. Christ experienced suffering more deeply than we can comprehend, and our own suffering can be meaningful when we unite it with his. Especially in the midst of trials, we are invited to hold fast to the hope of the Resurrection. God is with us every step of the way, giving us the grace we need.

In times of suffering, let us have the courage to accept help that others genuinely want to give, and give the help that others need. We were made to love and be loved; we are meant to depend on one another, serving each other in humility and walking together in times of suffering. Our relationships are meant to help us grow in perfect love.

Let us learn to let go of our own standards of perfection and instead learn more deeply how to live according to God's standards. He does not call us to perfect efficiency or material success; he calls us to self-sacrificial love. He invites us to embrace each life for as long as it is given—our own lives and the lives of those he has placed in our paths. Every life is worth living.