

Prayers for Respect for Life Week

Prayer for life by Saint John Paul II

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world,
Mother of the living,
to you do we entrust the cause of life:
Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers
of babies to be born,
of the poor whose lives are made difficult,
of men and women who are victims of brutal violence,
of the elderly and the sick killed
by indifference or out of misguided mercy.
Grant that all who believe in your Son
may proclaim the Gospel of life
with honesty and love to the people of our time.
Obtain for them the grace
To accept that Gospel as a gift ever new,
the joy of celebrating it with gratitude
throughout their lives
And the courage to bear witness to it resolutely,
in order to build,
together with all people of good will,
the civilization of truth and love,
to the praise and glory of God,
the Creator and lover of life.

*Saint John Paul II Encyclical Letter
"The Gospel of Life"
Given in Rome, on March 25,
The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the
Lord, in the year 1995.*

Prayer for Life and Dignity

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of life,
bless us with the courage to defend all life
from conception to natural death.
Bless us with the strength to respect all peoples
from east to west, from north to south,
so that we may truly follow the call of Jesus to be neighbor.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.
Amen

(From Being Neighbor: The Catechism and Social Justice, USCCB, April 1998)

A Prayer of Thanks *(Primary)*

Dear God, Our Father,
We thank you for our lives.
We thank you for making each one of us a unique person.
We thank you for each other.
We thank you for the many gifts you have given us.
Help us to see the gifts of other people.
Help us to share our gifts with each other.
Help us to care for each other the way you care for us.
Amen.

(From Fully Alive Grade 2)

A Light for the World *(Junior)*

God of faith, we believe in you.
God of hope, we place our trust in you.
God of love, we give you our hearts, our minds, our souls.
We are your people, members of your family.
We are brothers and sisters, living in every part of your world.
You ask us to believe in each other, as you believe in us.
You ask us to trust in each other, as you trust in us.
Help us to build a world filled with your goodness and your care.
Help us to see the needs of all our brothers and sisters, and respond generously.
Help us to be a light for the world.
Amen.

(From Fully Alive, Grade 5)

Loving God, everything you created is good.

We have received life from your hands.

We have been created male and female with the power to love and care for each other and to share in your creation.

We thank you for this gift.

We ask your help to cherish and respect what you have created.

We ask your help to use the gift of sexuality in the way you have intended. **Amen.**

(From Fully Alive, Grade 6)

A Prayer for Wisdom *(Intermediate/Senior)*

Creator God, you have made us in your image, male and female.

You are life and you are love.

Open our hearts so that we may reflect your image in all we say and do.

You know and love each one of us.

You have known and loved us from the moment we were conceived.

Open our hearts to your plan for us so that we may be fully alive.

You have given us the blessing of other people to share our lives.

Family members, friends, teachers, and others who reflect your wisdom.

Open our hearts so that we may welcome their words of guidance.

You have given us the promise of forgiveness, through your son, Jesus.

You ask us to be honest with ourselves and recognize our weaknesses and sins.

Open our hearts so that we may be healed and, with your help, start anew.

Amen.

(From Fully Alive, Grade 8)

Prayer for Parents

Loving Creator, author of life,
we thank you for our special role
in family life and for the gift we
share with you in creating others
in your own image and likeness.
Life is so precious and so beautiful,
mingling souls in so mysterious and
satisfying ways.

May our human love and friendship
reflect your own divine love.
May we and our children be committed
to being fully alive to your call and challenge,
ever growing in discipleship and friendship
with Jesus who alone is the way, the truth and the life.

May we praise you always.
May we, without seeming to preach,
teach you to our children and to others,
not so much by our words as by our example.