

Respect for Human Life

"...that I should not lose anything of what he gave me..." John 6:39

This **Scripture** reading sums up respect for life. "That I should not lose anything" means being attentive to God's word, especially through prayer, which is our conversation with God. "What he gave me" is a reminder to be thankful and put our trust in God always. It is through prayer and reflection on God's word that we find the strength to do what God wants us to do.

Inspired by **Catholic Social Teaching**, the Missionary Oblates Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation ministry promotes the respect for human life at every stage, from conception to natural death. We support an ethic of consistent life: opposing abortion, the death penalty, torture and other assaults on human dignity, while speaking out on behalf of the poor and vulnerable especially immigrants, migrant workers, and indigenous peoples.

As we approach the 45th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision on Roe v. Wade, we pray in solidarity with the thousands of pilgrims gearing up for the 2018 March for Life. We pray for those wounded by abortion. We uphold respect for the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, and pray that our leaders are guided by justice, truth, and a love for the gift of life.

There are many ways to become more involved:

Through your local communities:

- Visit your diocesan Respect Life Apostolate for information on local programs and donations
- Project Rachel offers help for women who are grieving after an abortion <http://hopeafterabortion.com/>

On a National level:

- Contact your local and national representatives: <https://www.humanlifeaction.org/action-center>
- Attend a local or national March for Life event on or around January 19, 2018

Prayer and Action

- Find a Forty Days for Life prayer vigil in your area: <https://40daysforlife.com/>
- Participate in the **United States Bishops' 9 Days for Life Novena** from January 18-26, 2018

Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Virgin of Guadalupe,
Patroness of unborn children,
we implore your intercession
for every child at risk of abortion.
Help expectant parents to welcome from God
the priceless gift of their child's life.
Console parents who have lost that gift
through abortion,
and lead them to forgiveness and healing
through the Divine Mercy of your Son.

Teach us to cherish
and to care for family and friends
until God calls them home.

Help us never to see
others as burdens.
Guide our public
officials
to defend each and
every human life
through just laws.
Inspire us all to bring
our faith into public life,
to speak for those who
have no voice.
We ask this in the name
of your Son,
Jesus Christ, who is
Love and Mercy itself.
Amen.



~ USCCB Respect Life Liturgy Guide