

# Live the Gospel of *Life*

"to imitate  
Christ and  
follow in his  
footsteps"

*The Gospel of Life*

## RESPECT LIFE MONTH

October 2020

Art: Hofmann, Heinrich, "Christ Healing the Sick," Drawing, 19th century, in *Of the Imitation of Christ: Four Books*, by Thomas à Kempis, page 165, Philadelphia, PA: A. J. Holman & Company, 1893. Courtesy of the Library of Congress. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Excerpt from *Evangelium vitae*, no. 51 © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

# OPENING PRAYER

## Sign of the Cross

**Reflection** (USCCB, “Live the Gospel of Life”)

Leaders: “Twenty five years ago ... are a *single and indivisible* gospel’.”

## Prayer

*All: O Mary,  
Bright dawn of the new world,  
Mother of the living,  
To you do we entrust the cause of life:*

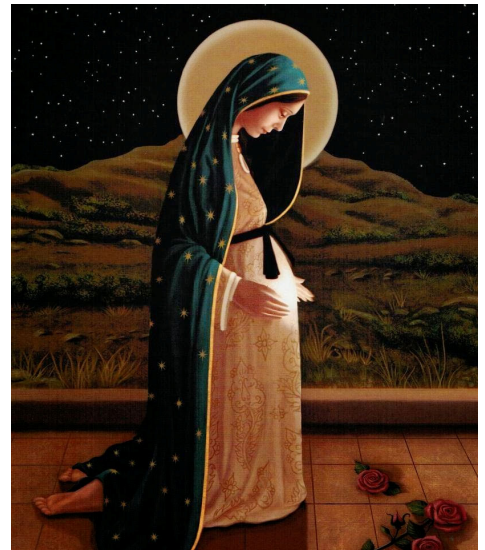
*Look down, O Mother,  
Upon the vast numbers  
Of babies not allowed to be born,  
Of the poor whose lives are made difficult,  
Of men and women  
Who are victims of brutal violence,  
Of the elderly and the sick killed  
By indifference or out of misguided mercy.*

*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,  
A civilization of truth and love,*

***To the praise and glory of God,  
Creator and lover of life.***



# MID SESSION PRAYER

## Intercessions for Life

Leader: God, Creator of All Life, you have chosen us to be children of the light, your daughters and sons, a holy people. Through the power of your Spirit, we lift up these prayers on behalf of our most vulnerable and wounded brothers and sisters, that their rightful and sacred dignity will be respected and protected.

**Response:**

***Lord of Life, hear our prayer.***

Reader: For all people throughout the world: that we might recognize and treat each person as a masterpiece of God's creation. We pray to the Lord...

Reader: For the poor, the homeless, and all who are in need: that they may receive love, respect, and the material assistance they need. We pray to the Lord....

Reader: For all those facing an unexpected pregnancy: that they may listen for the Lord's voice and follow Him with trust, and that the peace of Christ may fill their hearts. We pray to the Lord....

Reader: For all women, men, and family members suffering from the effects of abortion: that they may know the Lord's tender love and His healing presence. We pray to the Lord...

Reader: For those who are ill: that they may they draw strength from the Sacred Heart of Jesus, who is always with us in our suffering. We pray to the Lord...

Reader: For parents who have lost a child through miscarriage, and for families who have lost a child through illness or injury: that in their darkness they may know the comfort and hope of Christ. We pray to the Lord...

Reader: For our elected officials: that in their leadership and public service, they may respect and honor the dignity of each person. We pray to the Lord...

Leader: Let us pray together in the words the Lord has taught us.

**All: Our Father...**

Leader: Father and Maker of all, you adorn all creation with splendor and beauty, and fashion human lives in your image and likeness. Awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands, and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of life. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever.

**All: Amen.**



# CLOSING PRAYER

**Reflection** (USCCB, “Live the Gospel of Life”)

Leaders: “In his encyclical ... live the gospel of life.”

## Prayer

All: **HEAVENLY FATHER,**

*the beauty and dignity of human life*

*was the crowning of your creation.*

*You further ennobled that life*

*when your Son became one with us in his Incarnation.*

*Help us to realize the sacredness of human life*

*and to respect it from the moment of conception*

*until the last moment at death.*

*Give us courage to speak with truth and love*

*and with conviction in defense of life.*

*Help us to extend the gentle hand of mercy and forgiveness*

*to those who do not reverence your gift of life.*

*To all, grant pardon for the times*

*we have failed to be grateful for your precious gift of life*

*or to respect it in others.*

***We ask this in Jesus' Name.***

***Amen.***

Live the  
Gospel of *Life*

“to imitate Christ and  
follow in his footsteps”