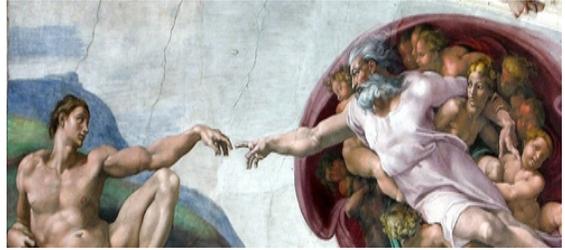


Life Sunday Material

For the protection of human life

“I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10.10)

"Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7). By making us partakers in His own life, God established a profound relation with man.



Meditation: Let us call to our mind the God who created life in its varied and diverse forms. That very life is within us. Let us thank Him, who is our Creator and Giver of Life. 1 Our Father.

“God looked at everything he had made and found it very good” (Genesis 1.31). All His creations possess goodness and are precious in His eyes. He loves and sustains life in all its diversity.



Meditation: Let us remember St. Mother Teresa, who loved each and every person without distinction. Let us pray for that grace to adore life. 1 Hail Mary.

The teaching of St. Pope John Paul II from his encyclical “Evangelium Vitae (Gospel of Life)”, reminds us the importance of human life at all its stages and in every aspect. Man has no right to end a human life or to prevent someone from being born. To create life itself is beyond any human ability or science.

Let us prayerfully meditate the following from the Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis, “Patris Corde” (With a Father’s Heart).

At the end of every account in which Joseph plays a role, the Gospel tells us that he gets up, takes the child and his mother, and does what God commanded him (Matthew 1:24; 2:14.21). Indeed, Jesus and Mary his Mother are the most precious treasure of our faith.

In the divine plan of salvation, the Son is inseparable from his Mother, from Mary, who “advanced in her pilgrimage of faith, and faithfully persevered in her union with her Son until she stood at the cross”.

We should always consider whether we ourselves are protecting Jesus and Mary, for they are also mysteriously entrusted to our own responsibility, care and safekeeping. The Son of the Almighty came into our world in a state of great vulnerability. He needed to be defended, protected, cared for and raised by Joseph. God trusted Joseph, as did Mary, who found in him someone who would not only save her life but would always provide for her and her child. In this sense, Saint Joseph could not be other than the



Guardian of the Church, for the Church is the continuation of the Body of Christ in history, even as Mary's motherhood is reflected in the motherhood of the Church. In his continued protection of the Church, Joseph continues to protect the child and his mother, and we too, by our love for the Church, continue to love the child and his mother.

That child would go on to say: "As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40). Consequently, every poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner,

every infirm person is "the child" whom Joseph continues to protect. For this reason, Saint Joseph is invoked as protector of the unfortunate, the needy, exiles, the afflicted, the poor and the dying. Consequently, the Church cannot fail to show a special love for the least of our brothers and sisters, for Jesus showed a particular concern for them and personally identified with them. From Saint Joseph, we must learn that same care and responsibility. We must learn to love the child and his mother, to love the sacraments and charity, to love the Church and the poor. Each of these realities is always the child and his mother.

Let us faithfully participate in this "Life Sunday" that reminds us the value and protection of life. Let us offer our works of mercy for the culture today that denies the sanctity and value of human life.

Works of mercy

- Visit elderly
- Almsgiving
- Fasting
- Pray for the sick and afflicted
- Offer a Holy Mass for the intention of life's protection



Prayer to St. Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.



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