



40
DAYS
FOR
LIFE[®]

DAILY DEVOTIONALS



DAILY PRAYER INTENTIONS

March 2 to April 10

Day of Preparation / March 1:

For God's blessing upon all participating in the coming 40 Days for Life campaign.

Day 1 / March 2:

That we may use these 40 Days for Life to plead for God's mercy and grace upon all those involved in the sin of abortion.

Day 2 / March 3:

Let us pray that pastors may not be distracted from the priority of caring for human lives.

Day 3 / March 4:

We pray for God's gift of strength as we strive to protect human life during 40 Days for Life.

Day 4 / March 5:

May the mystery of the incarnation increase our zeal for defending life.

Day 5 / March 6:

May the truth of the final judgment shape our thoughts, priorities, and choices here on earth.

Day 6 / March 7:

That knowing the shortness of life, all may value it more deeply.

Day 7 / March 8:

May we have a heart and a zeal to save the poor and release the oppressed.

Day 8 / March 9:

May the spirit and example of the Good Samaritan fill the hearts and minds of all our citizens.

Day 9 / March 10:

May we grow in joy, knowing we serve a living God.

Day 10 / March 11:

Pray for your local pregnancy help center.



Day 11 / March 12:

Pray that when those representing Planned Parenthood and other abortion groups see volunteers for 40 Days for Life, they see ambassadors of Christ, and may each volunteer be consciously aware at all times we represent Him.

Day 12 / March 13:

May the King of the Universe, who entered this world as a helpless infant, give us the humility to be healed.

Day 13 / March 14:

For all fathers who are terrified of being fathers

Day 14 / March 15:

Pray that the abortionists and all workers in abortion facilities would be troubled in their souls regarding their work and would seek truth.

Day 15 / March 16:

May God's people awaken to the fact that we are our brothers' keepers.

Day 16 / March 17:

Pray for the mothers going into pregnancy help centers.

Day 17 / March 18:

May all understand more deeply that the pro-life message is rooted in the two basic truths of life: 1) There is a God; 2) He isn't me

Day 18 / March 19:

We pray for a flowering of the joy of parenthood.

Day 19 / March 20:

We pray for a renewal of our zeal to offer generous help to the unborn and their families.

Day 20 / March 21:

That we may realize the generational impact of abortion.

Day 21 / March 22:

Pray that we each will daily put on the full armor of God, so that we are strong in the Lord and the power of His might.



Day 22 / March 23:

May those who hold life as trivial realize that we live because God wills it so.

Day 23 / March 24:

We pray for the strength to love those who do not love us.

Day 24 / March 25:

Pray that God will continue to bless the efforts that have gone into the 40 Days for Life campaign, as we trust Him for the results.

Day 25 / March 26:

We pray for the conversion of all those who refuse to acknowledge that human life belongs only to God.

Day 26 / March 27:

Pray that those who have forgotten their purpose may discover it in God and therefore have the courage to choose life.

Day 27 / March 28:

We pray for humility in our work for God's Kingdom.

Day 28 / March 29:

We pray for the conversion of abortionists and all abortion advocates.

Day 29 / March 30:

Praise God for His compassion in pardoning our sins and forgiving our transgressions. Give praise that He delights in showing mercy.

Day 30 / March 31:

That those tempted to abort may understand that their child is already present, and already a real person.

Day 31 / April 1:

For the medical community, that the truth they know about the human body may become awe and wonder at the God who made it.

Day 32 / April 2:

As we pray for the end of abortion, let us pray for the expansion of the pregnancy help center movement worldwide.

The logo features a stylized blue figure with arms raised, resembling a person or a dove, positioned above the number '40'.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

Day 33 / April 3:

May we absorb the truth that God is paying attention to us, and to each human life, personally and individually.

Day 34 / April 4:

May we come to know that divine life, in relationship, creates human life.

Day 35 / April 5:

Pray for post-abortive women who cannot forgive themselves; may they understand that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Day 36 / April 6:

We pray for the gift of openness to children.

Day 37 / April 7:

Pray that we will each submit ourselves this day as a living sacrifice to God, giving all that we have in us for those being sacrificed on the altar of convenience.

Day 38 / April 8:

Pray that those standing in peaceful vigil will extend mercy and grace to others as they remember that Christ did not treat us as our sins deserve.

Day 39 / April 9:

Pray that volunteers will replace exhaustion or discouragement with rejoicing over the miracles we have seen thus far, and enthusiastic service as God takes us on to victory!

Day 40 / April 10:

Let us keep our eyes fixed on the New Jerusalem, where death will be no more.

Day 41 / April 11:

Pray that the witness of 40 Days for Life bears abundant fruit, and that we begin again each day to storm the gates of hell until God welcomes us into the gates of heaven.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Preparation, Tuesday, March 1
Carmen Pate, former 40 Days for Life board member*

Intention:

For God's blessing upon the coming 40 Days for Life campaign.

Scripture:

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land. — *2 Chronicles 7:14*

Reflection:

Not unlike God's chosen people of Israel, we must humble ourselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways, if we expect God to hear from heaven, forgive our sin, and heal our land. The need for repentance has not been greater since the Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade* in 1973.

The number one cause of death in America is the needless sacrifice of our children at the altar of convenience called abortion. Conservative estimates put the number of deaths at nearly 48 million.

And lest we think this is an issue outside the church walls, 43 percent of women obtaining abortions identify themselves as Protestant, and 27 percent identify themselves as Catholic. One in four women has at least one abortion by the age of 45 – both non-Christian and Christian alike. Where was the voice of Truth – the church?

Mary Comm of In Our Midst Ministries, Inc. sums up the issue best as she writes, "We (the church) have been an unintentional accomplice to the millions of lives lost and to the multiplied millions of lives devastated by abortion. We didn't want them to abort. We didn't mean for them to abort. But, because of our lack of knowledge, because of our fear, we have continued to stand by and do nothing.

"We, God's hands and feet in this dark and hurting world, have been unintentional, unknowledgeable accomplice, but an accomplice nonetheless."

May today mark the beginning of change within the church, as God's people, in unity, seek His forgiveness.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we have turned our backs on you and your principles in your Word. We have allowed man to usurp Your role as God over life and the number of our days.

But we come to you in brokenness and repentance over our sin.

We cry out for Your mercy and ask you to remove the scourge of abortion from our land. Use us as your vessels, Lord, to bring the light of Your Truth to our nation once again. Because of Christ we pray, amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

Devotional for Day 1, Wednesday, March 2

Intention:

That we may use these 40 Days for Life to plead for God's mercy and grace upon all those involved in the sin of abortion.

Scripture:

Blow the trumpet in Zion! Proclaim a fast, call an assembly. Gather the people, notify the congregation. Assemble the elders; gather the children and the infants at the breast... Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say, "Spare, O Lord, your people."

—*Joel 2:15-17*

Reflection:

The toll of abortion cannot be measured. We hear estimates of almost 50 million innocent victims, but that's only one aspect of the harm that has unfolded in abortion's wake. There are also the mothers and fathers of these millions, as well as the grandparents, brothers and sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins. Unborn lives destroyed. Lives of the living shattered.

It's overwhelming and depressing, but even in the midst of such unfathomable darkness, the church teaches us to have hope. Yes, it was indeed Calvary that followed Christ's 40 days in the desert, but without Calvary there would have been no Resurrection – His victory over death that opened the gates of heaven to those who believe in and follow Him.

The psalmist encourages us to go humbly before God as we seek His will:

A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me... Give me back the joy of your salvation and a willing spirit sustain in me... O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise (Psalm 51:12-17).

We are called to be God's messengers; or as the Apostle Paul wrote:

We are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:20).

That is the true message to all we encounter at the abortion centers and in our communities who have been deceived by the Culture of Death. We don't bring condemnation; we bring God's good news.

Prayer:

Lord, we ask for the strength, courage, wisdom, determination and stamina to carry out this mission according to Your will.

Guide us, we pray, as we go forth and proclaim Your truth, always doing so with a spirit of love and compassion, as was demonstrated to us through the work of Your Son, Jesus Christ. In His name we pray, amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 2, Thursday, March 3
Rev. Cleon Childress, LEARN (Life Education and Resource Network)*

Intention:

Let us pray that pastors may not be distracted from the priority of caring for human lives.

Scripture:

In those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

— *Acts 6:1*

Reflection:

More folks learning left some yearning.

It is the dawning of a new day. There is much excitement in Jerusalem. Many who dedicated themselves to the faith became disciples (the word disciple means “learner”).

The unprecedented church growth was miraculous and undoubtedly brought much satisfaction to the new leadership. The apostles, however, were about to experience growing pains in their master plan of evangelism.

Projects that engage the community, especially those that are evangelistic in nature, are high on the list of priorities for every duty-bound pastor.

Church attendance is a constant concern for every pastor and often his or her worth is measured by it.

Unfortunately, just as the original twelve pastors in Acts, they can be so focused on getting people in that they inadvertently end up pushing some people out. Murmuring is a deplorable deterrent to a harmonious fellowship, yet God used it to get the disciples attention. Those that needed daily attention due to their age and social status were being neglected.

This neglect of the Hellenist widows during the daily distribution of food was causing undue grief and needed to be corrected by the leadership. By God’s grace the problem was dealt with, but the lesson remains.

And during these 40 days, let us pray that today’s church not make the same mistake of forgetting the contributions of our seniors, or the needs of the weakest among us, the unborn.

Prayer:

Father, in the Church’s desire to engage our communities with the gospel let her not disengage from those who need their care and company the most.

Let us gain wisdom from those who have gone before us and cherish their experiences and perspectives. Help us to appreciate every soul in the body of Christ and minister properly to everybody. Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 3, Friday, March 4
Dennis DiMauro, Lutherans for Life*

Intention:

We pray for God's gift of strength as we strive to protect human life during these 40 Days for Life.

Scripture:

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

—*Matthew 6:25-26*

Reflection:

Billions of dollars are spent each year on diet plans. But Jesus tells us to stop worrying so much about our bodies, and instead to trust in God's care for our physical needs

What would happen if the people who had started on a low-carb diet this year had instead gone on a diet of heavenly food? For non-believers that diet would include trusting in Christ for their salvation, and for believers it would include a renewed prayer life, a new Bible study, or even a spiritual fast.

This diet doesn't include giving up on certain kinds of foods. What this diet

includes is giving up on anxiety by resting in the loving arms of Christ, trusting that He will provide. Such a spiritual diet also frees us from our worries, and allows us to freely praise Him and serve others. Christ's words bear repeating:

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

This promised provision teaches us the inestimable worth of our lives. He will not allow us to go without. This intimate knowledge and care for human life on the part of our gracious God is what motivates us to seek for the preservation of human life in all its stages.

Prayer:

Loving heavenly Father, help us to see the worth of all human beings by the way in which you provide for us. We would ask that you provide also the faith, grace and courage to enable us to protect that which is so precious to you. Through Christ our Lord, amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE[®]

Devotional for Day 4, Saturday, March 5

Lisa Robertson, Duck Commander Clan

Intention:

For each female who is faced with an unplanned pregnancy to know that she is loved, supported, and favored by God.

Scripture:

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

— *Luke 2: 13-14*

Reflection:

Pregnant? How can this be? When a girl finds out she’s pregnant, it’s unbelievable. She wonders how it happened. I think she knows how it happens but she didn’t think it would happen to her. This is something that happens to other girls. She needs to tell someone. She needs to talk it through. But who? Who can she trust with her secret? A secret that, by the way, won’t be a secret in a few months. I was that girl. I had sexual relations with my boyfriend and then it just happened! That’s the way God designed it. Your body doesn’t know if the person you’re intimate with is your boyfriend, husband or offender. It just does what it was designed to do. But again, who can I trust with this secret? The year I became pregnant at 16 was the first year our pregnancy center started in a doctor’s office. Embrace Grace wasn’t started yet. You could not see a doctor as a minor without a parent. Oh, how I needed

a pro-life advocate to speak truth to me. But I only had misinformed parents and a dishonest abortion clinic. Just as Mary had Elizabeth and Elizabeth had Mary to share their unbelievable news with, we need someone to trust. Someone to comfort, console and speak life and truth to us. Both Elizabeth and Mary needed to share Gods amazing gift with someone. Girls, young women and older women need to know that God has done an amazing thing in their womb. Life has begun and it is to be celebrated. Any life, no matter the mode of conception. Let’s always celebrate a life within a womb as a gift! Just as the great company of heavenly hosts and the angel praised, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” Any woman who is blessed to have a life created within her has been shown favor!

Prayer:

Father God, giver of life, creator of life and sustainer of life, thank you for each life you give us. Father, I pray each one that is faced with a decision will choose life and know that she is favored by you. I pray, we, your mouthpieces, will console, comfort, support and equip your mothers to make the decision to choose life. Help us Lord to love and comfort those who do not.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 5, Sunday, March 6
Rev. Ben Sheldon, President Emeritus, Presbyterians Pro-Life*

Intention:

May the truth of the final judgment shape our thoughts, priorities, and choices here on earth.

Scripture:

The King will answer and say to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.”

—*Matthew 25:31-46*

Reflection:

Jesus’ picture of the final judgment concludes with this sobering word: the wicked, who failed to care for others in their various needs (the hungry, the thirsty, the aliens, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned) will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous who did seek to meet those needs will end up with him, enjoying eternal life.

We know that this was no mere parable! Jesus has given us fair warning!

Everything in God’s Word points to the truth that compassionate concern and practical care for all people, especially for the poor, the destitute, the weak and needy is required of us, if indeed we hope to escape the punishment of the fire of hell.

And who are the poor and needy, if not helpless, unborn babies, as well as the aged and infirm at the other end of life?

Surely the “least of these” embraces not only those at both ends of the continuum of life, but all others in between.

Just how we, as Christ’s true followers, respond to his admonition “inasmuch as you did it to the least of these, you did it to me” will determine whether we enjoy eternal bliss in his presence or the bleak and dreadful reality of eternal punishment in hell.

Caring for others is not optional. Nothing in God’s Word could be clearer!

Prayer:

Gracious and merciful Father, we gladly embrace your Word, in which you counsel us to care for the least of your children.

We renew our dedication to defending the unborn and all whose right to life is compromised by our godless society’s selfish lack of concern.

Free us from our own failures and sins so that we will be truly pro-life in every area of our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 6, Monday, March 7
Rev. Paul Stallworth, Lifewatch (United Methodist Church)*

Intention:

That knowing the shortness of life, all may value it more deeply.

Scripture:

Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the well.

Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

—*Ecclesiastes 12:6-7*

Reflection:

God is giver of all life. Short lived or long lived, human lives are lived out in this world.

The metaphors for death are many. But their meaning is clear and singular: all will die. Even so, death is not the absolute end. It is not the end of the story.

For as certainly as God gave life, at death the life or spirit that God gave returns to God.

By God, we are created. For God, we live our given days. To God, we return at the end of our earthly days. And with God, we live through eternity.

Clearly, all along the way, this gracious, loving God is with us. No human life is random or alone. No human life was created without purpose. Not one human life is without destiny.

All human lives, acknowledged or not, are related to God -- from beginning, to end, throughout eternity.

Therefore, in this world, all human lives are to be respected and protected, for their lives are signs of God's sovereignty.

Prayer:

O God, we too often try to live in ways that ignore our coming death. We forget that our days are numbered by You, that at the end of our days your judgment awaits, that You are the Lord of our destiny.

Help us to repent daily, and then to live each day in joyful obedience. Lead us to live in the light and promise of eternity.

Prepare us to live fully and sacrificially.

Prepare us to die faithfully and hopefully, so that we might live forever with You. Through Jesus Christ, who has gone before us, we trust and hope and love and pray. Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

Devotional for Day 7, Tuesday, March 8

Fr. Terry Gensemer, National Director, Charismatic Episcopal Church for Life

Intention:

May we have a heart and a zeal to save the poor and release the oppressed.

Scripture:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.

—*Luke 4:18-19*

Reflection:

This passage is a very familiar one. It has been preached on many occasions, even made popular in books and songs.

Though the quote is about Jesus, all Christians take this commission seriously as a directive on how to reach the world with the gospel.

We, like our Savior, are to bring the good news to the poor, the broken hearted, those in captivity, those who cannot see, and the oppressed.

The commission given to us in this passage is clearly a charge to care for those for whom God cares the most. I wonder though, whom do we look for to be touched by the Holy Spirit as we go out into the world?

Who are the poor, if not those unborn children who have been abandoned by

their parents before they ever leave the womb? Who are the broken hearted, if not those unborn children whose only example of love is having their mother take them to an abortion clinic to be destroyed, or the mother of a child who has been deceived by everyone around her into believing that what she is doing is best for her and her child?

Who are the captives, if not those unborn children who are bound over to death by the “choice” of abortion?

Who is more blind than an unborn child in the darkness of a womb that has become a waiting room for their death?

And who is more oppressed than those unborn children whose oppression has been legitimized by their government, their church and even their family and loved ones.

Prayer:

Lord, You empower us with Your Spirit to do your will in the earth.

Send us to the poorest, the most broken, the most captive, the most blind and the most oppressed in the world, the innocent pre-born children in their mother’s wombs that are scheduled for destruction.

Help us to bring them healing, liberty, sight and justice through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE[®]

Devotional for Day 8, Wednesday, March 9

Fr. Nolan Lowry, Director of Sanctity of Life Office, Diocese of

Intention:

That we may recognize the Samaritan “Woman at the Well” in every encounter with persons within the context and even outside of our pro-life efforts.

Scripture:

The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, “Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Messiah?” They went out of the town and came to him.

— *John 4:28-30*

Reflection:

In the heat of the day, a Samaritan woman goes to Jacob’s well to draw water to satisfy her most basic form of thirst. She goes at a time when the crowds are absent because she is ashamed of her lifestyle. At the well, she encounters Jesus of Nazareth, who meets her “where she is” to accompany her to His truth and love.

Jesus thus uncovers her real thirst: the thirst of her soul for intimacy and belonging. The pain of loneliness, and thirst for fulfillment in life, has led her down a path of heartache. In response, He promises to give her living water that will quench her thirsting soul for good. The water of life is His love, His presence. Just by being with Jesus, and experiencing His compassion and understanding, the woman’s life

changes for the better. Once she comes to realize He is the Messiah, there is much joy in her heart — joy that overflows into her inviting others to meet Him. Jesus’ voice, heard with sincere faith, softens the woman’s heart, and changes her life forever. She embarks on a new journey of peace and intimacy with God after encountering Jesus.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, thank You for meeting me where I was before I really knew You, and thank You for leading me to Your love and truth. Help me to be Your presence to all those I meet at “the well” at work, the grocery store, the mall, even at my church. May I reserve my judgment and instead be Your instrument of healing and peace, so that I may lead each person to You, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 9, Thursday, March 10
Day Gardner, President, National Black Pro-Life Union*

Intention:

May we grow in joy, knowing we serve a living God.

Scripture:

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

—*John 1:14*

Reflection:

The Word of God came to us in human form in Jesus Christ. Every time I contemplate this fact I get chills! And I think it is something that we, as Christians, tend to gloss over.

I can only imagine how the first disciples felt when they were looking into the eyes of the one and only Almighty God who created them.

The first disciples developed a close relationship with Him as they daily walked and talked with Him.

They ate with Him, prayed with Him and rested when He rested.

As they listened to the Word of God, who was and is Jesus, they believed and “beheld His glory.”

Today, this is something we can still do because we serve a living God. Remember, Jesus died on the cross but rose from the dead in victory!

Jesus is every bit as real and alive for all of us as He was to the first disciples.

He wants us to develop a close relationship with Him in the very same way. Jesus wants us to know Him personally. He wants us to walk with Him and talk with Him on a daily basis.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I thank you for your love and saving grace in Christ Jesus.

Help us to realize every day the great blessing we have in our Savior.

I pray that we will rise every morning with excitement and zeal, looking forward to walking another day in your footsteps fully knowing that you continue to dwell among us. Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 10, Friday, March 11
Rev. John Ensor, PassionLife*

Intention:

Pray for your local pregnancy help center: for those who answer calls from women considering abortion, those who provide ultrasounds, and those who personally help mothers prepare to parent or place for adoption.

Scripture:

Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

— *Psalm 82:4*

Reflection:

When a woman arrives at her local pregnancy help center, the hard work of “rescuing the weak” begins. They listen to her. What desperate circumstance is driving her? They act. A professional ultrasound and medical care is provided. They pray, “God use us.” Then, they take up her burdens and work towards life. It is cross-bearing for the child-bearing.

Recently, I prayed for one volunteer who was working with one mother in her struggle. Here is what “rescue the weak” looked like in this one case:

- **Aug 3:** She made an appointment for Thursday to get an abortion and while she feels terrible about it, she also feels like she has no choice. Pray that her heart is changed!
- **Aug 10:** She is 12 weeks along but missed her appointment. She had some good conversations with people at the pregnancy center. She is now considering adoption.

- **Aug 13:** Things are down again. She now has an abortion scheduled for Monday. Pray!
- **Aug 17:** Missed appointment! God is working in her life.
- **Sept 1:** We’ve hit another rocky period. She has an abortion scheduled for tomorrow. She found out today that her parents are planning a trip to visit her and she is panicking.
- **Sept 15:** Missed third appointment. But feels like she has no choice. Please pray today.
- **Sept 20:** She fears her parents but has agreed to another ultrasound (a breakthrough).
- **Sept 22:** I was there with her for her ultrasound. She saw her baby moving and made the realization that she wants to carry her baby.

Please keep praying against attack by the enemy. We are overwhelmed by seeing God's hand move in this situation and are so very thankful for the prayers lifted up by each one of you. God is good!

Prayer:

Father, we praise you for this one sister who gave herself, heart and soul, to rescue this one mother and baby. Omay you empower the hundreds more today who are serving in our pregnancy help centers. Grant those answering calls, providing ultrasound and following up with a bold spirit of truth, love and perseverance.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE[®]

Devotional for Day 11, Saturday, March 12
Jor-El Godsey, President, Heartbeat International

Intention:

Let us keep focused and faithful to the Lord's calling to champion life.

Scripture:

I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

—*Psalm 27:13 (NKJV)*

Reflection:

Did you see the latest “breaking news” story?

Which one, you ask?

Exactly.

There are so many. Every day. All the time. So much so that we are constantly bombarded by “Breaking News” from our social media feeds and email inboxes to the persistent crawl on our television screens. Yet what follows that label could be anything from an important update on a global crisis to a trivial announcement of the break-up of a Hollywood couple.

All of it is intentionally designed to distract us from our daily lives and immediate cares and gain our attention. That's because, to these media outlets, our attention means viewership, ratings, and clicks that

enhance advertising revenue and influence.

Moreover, crisis breeds urgency. Outrage polarizes political partisans. And all of it is exhausting. When we try to respond to everything that upsets our sensibilities, breaking news can eventually break our spirit.

Distraction is an ancient tactic deployed in the biblical narrative to diminish the work of God - from Eve in the Garden to Samson to David to Nehemiah and more. Today we are bombarded with distractions.

Being distracted from what God wants us to accomplish is nearly as effective as if we quit altogether. Let's not give the devil that satisfaction.

We need to keep our eyes more on “the goodness of the Lord” and less on the daily news.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, keep our eyes firmly fixed on the good work You're doing in us, and want to do through us. Help us proclaim the Good News of the Lord Jesus in partnership with Your Holy Spirit. Grant me the discernment to avoid the things meant to distract me from faithfully fulfilling Your call to champion the Gift of Life. All honor and glory to You, the Giver of Life. Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

Devotional for Day 12, Sunday, March 13
Kevin Burke, Executive Director, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries

Intention:

May the King of the Universe, who entered this world as a helpless infant, give us the humility to be healed.

Scripture:

My power is made perfect in weakness.
—2 Corinthians 12:9

Reflection:

The great mystery of the Humility of God is very near and dear to the mission of those serving in pro life and in a special way, post abortion ministries across this nation.

For those wounded by their participation in abortion, the door to healing often feels like crossing an abyss of great fear: fear of judgment, fear of being torn apart by the pain, by self hatred and rage at those who hurt and abandoned you, and manipulated you in your time of temptation.

For men in particular, entering the unknown waters of emotional vulnerability, so necessary to healing calls for a different kind of courage that feels deceptively like weakness.

The door to healing is humility.

It is born in the inability to no longer control the pain, to live with the consequences of that tragic decision to reject life. The hearts cries out, "I have committed a grave offense against my Creator and I am consumed by regret, grief and sorrow!"

During these forty days let us pray for all who have participated in abortion and with love call them to healing and reconciliation. With healing these women and men can become as John Paul II proclaimed in the Gospel of Life, "the most eloquent defenders of everyone's right to life."

Jesus proclaimed, "I am the Vine, you are the branches" (John 15:5). To bear the greatest fruit, the branches must be pruned. Each level of pruning of the vine requires a deeper level of humility so that we can abandon ourselves to His will.

This is not a lofty theological concept as much as it is an earthy experience of pulling weeds, tilling rocky soil, pruning and healing the vines. "If a man wishes to come after me, he must deny his very self, take up his cross, and begin to follow in my footsteps" (Matthew 16:24).

Prayer:

Lord, during these forty days, we ask that with each day of this sacred vigil, everything in us that separates us from your perfect will would be pruned from our hearts and souls.

In this blessed freedom may we experience a powerful anointing of your Holy Spirit. Filled with confidence and trust may we proclaim with the mother of Jesus, "Let it be done to me, according to your Word."



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 13, Monday, March 14
Randolph Sly, National Pro-Life Religious Council*

Intention:

For all fathers who are terrified of being fathers.

Scripture:

A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation.

—*Psalm 68:5*

Reflection:

I had a friend many years ago who confided in me that he was terrified of being a father. He and his wife already had two children when this revelation came forth. “I never knew my father,” he explained, “and I have no idea what a father is supposed to do.”

We continued to share about this, as well as pray together. He began to see he had a father’s heart for his children.

His biggest problem was not a limitation on love but not knowing how to act out this love.

One day we talked about the verse quoted at the top of this page. I shared that he did know his Father... not his biological father but his Heavenly Father, who had rescued him from a life of destruction not many years before.

“How did your Heavenly Father guide you?” I asked. He talked about the ways

he had seen God’s love offered to him and the way the Lord had used circumstances and the Scriptures to mold him and mature him.

“Well, the Lord wants to do the same thing through you for your children. Be available to His love and available to your kids. You’ll do fine.”

How wonderful it is to know that God takes a personal interest in each of us, many times using His faithful people – the Church – as channels of this love.

No one is fatherless who lives in the Lord. His fatherly care begins at the moment of our conception, as it is written, “you knit me together in my mother’s womb” (Psalm 139:12), and continues to be poured upon us throughout our lives.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for caring about each of us so deeply. Help us to see and know you as our Father in heaven each and every day of our lives.

Your loving hand also rests on every child today carried in its mother’s womb. May they be born into this world and come to know fully and personally your endless love. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE[®]

Devotional for Day 14, Tuesday, March 15

Fr. Philomeno James, Marian Franciscan Priest, post abortive father, and 40 Days for Life campaign leader

Intention:

Let us ask for the grace of "Perseverance" in prayer.

Scripture:

Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial, for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

— *James 1:12*

Reflection:

Outside of the abortion mills, these centres of destruction and denial of God's most precious gift of life, we see many of our spiritual soldiers praying for the conversion of hearts.

The heart is the key. If the heart converts, the Mother will not only save the child nestled in the womb, but future generations of that child.

The child somehow can sense the power of the prayer and the love directed towards itself, even if it has been rejected by many and even treated as a "disease" nowadays. You praying are the Lord's instrument of conversion outside the mill. The child somehow knows you are there.

Your prayer touched the Mother. Does the child then know whether the Mother's heart has turned back to God?

YES INDEED. As in Holy Scripture, when the Mother says "YES" to the plan of God, the child can even leap, as St. John the Baptist, in the womb.

Pray then for conversion of hearts but also pray for perseverance in this monumental spiritual struggle against the "culture of death." Perseverance to be always "available" at the "Modern Day Calvary" so that one day you may answer "YES" with humility to the question "Were you there with perseverance when they crucified my Lord?"

Prayer:

Lord, grant us the grace to be instruments of conversion of hearts to remove the spiritual blindness in the world and recognise all children as a beautiful gift of your Most Holy Divine Providence.

May we be converted ourselves and persevere each day and draw closer to your Most Merciful Heart, so that we can touch others and show them your Infinite Goodness.

We know that you will bring a greater good out of this evil of abortion. Did you not bring the greatest good ever, the Resurrection, from the greatest evil ever perpetrated by man, crucifying you on the "Tree of Life"? Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE[®]

Devotional for Day 15, Wednesday, March 16
Rev. Brian Walker, Program Director, Pro-Life Action

Intention:

As we cry out for those being led to death, let us remember the women and men who are weighing in the balance whether to turn their child over to a stranger to be killed, or to a stranger so their child can live.

Scripture:

So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months. But when she could no longer hide him, she took an arc of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank.

— *Exodus 2:3 (NKJV)*

Reflection:

Such is the familiar account of the Hebrew woman whose trust in God compelled her to fashion a basket, place it in the Nile and deliver Moses to safety.

Thousands of sidewalk counselors and prayer supporters across the world pray for the day, the hour, the minute that God will use them to share with an expectant mother the precious act of releasing her child to be adopted.

That opportunity rarely happens. When it does, one will often hear, "...I'm not turning my baby over to a stranger!" The irony of her retort, by

keeping her appointment, she will be doing the very same thing. The abortionist, the ultimate stranger renders the adoption option null and void.

But let's not lose hope and continue to pray for those rare moments. We're really asking a lot. We are asking a woman to believe a total stranger, to place her yet to born child in a "basket", and launch him or her out to a stranger's care.

Think what would you or I do? Which "stranger" will I send my child to? How can we help the woman who's in fear, without hope and weary?

Prayer:

"The Lord has given me the tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary." Isaiah 50:4

Heavenly Father, you are the God of all comfort and the light yoke. Help us to share the good news of the Gospel and the gospel of life. Give us compassion for the weary, those without hope, living in fear.

Help us deliver Your Word in the right way, the right spirit, with compassion so women will put their trust in you and have their children adopted. To God be the glory! Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 16, Thursday, March 17
Rev. John Ensor, PassionLife*

Intention:

Pray for the mothers going into pregnancy help centers. The personal care, the free ultrasound, the ongoing practical help is designed to deliver them from those who profit in shedding innocent blood.

Scripture:

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

—*Matthew 11:28*

Reflection:

“You have twins. That will be another \$350.” She did not speak English. But she finally understood that they were telling her to go get more money and return for her abortion.

She had already given them her rent money. But they were not about to give her a two-for-one deal. They told her to get dressed and return with more cash.

A couple, who was praying outside, comforted her. They brought her to their local pregnancy help center.

The staff quickly saw that her personal circumstances were so desperate, and immediate, that they would need direct

and ongoing help from local Christians and churches. They started making calls.

Then they did the ultrasound. It showed there was only one baby, not two. This abandoned, immigrant, powerless mother was being exploited. She would do whatever she was told. Who would know? Who would care?

God calls us to “Rescue the weak and the needy; and deliver them from the hand of the wicked” (Psalm 82:4).

When you provide an alternative to abortion you are not only rescuing innocent babies, you are delivering mothers from the wicked: those who profit in the shedding of innocent blood. Pray for those who rescue and deliver daily at your local pregnancy help center.

Prayer:

Father, hear our prayer!

Snatch desperate mothers from the fire. Bring them out of our abortion businesses and into our pregnancy help centers. Deliver them from evil.

Use us to help them choose life and see your hand of provision.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 17, Friday, March 18
Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life*

Intention:

May all understand more deeply that the pro-life message is rooted in two basic truths of life:

- 1) There is a God
- 2) He isn't me

Scripture:

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

—*Genesis 2:7*

Reflection:

From the beginning of the Bible until the end, the theme is echoed that God alone has dominion over human life. He made it; shared it; died to save it; will raise it up forever.

The act of creation described in Genesis 2:7, and earlier in Genesis 1:26-27, is a sovereign act. God did not have to do it, and would have been happy forever without us. Yet without our asking for it or earning it, God brought us out of nothingness and into life, and sustains our existence at every moment.

And He does so in Christ: "For by Him all things were created...in Him all things exist" (Colossians 1:16-17).

"You are not your own," Paul declares in 1 Corinthians 6. God alone owns us. While He entrusts us to the care of one another, He does not allow any human being to own another.

A Southern California abortionist, James McMahon, once explained how he justified killing children after 20 weeks gestation by the process known as partial-birth abortion.

He did not deny that this was a child, but rather asked, "Who owns the child? It's got to be the mother."

The struggle over abortion is really a struggle over the dominion of God.

The Christian individual, and the Christian Church, cannot sit idly by when others declare that God is not God.

Prayer:

Lord, we are yours. Thank you for breathing into us the breath of life.

Thank you for claiming us as your own.

May our words and actions in defense of human life proclaim to all the world that you alone are Lord of life and death, Lord of our freedom and of our choices.

We pray in Jesus' name, amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 18, Saturday, March 19
Randolph Sly, National Pro-Life Religious Council*

Intention:

We pray for a flowering of the joy of parenthood.

Scripture:

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

—*Psalm 127:3-5*

Reflection:

I still vividly remember the day my first child was born. As she came into the world I gazed upon the most beautiful little baby I'd ever seen.

Later I was driving home from the hospital for a shower and a fresh change of clothes when a song came on the radio, "The Men in My Little Girl's Life"—a ballad about being a father as he watches his daughter grow through childhood to womanhood.

I wept as I listened, knowing the years would go by very fast—and they did.

Being a father, whenever I read the Psalm quoted above I'm always captivated by one word: "heritage." It basically means "something passed down from a preceding generation."

That little girl I watched being born and wept for is not mine to give to God like a product of our fertility, but rather His, which he has entrusted to us. So are all her siblings.

My wife and I share a great treasure: precious lives, which are placed in our lineage that His life with us might be perpetuated.

To the psalmist, this was a blessing from the Lawgiver, God Himself, who blessed Israel with another generation intended to continue their covenantal promise. For us in Christ, it is his gift of succeeding generations for His Church and her families.

These days I'm looking upon my grandchildren, and rejoicing that my children and their spouses will pass on the greatness of Christ's gospel to them and thus will continue the work of God in the world. What a blessing. What a heritage!

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, please keep me from taking for granted the gift of children. Help us to remember this heritage that you have given us.

Make us faithful stewards of these precious lives, that each generation might be raised in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE[®]

Devotional for Day 19, Sunday, March 20

Jim Daly, President, Focus on the Family

Intention:

In the effort to protect and defend life, let us appeal not only to the special revelation of Scripture, but also to the general revelation of science and the created order.

For a large segment of the population in a post-Christian world, phrases such as “the image of God” and “the sanctity of life” may seem foreign and indecipherable.

Scripture:

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

But just as the heavens, by their very existence, proclaim the glory of God, so, too, does the flickering image of a precious preborn baby on a sonogram screen. Ultrasound technology offers a unique window into something sacred. Seeing the fingers and toes, hearing the tiny heartbeat—these powerful moments speak to the beauty and humanity of life in the womb in a language that everyone can understand. The image of God, indeed.

— *Psalm 19:1-2*

Reflection:

In the mission to foster a more pro-life culture, we often appeal to the Imago Dei—the very image of God that is divinely imprinted on every human life. We embrace theological truths and scriptural fundamentals to proclaim that every human being is sacred and worthy of protection—because each one bears the fingerprints of God Himself.

But we don’t just have God on our side. Science proclaims these truths as well!

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you that creation itself proclaims your existence and points to your truth. With the explicit testimony of your Word as our foundation, may we also help those around us understand that the sciences of conception and gestation reveal profound and immutable truths about You and about what it means to be created in Your image.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 20, Monday, March 21
Rev. Ben Sheldon, President Emeritus, Presbyterians Pro-life*

Intention:

That we may realize the generational impact of abortion.

Scripture:

Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer and Rebekah his wife conceived. The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is thus, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord.

And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples, born of you, shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger."

— *Genesis 25:21-23*

Reflection:

What an answer to prayer!

Who dares to say that the unborn are not human, with distinct personality and character right from the moment of conception?

This account emphasizes the vitality and uniqueness of the twins who, because of Isaac's prayer for his wife, were conceived in Rebekah's womb.

When Rebekah was told by the Lord that the older would serve the younger

twin, God already knew that Jacob and Esau would lead turbulent and conflicted lives.

God knows us and knows all about us, including our personality and disposition long before we are actually born, indeed, from the moment we are conceived in our mother's womb.

What a tragedy of gargantuan proportions that babies, planned and endowed by the Creator, with distinct and unique personalities and with, perhaps, a future and destiny intended for greatness, have their lives snuffed out by cruel abortionists before they ever see the light of day! May our prayers that the dreadful scourge of abortion in our land may vanish be as fervent as Isaac's were for Rebekah.

Prayer:

O, God, you formed us in our mother's womb and planned a unique and special life and purpose for each of us, and we do thank you. Grant that we may pray and work for an end to abortion, especially in these 40 days, so that no unborn baby you have made may fail to achieve your divine intention for him or her because of intentional abortion. We pray this for the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

Devotional for Day 21, Tuesday, March 22

Fr. Paul Felix, Chaplain, 40 Days for Life

Intention:

May we rely on the Lord to grant us the grace of final perseverance.

Scripture:

I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD, take courage; be stouthearted, wait for the LORD!

— *Psalm 27:13-14*

Reflection:

The inspired Psalmist expresses to the Lord something that weighs heavy in the hearts of most people who take seriously the effort to live a righteous life in the service of God and neighbor. In so doing, we are reminded that we are not alone in our plight. We know objectively, and we feel deeply that the Lord has called us to stand up and oppose the injustice and struggle against the atrocity of abortion.

Our opponents ridicule, sneer and mock us. This is not unlike the way Jesus was ridiculed and mocked throughout the three years of his public ministry and most intensely during his Passion and death on the Cross. This has always been the case for those sincerely dedicated to serving in the prophetic role out of love for God and neighbor. Our Lord exhorted His disciples to "turn the other cheek" and to "go the extra mile". "You have heard

that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you." (See Matt 5: 38,ff.)

We don't impose on God our list of prerequisites to be fulfilled as a precondition for our obedience. We are not engaged in our effort for the recognition or praise of our fellow man. "We walk by faith, not by sight." We are doing this because we believe in God and are obedient to Him.

Of course, we have our moments of fatigue, weariness, and discouragements. But the Psalmist provides us the exhortation to Faith, Hope and Love.

Prayer:

Good and loving Father,

Keep us stouthearted in Your Word of Truth, placing all our faith and Hope in You.

Give us the patience to wait for Your providential care.

As we repent of our own sins, give us the courage to speak the truth in love and to be ready to forgive those who offend us.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 22, Wednesday, March 23
Georgette Forney, Anglicans for Life*

Intention:

May those who hold life as trivial realize that we live because God wills it so.

Scripture:

Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this, in His hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.

— *Job 12:9-10*

Reflection:

Job was a man acquainted with grief, trials and tribulation. He had everything taken from him, including his family. He endured sickness, ridicule and judgment from his friends.

Everyone gave him advice about his situation, questioning his spirituality and his God. Job's circumstances were bad but he never loses faith. Why? Because "the hand of the Lord has made all life." Created by God, he knows his life has meaning and purpose, regardless of the circumstances.

In our present culture, we've lost that basic truth; every life is made and allowed to live by God's sovereign authority. As people who pride ourselves on our independence, we have a hard time acknowledging our dependence on God.

From our creation, when we were knit together in our mother's womb to our last breath, God's word is clear that "in

His hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind."

It's time for us as individuals, and as a society, to recognize that we exist by God's grace and turn back to Him, honoring His word and His teachings. Why? Because our world is full of Jobs, people who are dealing with trials and tribulations and hurting desperately.

Job's response should be ours as well. Regardless of what we face (even an unplanned pregnancy) God in His wisdom and mercy will redeem it.

How do I know? Job's friends who doubted God's sovereignty cry out to God asking for help, God instructs Job to pray for his friends and after he does, God restores all that Job had lost.

In other words, because Job never lost faith and knew and trusted His Creator, the Lord blessed Job.

Prayer:

Thank you Father God for being the Creator of my life and every life. Please give me, and the society in which I live, an appreciation for your gift of life.

Please help us set aside our pride and acknowledge that we need you.

Show me how I can honor you today in response to all the blessings you bestow freely. In the name of Jesus, amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 23, Thursday, March 24
Dennis DiMauro, Lutherans for Life*

Intention:

We pray for the strength to love those who do not love us.

Scripture:

But the Lord said “You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in the night and perished in the night. And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left, and much livestock? Should I not be concerned about that great city?”

—*Jonah 4:10-11*

Reflection:

God doesn't value people and things like we do. Jonah loved a shade tree more than an entire city of sinful people. We love our dogs more than a terrorist. We love our cars more than a beggar on the side of the road. And sometimes, we love our money more than a child growing in a desperate teenager's womb. But God isn't like us. Genesis 1 tells us that humans were the capstone of God's creation.

We were created on the sixth day after God had completed the land, the stars, the plants and the animals.

Therefore, His love for us is greater than His love for a plant, an animal, or any other created thing.

And the book of Jonah tells us that He loves even the most sinful people and seeks to bring them into His merciful arms. And it's a love that seeks to touch all of his created children: that desperate teenager, the baby growing in her womb, even tyrants and terrorists.

So it's up to us to imitate God's merciful love by helping and praying for those who persecute us, and those who don't love us back.

Prayer:

Gracious God, loving our enemies seems like one of most difficult things you could ask of us.

Please remind us that this is how you love and that if you ask it of us then you will give us the grace to do it. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE[®]

Devotional for Day 24, Friday, March 25

Most Rev. Alexander K. Sample

Roman Catholic Archbishop of Portland

Intention:

For All Women Who Are Pregnant

Scripture:

I have come that they might have life and have it more abundantly.

— *John 10:10*

Reflection:

Jesus desires fullness of life for each one of us. He came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. But when life is filled with trials and crosses, we can begin to see it more as a burden than a blessing. Our hearts go out to all those who are feeling the heavy burdens of life. We are especially mindful of those women who find themselves distressed by a pregnancy they did not expect. May our Lord Jesus come alongside them and help them understand that even during trials, life is a blessing.

While many women rejoice to learn they are pregnant, others are crushed by the news. In every case, we want to lift these women up to the Lord. He alone understands the workings of the heart and the unique circumstances surrounding each pregnancy.

Children are a beautiful gift from God. They bring life and light and joy into the world. God himself chose to come into the world as a child, and he did so by way of a mother who said “yes” to God and “yes” to life. May all mothers find their strength, courage, and joy in the Lord.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, You are the author of life and all that is good. Thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus, and the promise of eternal life in Him. We humbly ask You to bless and protect all women carrying new life in their wombs. Fill them with a motherly love beyond measure. Be close to those facing an unexpected pregnancy. Give them strength and courage to overcome every trial. Give all mothers grace and tenderness to embrace their children as precious gifts. Through Your Holy Spirit, grant us all fullness of life in you. We make this prayer in the name of Your beloved Son, Jesus. Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE[®]

Devotional for Day 25, Saturday, March 26

Rev. J. Kirk van der Swaagh, Conservative Congregational Christian Conference

Intention:

We pray for the conversion of all those who refuse to acknowledge that human life belongs only to God.

Scripture:

Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

— *Jeremiah 1:4-5*

Reflection:

To be or not to be?

There is no question!

The question of "being" is something philosophers have long pondered.

What is the meaning of being and what is the source? In the passage before us, we have our answer.

We have being because we are known by God.

For God to declare that he knows and sets apart the prophet Jeremiah even before he is conceived indicates that our being rests in God's own being.

Because He is and because He wills we, therefore, are and do.

The Apostle Paul says as much when he declares before the philosophers of his day, "In Him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

One of the tragedies of the abortion culture is that life in the womb has been so heartbreakingly devalued.

To embrace the arguments of the "pro-choice" crowd one must conclude that the child in the womb doesn't exist, isn't there, has no being. But nothing could be further from the truth.

That child is known by God and, as such, has being.

Prayer:

Lord God, we confess that in You we live and move and have our being.

Because You are, we are.

May we find grace from You to affirm the being of every human and may we labor to make this truth known to the world around us. Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 26, Sunday, March 27
Vera Faith Lord, Director, Alpha/Omega Life Ministry*

Intention:

Pray that those who have forgotten their purpose may discover it in God and therefore have the courage to choose life.

Scripture:

These all wait for you, that you may give them their food in due season, what you give them they gather in; you open your hand they are filled with good. You hide your face, they are troubled; you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. You send forth your Spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth.

— *Psalm 104:27-30*

Reflection:

“I am a feather on the breath of God.”

As the quote above portrays, we are upheld by the power and purpose of God. Our very existence on earth, from our body's first breath to its last, when we leave it to return home, is our Father's choice and happens only by His willing to do so.

He who created the universe also created that which is “me.” I do not “have” a soul – I AM a soul, as well as a body.

My entire purpose in this life is to find my way back to my Creator.

Prayer:

Beloved Father, remind us today that there is no truth but you.

Do not let us fall prey to the evil one's lie that we may choose death.

Remind us right now that you, who created all life, are in control of all life, and let us know right now that you who created all life, are in control of all life, and let us choose life always.

Father, please let us hear your voice more today than yesterday.

Keep lighting the pathway home, for us and for all who participate in this 40 Days for Life campaign.

Father, we're on our way. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 27, Monday, March 28
Ernest Ohlhoff, Outreach Director, National Right to Life*

Intention:

We pray for humility in our work for God's Kingdom.

Scripture:

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bond-servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

— *Philippians 2:5-8*

Reflection:

There is no limit to what we can accomplish when we don't care who gets the credit.

Jesus Christ's life on earth exemplifies a total submission to the will of the Father. His humility, compassion, gentleness and thoughtfulness are reflected over and over again in the New Testament. He was God incarnate, yet He chose to be born to a humble, working class home.

How absurd it must have seemed to the rich and powerful that the Son of God,

the Messiah, the one foretold by the prophets, the 'King of the Jews' was born and raised as a simple peasant.

During His thirty-three years on earth, He sought no riches, claimed no secular power and gathered no possessions.

His short time on earth changed more lives, softened more hearts, and gave hope to more people, than all the rich and powerful human 'kings' combined.

And, at the end of His life on earth, by dying on the cross, He opened the door to eternal life for those who heed his words and follow in his footsteps.

Prayer:

O Lord, help us follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Let us humbly and diligently work to restore legal protection for the unborn, the disabled, the medically dependent and all innocent children of God whose lives are threatened.

Let us remember the old adage that "He can never lead who has not first learned to obey."

And, Lord, grant us a peaceful heart as we labor in your name. Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE[®]

*Devotional for Day 28, Tuesday, March 29
Ramona Trevino, Former Planned Parenthood*

Intention:

May we persevere until the end as we draw our strength from our Lord, Jesus.

Scripture:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and of all encouragement, who encourages us in our every affliction so that we may be able to encourage those who are in an affliction with the encouragement with which we ourselves are encouraged by God.

— 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Reflection:

All one must do is make a quick observation on the internet, social media, our neighborhood, or even within our own families to discover there is no shortage of pain and suffering.

Our world is filled with all types of afflictions; from illness to addictions, divisions and violence, hopelessness and despair. But God gives us a great opportunity, doesn't He? To be the light in the darkest of places. God is our refuge and our salvation. He encourages us at every turn. How sad and lonely it must be for those who don't know Him.

Nowhere is this sadness, despair, and loneliness more evident than inside

and outside abortion centers. If there is ever a place where God's encouragement is most needed it is there. Society's most afflicted souls enter and exit like empty vessels as we pray for an end to abortion outside these places of human sacrifice.

But God does not want us to be discouraged. No! We must pick up our own Cross and carry it with great courage. It is by carrying our own afflictions to these places of death that God gives us the greatest strength to bring encouragement to the afflicted, to be the light in the darkness, to be the prayer that is answered, and to be the hope to the desperate.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your love, mercy, and goodness. We praise you for the gift of life and the conviction to defend it at all stages.

Father, give us the grace to walk alongside of and pray for those poor souls who are so greatly afflicted in their souls. Help us to be compassionate, but bold and courageous, as we defend what is true and just.

As the division in our world increases, let us be the unitive light that draws souls to your goodness, love and mercy. Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 29, Wednesday, March 30
Carmen Pate, former 40 Days for Life board member*

Intention:

Praise God for His compassion in pardoning our sins and forgiving our transgressions. Give praise that He delights in showing mercy.

Scripture:

Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgressions of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us; and will subdue our iniquities.

—*Micah 7:18-19*

Reflection:

Micah had been sent to declare God's judgment and call the people of Judah to repentance. The people had become spiritually and ethically corrupt.

Prosperity had hardened the rich, the poor were oppressed and the heirs to David's throne were practicing abominations and idolatry.

Is it not easy to see the parallels of God's people in Micah's day and God's people today in America?

Through Micah, God corrected His people by demanding justice, not burnt offerings and sacrifice. He told them to love mercy, and to walk humbly with their God. In speaking of the Old Testament stories of God's people turning from God to sin and idolatry, Paul

wrote in 1 Corinthians 10:11, "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come."

Many biblical scholars believe God has removed His hedge of protection around our nation in response to our sins of immorality and abortion. Let us cry out in repentance for His mercy once again.

And may we honor His faithfulness by doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with our God.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, eternal, changeless, and faithful Lord, we recognize that we are in need of forgiveness as a nation, for turning our hearts away from you.

Hear our prayer of repentance Lord and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We praise you for your tender mercies and your compassion that never fails.

Lord, it is only by Your grace that we can live lives that are just, and merciful.

May Your Holy Spirit enable us to walk humbly in Your presence and may You be pleased to restore America so that a generation not yet born may praise you. In the name of Christ Jesus, who has done great things for us, amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 30, Thursday, March 31
Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life*

Intention:

That those tempted to abort may understand that their child is already present, and already a real person.

Scripture:

And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

—*Luke 1:41-44*

Reflection:

Jesus not only loves unborn children — He was one himself!

Think about this for a moment.

We often hear people speak of a pregnant mother by saying, "She's expecting a child."

Now if one is expecting a package, the package is not yet there.

As reflected in our verse for today, however, this is not the case with the mother.

Her gift is already there. The pregnant woman, a mother already, does not have a child "on the way," but has a child, already present and in full possession of his or her human rights, starting with the right to life.

Prayer:

Jesus, open my eyes to your presence in the life of every child. Open my heart to joy in the birth of every child, a birth that reflects the joy of your own birth in Bethlehem.

As you shared life in the womb of Mary, so now send your protection upon every child still in the womb, and grant to their mothers the strength and joy that comes from welcoming the gift of life. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

Devotional for Day 31, Friday, April 1

Rev. J. Kirk van der Swaagh, Conservative Congregational Christian Conference

Intention:

For the medical community, that the truth they know about the human body may become awe and wonder at the God who made it.

Scripture:

Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.

—*Psalm 139:16*

Reflection:

Human beings -- God's tapestries.

Psalm 139 is a psalm that reveals the enormity and otherness of God. His divine attributes are on display: omniscience (2-4), omnipresence (7-12), loving-kindness (17-18), justice (19-20), righteousness (23-24), and omnipotence.

Yet, when it came to express this last attribute, what example did the psalmist use – God's creation of mountains, seas, or far-flung galaxies? No, he used none of these. To express the wonder of God's unparalleled creative power the writer mentions the fashioning of the human in the womb (14-16).

The Hebrew word used to express God's forming of us in the womb, *raqam*, is the same term for needlework or embroidery.

In other words, we are a tapestry that displays God's artistic mastery.

And, like the artist who knows his creation down to the last detail, God intimately knows us.

This reality provokes the writer to awe and wonder. He proclaims, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

What is true for this psalmist is true for each human being.

Each is fashioned by God and known by him and we can proclaim on behalf of each, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Prayer:

Gracious God, help us to appreciate the wonder and beauty of Your creation. Help us proclaim on behalf of every one of our fellow human beings, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

May the knowledge that we are intimately known by You shape our lives and actions. Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 32, Saturday, April 2
Rev. John Ensor, Passion Life*

Intention:

As we pray for the end of abortion, let us pray for the expansion of the pregnancy help center movement worldwide.

Scripture:

The dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne.

— *Revelation 12:4-5*

Reflection:

You don't need to be a theological scholar to get the essential point of Revelation 12. Something BIG is afoot. It has something to do with the birth of Christ and the children of God.

It involves a war in heaven, with powers and principalities beyond our expertise. But the battles are fought here on earth.

The crux of the matter centers around the babe of Bethlehem and the cross of Calvary.

It continues to unfold down through the ages, through us, the children of God, who put their faith in Christ and take up their cross and follow him.

We are waging a war of love against all things that destroy body and soul.

The intensity waxes and wanes, but like labor pains, they grow and culminate in new life.

The unleashing of legal abortion nearly 40 years ago stirred up prayer (lamentation really). Many were then led to start pregnancy help centers and maternity homes.

Today there are over 3,000 such ministries that did not exist 40 years ago.

They reflect a movement of God on our watch: Christians driven to give their time and charity to end abortion one woman at a time.

Let's pray this movement expands worldwide. Let's pray for thousands more Christians to start, serve and support pregnancy help centers.

Prayer:

O God, from generation to generation, you have called your people to be the very aroma of life amidst a culture of death. Now it is our turn.

Prepare me. Send me. Use me. I am eager to do my part.

Stir your people every where to take up this great work.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

Devotional for Day 33, Sunday, April 3
Fr. Terry Gensemer, National Director, Charismatic Episcopal Church for Life

Intention:

May we absorb the truth that God is paying attention to us, and to each human life, personally and individually.

Scripture:

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor.

— *Psalm 8:3-9*

Reflection:

How often we ignore the phrase, “stop and smell the roses” and instead submit to the all too “urgent” task at hand. Is this tendency what keeps us, at least in part, from acknowledging that God’s care for His sacred creation is paramount in His own mind?

The Psalmist speaks of God’s handiwork: the heavens, the work of his “fingers,” and then points to God’s masterpiece – human life. He declares to us that God is mindful of us. God keeps His masterpiece in His thoughts.

God, the creator of the awe-inspiring heavens, is not distracted by the tasks before Him. He is not pulled away, as

we might be, by thoughts of something “more important.” God is paying attention to and attending to His crowning glory, His masterpiece of creation, which cannot be duplicated or replaced, which surpasses the beauty of all other created things – the human being.

There is no way to adequately describe how God feels about us as human beings. There are no words to fully portray His love, compassion or desire to be in communion with us.

Perhaps, the closest we can come, is to contemplate the thoughts of a mother as she gazes for the first time at her newborn child. God cares for Life. We, as His followers, should take time to consider the life He has created and called upon us to love and protect.

Prayer:

Lord, you are the creator of all things. Guide my thoughts to consider your creation in all of its majesty, beauty and holiness. Guide my heart especially to your creation of precious human life.

Help me to comprehend how essential life is in your own heart. Teach me to appreciate, love and protect all human life through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE[®]

*Devotional for Day 34, Monday, April 4
Rev. Paul Stallsworth, President, Lifewatch (United Methodist Church)*

Intention:

May we come to know that divine life, in relationship, creates human life.

Scripture:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

—*John 1:1-3*

Reflection:

"In the beginning" was God. Always, before all times, there was God. This particular God -- the God of the Bible, the God of St. John's Gospel -- is different from all other gods. This God is alive and full of life. This God is not the picture of deadness and death, aloneness and isolation.

This God is the picture of life, relationship, and unity. For within this God, within this one God, there are three divine persons who live, who love, and who work -- together. This is the glorious mystery of the Trinity. The Trinity means divine life. The Trinity means three, living Persons -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- who relate to each other. The Trinity means mutual love and service among three Persons.

The Word was always with God the Father. This Word was, is, and will be the Trinity's second person. The Word is also the Son of God or, as revealed in time, Jesus Christ. God the Father and God the Son live, love, and work for each other. As one, they create "all things" together: the Father creates all things, including all human life, through the Son.

So the Father, through the Son, creates all human lives. The little one swimming in his mother's womb, the infant smiling in his father's arms, the child crying in pain in a hospital bed, the energetic teen running another mile, the old man gasping for his last breath -- all were created, at their beginning, by the Father through the Son. No exceptions. Divine life creates human life.

Prayer:

O God, may we always be quick to call you Father. And when we call you father, let your Spirit remind us that we, and all people, from their beginning to their last day, are your children. We praise you, Father, that you sent your Son to reveal to the world that all people are His brothers and sisters, that all people are your children. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 35, Tuesday, April 5
Carmen Pate, former 40 Days for Life board member*

Intention:

Pray for post-abortive women who cannot forgive themselves; may they understand that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Scripture:

Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sin is covered. Blessed is the one to whom the Lord shall not impute sin.

— *Romans 4:7-8*

Reflection:

In the passage above, the Apostle Paul making a point about justification by faith, refers back to David's words in Psalm 32:1-2.

In spite of the enormity of David's sin—adultery with Bathsheba and his murder of her husband—and the utter absence of any personal merit, David in his brokenness, understood the imputed righteousness of God.

David's response was not continued guilt over his sins, but praise for his freedom from guilt, and God's power to live life differently.

Once your relationship with God has been restored, your guilt has served its purpose and should no longer be given place in your life. This is true regardless of the particular sin, including the sin of abortion.

As a post-abortive woman, I too struggled with this issue until I realized that

punishing and hating myself after receiving God's forgiveness was an insult to God.

It was as though I were minimizing Christ's work on the cross as insufficient to cover my sin. I was denying Him the opportunity to bring glory to His name for the healing and restoration He wanted to do in my life.

I was giving victory to the enemy who having lost the battle for my soul, was bent on destroying my testimony as I accepted the continual guilt he heaped on my mind.

It is my joy to continually sing of God's grace rather than give the devil a foothold in my life. Don't waste God's mercy! Accept His forgiveness and forgive yourself as testimony of His amazing grace.

Prayer:

Our Most Gracious Heavenly Father, thank you for your amazing grace that saved a wretch like me.

I come against the enemy of my soul who would have me feel cast down and dejected.

Lord, keep your children from falling prey to the accusations of the father of lies. Turn our mourning into dancing and may we bring praise to you as we give testimony of Your healing and restoration in our lives. For by His grace we are saved, amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

Devotional for Day 36, Wednesday, April 6
Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, President, Human Life

Intention:

May we never hesitate in our response to Jesus' invitation but take the extra step of faith: "Master...but at your command, I will..."

Scripture:

Jesus said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets.

— *Luke 5:4-5*

Reflection:

Often in our service of the Gospel of Life, having "worked hard all night long," we too may feel unsuccessful in our efforts, thinking we have "caught nothing." And from a temporal point of view, Peter's initial objection against Jesus' command seemed realistic. The night hours were the normal time for fishing, which on this occasion had yielded nothing. What was the point of fishing by day?

Peter and his companions are exhausted from the night's work and know there are no fish to be caught during the day. We too, on occasion, hesitate to do what Jesus asks of us, thinking the task is unreasonable, the cross too heavy, and the sacrifice too great.

What makes Peter's companions dismiss from their minds these considerations and gather their nets to lower them once again? It is Peter's trust and faith in Jesus! Peter's shift from an act of complaint to one of obedience inspires his companions to "put out into deep water and lower [their] nets for a catch."

We stand against the culture of death, a mighty foe, bombarded from every direction, and we know that the battle for Life will not be overcome by merely natural works. However, our trust is not in ourselves but in Jesus, the one who asks to "put out into deep water."

Guided purely by faith, we know that whatever the task we undertake will bear fruit in abundance.

Prayer:

Father and Creator of human life, help us never to become discouraged in defending the full breadth of that most precious gift.

Inspire us to remember that without You, we are powerless, and that what we do for the least, especially the helpless unborn, we are doing for Your Son, who lives and works in and through us.

Give us strength to persevere in Your will. Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 37, Thursday, April 7
Carmen Pate, former 40 Days for Life board member*

Intention:

Pray that we will each submit ourselves this day as a living sacrifice to God, giving all that we have in us for those being sacrificed on the altar of convenience.

Scripture:

I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

— *Romans 12:1*

Reflection:

Since all things are for His glory, we are to offer ourselves for that purpose.

This of course is in sharp contrast to those who are being swayed by the enemy to sacrifice their babies on the altar of convenience, rather than choosing to surrender their all, including their unborn child, to the Lord for His purposes.

A career, education goals, or even a boyfriend can unknowingly become an idol for some young women. In their minds, abortion is a convenient way to “rid themselves” of an obstacle in the way of their “worship.”

In light of the sacrifice Christ made on our behalf, and the fruit of God’s mercies on our lives, we owe God our highest form of praise and worship.

Presenting our bodies as living sacrifices is therefore reasonable service.

We were made to worship God and to worship God alone.

The enemy who seeks worship for himself distorts God’s truth regarding worship, sacrifice, idols, and children.

As you have given of yourself to rescue those who are perishing—the young woman as well as her child—you are worshiping God in the truest sense of the word.

May your prayerful example lead an abortion minded client to turn away from her idols to worship the one true God, sparing her child from the altar of convenience, and sparing herself from a lifetime of regret.

Prayer:

God Almighty, You alone are worthy of our praise and worship.

Having accepted Your Son’s sacrifice on my behalf, I in turn present my body to you as a living sacrifice.

Thank you for deeming me holy and acceptable because of Christ’s shed blood for me.

I pray that you would use me as your vessel to rescue others who are perishing. Through Christ who is Our Glory, amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 38, Friday, April 8
Carmen Pate, former 40 Days for Life board member*

Intention:

Pray that those standing in peaceful vigil will extend mercy and grace to others as they remember that Christ did not treat us as our sins deserve.

Scripture:

You have heard it was said, 'you shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.

— *Matthew 5: 43-44*

Reflection:

Perhaps it is obvious by now that not everyone thinks this campaign is a great idea! In fact, those on the front lines standing in peaceful vigil are perhaps being cursed and hated for what God has called you to do. Because we are all fallen creatures, our natural response may not be as Christ-like as we would hope it would be.

So, how do we keep our natural response in check, while allowing the Holy Spirit to empower us to love, bless, do good, and pray for those who hate us or would do us harm?

Consider first the Holiness of God. It seems that sin has clouded our ability to think clearly about God's nature. We

simply don't have a clue of how outraged God is by our sin, what an insult sin is to His person, or how sin fires the flames of His wrath. Praise God that He didn't leave us in our depravity destined for His divine wrath!

Ephesians 2:4-5 says, "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in sin, made us alive together with Christ; by grace you have been saved."

Because of God's mercy and grace towards us, we who receive Him receive eternal Hope. Those who curse you, hate you, spitefully mistreat you and persecute you need that same Hope. That is the only way we can ever expect them to behave differently. Ask the Holy Spirit to love them -- through you -- so they are drawn to the Hope that is in you, that is Christ Jesus.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, may we reflect your character of grace and kindness to those who hate us and curse us. Guard our hearts and our tongues as we respond in love to words and actions meant to rile us or cause us harm. Let others see the Hope that is Christ in all we say and do. In His precious name we pray, amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 39, Saturday, April 9
Carmen Pate, former 40 Days for Life board member*

Intention:

Pray that volunteers will replace exhaustion or discouragement with rejoicing over the miracles we have seen thus far, and enthusiastic service as God takes us on to victory!

Scripture:

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

— 1 Peter 1:6-7

Reflection:

We have reason to rejoice when we consider the many babies whose lives have been saved during the 40 Days for Life campaign. Add to those lives, the women and men who have been spared from a devastating decision and now have opportunity to make a plan for their baby that is both life affirming and God honoring.

Whether directly, or indirectly, you have contributed to these testimonies of praise with your sacrificial service.

Perhaps you have been grieved by various trials during your commitment to 40 days.

The attacks of the enemy come in many forms -- difficulties in relationships, finances, health. Or maybe you are physically and mentally exhausted and have been marking off the days on your calendar, eagerly waiting for Day 40.

Consider these trials in light of God's plan for you.

The Apostle Paul understood the big picture when he said in Romans 8:18, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

This is our Hope and our victory. Let us rejoice in the opportunity to give that Hope to others in our path.

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we sing to You a new song, for You have done marvelous things. Forgive us when we allow circumstances to defeat us. You give power to the faint and You increase strength in those who have no might.

We rest in You dear Lord, and ask You to empower us again for Your service as You work out Your plan for us and through us.

May You receive glory through our victory in Christ, in whose name we pray, amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 40, Sunday, April 10
Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life*

Intention:

Let us keep our eyes fixed on the New Jerusalem, where death will be no more.

Scripture:

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

— *Revelation 21:4-5*

Reflection:

Every activity we undertake in defense of the sanctity of life is *prophetic*, inasmuch as it points to the day when "death will be no more."

Every victory we have when an act of abortion is prevented is prophetic of that day when death itself will be definitively conquered.

Every triumph of grace in this world, whereby someone is brought to see the value of life and given the strength to welcome it, is a breaking into our history of that definitive future in which the old order of things will have passed, and all things will be made new.

As pro-life warriors, we must keep our eyes fixed on heaven, and our hearts secure in the hope that the day is coming when all evil will be conquered.

It is the future that shapes the present; it is victory that informs the battle; it is the destination that determines the journey.

Daily, we are called to reflect on heaven.

When we weep, we are to think of the day when every tear will be wiped away.

When we face the destructive power of death, we are to think of the day when death is swallowed up in victory.

When we labor against abortion, we are to think of the day when we will have the rest and peace of the final triumph of life.

Heaven is as real as earth, and its joys will be as real as our present sorrows.

Prayer:

Father, you are the God of hope. Your word fills us with the vision of the world to come, when every tear will be wiped away, and death will be no more.

Father, how we need that hope, how we are strengthened by that vision! Keep our hearts focused on heaven, and diligent in the labors of earth.

As we struggle against the culture of death, root our souls in the assurance of victory. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 41, Monday, April 11
Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life*

Intention:

Pray that the witness of 40 Days for Life bears abundant fruit, and that we begin again each day to storm the gates of hell until God welcomes us into the gates of heaven.

Scripture:

On this rock I will build my church; the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

— *Matthew 16:18*

Reflection:

When we read this verse, we usually think that the Lord is promising that the church, which is His Body, will withstand all the attacks launched against it.

Of course, that is true. But when we think about it more carefully, we realize that in a battle, the gates do not run out into the battlefield to attack the enemy. Rather, they stand still to defend the city from the enemy attacking it.

So when the Lord says that the gates of hell will not prevail against the church, who is doing the attacking?

It is the church storming the gates!

The church, all of God's people in Christ, is called to take the offensive, to run into enemy territory, and to gain ground for Jesus Christ. We do not wait for an invitation; we already have a command.

We prepare, but we do not wait for circumstances to be perfect; we already have one who has gone before us.

During these 40 days, we have stormed the gates. We have taken the offensive.

We have pushed forward the boundaries of the kingdom. And we must keep doing so, in numerous ways.

Indeed, the gates of hell will not prevail. The gates of falsehood will flee in the presence of truth. The gates of sin will melt in the presence of grace. The gates of death will fall in the presence of the church, the People of Life!

Prayer:

Father, we praise you. We have heard the voice of your Son, and therefore we can make our voices heard.

We have done battle with the power of evil, and therefore we can have compassion on those still within its grip. We have been freed from the kingdom of darkness, and therefore we can bear witness to your Kingdom of Light.

May the witness of all your people through these 40 Days for Life bear abundant fruit, and may we begin again each day to storm the gates of hell until You welcome us into the gates of heaven.

We pray in the victorious name of Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.