**Liturgical Resources for Observing Respect Life Month**

***October 2018***

**Sample Intercessions**

May we show by our words and actions

that every human life

is cherished and chosen;

*We pray to the Lord*:

May we build a culture of life

by embracing our mission

as messengers of God’s love;

*We pray to the Lord:*

**HOMILY HELPS**

***Respect Life Sunday | October 7, 2018***

***Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time***

*Suggestions for unpacking the 2018-2019 Respect Life theme (“Every Life: Cherished, Chosen, Sent”) using the readings of the day.*

**Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Briefly share the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego, summarized in the 2018-2019 *Respect Life Reflection*.

**Created for Relationship**

Every person is made in God’s image and likeness (*First Reading*), and is loved by Him and called to eternal union with Him. We are also created to be in communion with, and depend upon, one another. Jesus consecrates us and calls us his “brothers” (*Second Reading*).

**Love One Another**

We are all called to walk in God’s ways (*Responsorial Psalm*)and treat each other according to the truth of His immense love for every person (*Gospel Acclamation*). Like St. Juan Diego, we are personally entrusted with specific ways to love God and one another. If we have aging parents, do we take the time to consistently show our love through visits, phone calls, and notes? If we know expectant mothers or parents with infants, do we provide support that helps them welcome their children (*Gospel Reading*) andcontinues to serve their needs, even months after the baby is born?

**It’s Who We Are**

We are cherished, chosen, and sent by God to love one another as He loves us. In doing so, we help build a culture that cherishes all human life. Building a culture of life is simply part of *who we are* as Christians, as followers of Christ.

**Liturgical Resources for Observing**

**The Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children and Related Events**

***January 2019***

**Sample Intercessions**

For the legal protection of unborn children

and for loving support for mothers

before and after birth;

*We pray to the Lord:*

For all who suffer from

participation in abortion:

May they repent and turn

to God’s loving forgiveness;

*We pray to the Lord:*

**HOMILY HELPS**

***Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children | January 22, 2019***

*Homily suggestions for unpacking the theme are based on the readings indicated below, selected from among the many choices available for this day. See no. 373 of the GIRM or an Ordo for more information on the liturgical observance of this day of prayer and penance.*

**First Reading:** 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 3:14-21

**Gospel Acclamation:** See John 6:63c, 68c

**Gospel:** Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

**You Formed My Inmost Being**

God creates us (*Responsorial Psalm)* and invites us to eternal, loving union with Himself. He sends us to share this message with others and to love one another as He loves us.

**Love Them Both**

Decisions against human life are often influenced by feeling afraid, unsupported, pressured, or alone. Consider a college student whose boyfriend tells her to choose between him and their unborn child, or expectant parents who have just been told their baby may have a serious disability. We need to love both the unborn children and their parents, providing concrete support to help those in difficult pregnancy situations welcome their children (*Gospel Reading*)— before and after they are born.

**Become like Children**

To best serve the needs of others, we must humble ourselves like children (*Gospel Reading*) so we can receive the Lord’s guidance. When Christ dwells in our hearts, He can “accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us” (*Second Reading,* Eph 3:20).