

October 7, 2018

**From Fr. Jim . . .**

**Respect Life Sunday:** National Respect Life Sunday is OCTOBER 7. Please include in your prayers the following petitions or pray in your own words. Please pray them as you see fit but especially during this month of October as we join with the Catholic Church in the United States in celebrating life. May all life continue to be blessed from the “womb to the tomb”.



For all people: May God grant us the courage to embrace his precious gift of life, even in the most difficult of circumstances.

For the times we are afraid to welcome life: May the Lord fill our hearts with confidence in His loving care and provide for every need.

For all Catholics: May the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist strengthen us in protecting his gift of life.

For the times we are pressured to compromise respect for human life: May the Lord strengthen our courage and resolve.

May the Holy Spirit reveal to each of us how we are called to use our gifts in sharing the Gospel of life and joy.

For those facing difficult medical decisions: May they receive the Lord’s guidance and peace as they listen for his voice.

For the times we doubt the value of our lives: May we rest in the awareness that we are infinitely loved and that God has a plan for our lives.

For those condemned to die and their families: May the hope of the resurrection strengthen them in their time of sorrow.

May God grant us the eyes to see and the hearts to love those who need us to walk with them in times of suffering.

May God bless all those for whom adoption is part of their life story.

For caregivers: May Christ give them wisdom and fill their hearts with peace and strength.

For women and men suffering from abortion: May God grant them courage to seek healing and peace through the Church’s post abortion healing ministry.

For those longing for a child: May God comfort them with the assurance of his steadfast love.

We pray the Lord to hear our prayer!

### **Bridges of Mercy for Healing after Abortion**

*(read the full version at [usccb.org/bridges-of-mercy](http://usccb.org/bridges-of-mercy).)*

Maria,+ Vanessa, Li, Jennifer, and Darryl, are among the tens of millions of Americans whose lives have been directly touched by abortion. Like so many others, they have experienced regret, guilt, and grief. But as they have also experienced, God’s healing love and mercy are always possible.

Many Catholics want to help women and men who have experienced abortion, but some do not know how to begin. Visit [usccb.org/bridges-of-mercy](http://usccb.org/bridges-of-mercy) to learn how people of various walks of life can assist friends, family members, fellow parishioners, clients – or perhaps even themselves.

Also, beware that the U.S. Church’s Project Rachel Ministry for healing after abortion offers confidential, compassionate help. Visit [HopeAfterAbortion.org](http://HopeAfterAbortion.org).

*(+All names have been changed to protect privacy. This is a summary of a USCCB Respect Life Program article by the same name and is reprinted with permission. Copyright 2018, USCCB, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.)*

**World Mission Sunday, October 21:** Currently 1100 mission dioceses in Africa and Asia are struggling to educate their seminarians, novices and lay catechists, to build up their own faith communities. Your contribution to the Holy Father’s Pontifical Mission Societies on World Mission Sunday, October 21 is very important. Our sacrifices enable our sisters and brothers of the same faith to become beacons of hope, reconciliation, justice and mercy. Many thanks for your consideration, prayers and support.