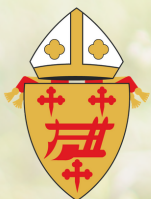


A PARISH RESOURCE FROM THE PASTORAL CENTER
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI



ARCHDIOCESE OF
CINCINNATI

March for Life

TOGETHER STRONG: LIFE UNITES
JANUARY 29, 2021

Resources Available for Use:

- 3-Week Series for either Small Group/Bible Study or Youth Group Approaches
 - While we've given two options of how you might structure your gathered time, please adapt to fit your night. These two schedules are set for 90 minutes of running time.
- 1 Night Standalone for Youth Group
- Movie Nights & Discussion
 - Unplanned (R)
 - Bella (PG-13)
 - October Baby (PG-13)
 - Instant Family (PG-13)
 - Gimme Shelter (PG-13)
 - To Save a Life (PG-13)
- Prayer Services

Considerations for When to Use the Resources:

- Begin the 3-Week Series the first week of January
 - Night 1 (Recommended for January 4 - 10)
 - Night 2 (Recommended for January 11 - 17)
 - Night 3 (Recommended for January 18 - 24)
- 1 Night Standalone (Recommended for January 18 - 24)
- Movie Nights
 - Make sure to check the running time of your movie to determine how you might use these resources
 - A movie could be shown in a longer (3 hour) time frame, to allow for discussion afterward; or
 - Break the movie up into two parts and watch it over 2 week period
- Mass or Prayer Service (Recommended for January 22 - 29)

You can access all of the digital content for this resource at the web address below:

<https://resources.catholicaoc.org/offices/respect-life-ministries/media-events/march-for-life-resources>

Series Goal

To Know: The sacredness of all human life, especially your sacredness and those on the margins.

To Do: Take one step to 1) taking better care of yourself and 2) to reaching out to someone on the margins i.e. a loner at school, serving at a local shelter, etc.



Schedule Options

- **Option 1 More of a Small Group Focused Approach**

- (15m) Social (or Game/Activity) & Welcome
- (10m) Introductions of Youth & Opening Prayer
- (25m) Lectio Divina
- (5m) Video Reflection
- (20m) Small Group Discussion
- (5m) Closing Prayer
- (10m) Social & Wrap-Up

- **Option 2 More of a “Youth Group” Approach**

- (10m) Gather, Welcome & Opening Prayer
- (15m) Activity
- (5m) Video Reflection
- (5m) Teaching
- (25m) Small Group Discussion
- (20m) Lectio Divina (in Small or Large Group)
- (10m) Closing Prayer, Announcements & Wrap-Up

Night #1 - Every Sacred Life

Option 1: Small Group Approach



Goal: That youth can articulate why every persons' life is sacred from the moment of conception until natural death.

Key Points:

- All human beings have dignity because we were created in the image and likeness of God.
- The Culture of Death wants to put limits on human dignity related to age, autonomy and abilities.
- True freedom is not the ability to do anything you want. It is grounded in the truth that comes from God.
- Relationship with Christ helps us to change our society into a Culture of Life.

References:

- Genesis 1: 26-28
- Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7
- Psalm 139
- Jeremiah 1: 1-10
- Mark 1: 7-11
- CCC 1700 and 2258

(15m) **Social & Welcome** *Actual Run Time* (i.e. 7:00 - 7:15 p.m.) _____

Gather your young people into space. Set the environment with music, lightning, etc. Use the time to engage them in conversation - How are they doing?

(10m) **Introductions of Youth & Opening Prayer** *Actual Run Time* _____

Begin with the leader(s) introducing themselves and have each youth introduce themselves: name, grade, school, and what did you want to be when you grow up?

- *Invite a young person to lead an opening prayer.*

Night #1 - Every Sacred Life

Option 1: Small Group Approach

(25m) **Lectio Divina** *Actual Run Time* _____

Have youth open their Bibles to Sunday's Gospel, Mark 1: 7-11. Select two youth to be readers. Give youth an overview of the process outlined below, then guide them through it.

- Before hearing the reading the first time, invite the youth to just hear the story. Let it wash over them. The Adult Leader reads the passage one time through. Ask youth if they have any questions about the reading? Something doesn't make sense, or they don't know a word, etc.
- Before hearing the passage a second time (from one of the youth readers), invite the youth to look for a word or two that strikes them from the reading. Have the youth read it a second time. Allow for a moment of silence for youth to reread on their own. Give them an opportunity to share the word that is sticking out to them.
- Have the second youth reader read the passage a third time. Afterward, instruct them to take a few minutes of silence to sit with that word asking the Lord, "Why this word? What does it mean for me?" Note: Journaling may be a helpful process for them.
- After 2-3 minutes, open time for sharing their prayer and what is striking them from the reading. If youth are having a hard time with this, you might offer the following questions for discussion:
 - Captivates: What catches your attention? What word, phrase, or image sticks out to you? Why?
 - Imagine: Is there a particular character in the story you connect with? Why?
 - Emotions: How does this passage make you feel? Does it offer comfort or peace? Uncertainty or fear? Why?
 - Reveals: What about this passage reveals to you who Jesus is or what He desires for you?
 - Challenged & Called: What about this passage challenges you? What is Jesus calling you to do? How can you apply this passage to your life?

Night #1 - Every Sacred Life

Option 1: Small Group Approach

(5m) **Night #1 - Every Sacred Life** (Video Reflection) Actual Run Time _____

Play tonight's brief video (or offer a talk in its place that emphasizes the content from the video) to set the theme connecting the reading and small group discussion.

(20m) **Small Group Discussion** Actual Run Time _____

Begin in prayer, then discuss the following:

- Who do you think knows you the best? Do you trust that that person loves you? Why?
- Based on the talk/video, why do we know that God values us as human beings?
- This means we have a dignity above all other creatures from the moment of conception until natural death. How is this belief different from ways we as a society may treat some people? In what ways have you seen some people being given a different level of dignity by our world today? (You can talk about abortion, assisted suicide, the elderly, those with disabilities, racism)
- What are some ways or situations where you struggle recognizing the value and worth of some people, whether in a small or big way?
- How can your small group/church community/youth group support you in efforts to do better? How can you invite God to help you do better?
- Watch the second video of [Magalia](#) (2:45)
 - What reactions do you have watching this video?
 - What helped Magalia decide to keep her baby?
 - Do you think she is glad she decided to keep her baby?
 - How can we communicate to others the beauty of choosing life rather than abortion?

(5m) **Closing Prayer for Life & Dignity** Actual Run Time _____

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of life, bless us with the courage to defend all life from conception to natural death. Bless us with the strength to respect all peoples from east to west, from north to south, so that we may truly follow the call of Jesus to be neighbor. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(10m) **Social & Wrap-Up** Actual Run Time _____

Night #1 - Every Sacred Life

Option 2: "Youth Group" Approach



Goal: That youth can articulate why every persons' life is sacred from the moment of conception until natural death.

Key Points:

- All human beings have dignity because we were created in the image and likeness of God.
- The Culture of Death wants to put limits on human dignity related to age, autonomy and abilities
- True freedom is not the ability to do anything you want. It is grounded in the truth that comes from God.
- Relationship with Christ helps us to change our society into a Culture of Life.

References:

- Genesis 1: 26-28
- Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7
- Psalm 139
- Jeremiah 1: 1-10
- Mark 1: 7-11
- CCC 1700 and 2258

(10m) **Social, Welcome, Opening Prayer** *Actual Run Time* (i.e. 7:00 - 7:15 p.m.) _____

Gather your young people into space. Set the environment with music, lightning, etc.

Use the time to engage them in conversation - How are they doing?

(15m) **The Price is Right** *Actual Run Time* _____

Teens can play in small group competitions or as individuals. Project or display an object and ask youth to guess the cost. Give four points to the teen closest to the right price. If they guess over the price, they are disqualified. Give two points to the teen who is second closest to the right price and one point to the teen who is the third closest. Zero points are given to the teen who is fourth closest or who guessed over the right price.

Connection to tonight's topic and optional large group discussion: *Everything in society has a value. We even put a value on people. What is a person worth? Are different people worth different amounts? Why? How do you determine that? How does the value and worth of people effect how we treat others?*

Night #1 - Every Sacred Life

Option 2: Youth Group Approach

(5m) **Night #1 - Every Sacred Life** (Video Reflection) Actual Run Time _____

Play tonight's brief video (or offer a talk in its place that emphasizes the content from the video) to set the theme connecting the reading and small group discussion.

(25m) **Small Group Discussion** Actual Run Time _____

Begin in prayer, then discuss the following:

- Who do you think knows you the best? Do you trust that that person loves you? Why?
- Based on the talk/video, why do we know that God values us as human beings?
- This means we have a dignity above all other creatures from the moment of conception until natural death. How is this belief different from ways we as a society may treat some people? In what ways have you seen some people being given a different level of dignity by our world today? (You can talk about abortion, assisted suicide, the elderly, those with disabilities, racism)
- What are some ways or situations where you struggle recognizing the value and worth of some people, whether in a small or big way?
- How can your small group/church community/youth group support you in efforts to do better? How can you invite God to help you do better?
- Watch the second video of [Magalia](#) (2:45)
 - What reactions do you have watching this video?
 - What helped Magalia decide to keep her baby?
 - Do you think she is glad she decided to keep her baby?
 - How can we communicate to others the beauty of choosing life rather than abortion?

(20m) **Lectio Divina** Actual Run Time _____

Have youth open their Bibles to Sunday's Gospel, Mark 1: 7-11. Select two youth to be readers. Give youth an overview of the process outlined below, then guide them through it.

- Before hearing the reading the first time, invite the youth to just hear the story. Let it wash over them. The Adult Leader reads the passage one time through. Ask youth if they have any questions about the reading? Something doesn't make sense, or they don't know a word, etc.
- Before hearing the passage a second time (from one of the youth readers), invite the youth to look for a word or two that strikes them from the reading. Have the youth read it a second time. Allow for a moment of silence for youth to reread on their own. Give them an opportunity to share the word that is sticking out to them.
- Have the second youth reader read the passage a third time. Afterward, instruct them to take a few minutes of silence to sit with that word asking the Lord, "Why this word? What does it mean for me?" Note: Journaling may be a helpful process for them.

Night #1 - Every Sacred Life

Option 2: Youth Group Approach

(Lectio Continued)

- After 2-3 minutes, open time for sharing their prayer and what is striking them from the reading. If youth are having a hard time with this, you might offer the following questions for discussion:
 - Captivates: What catches your attention? What word, phrase, or image sticks out to you? Why?
 - Imagine: Is there a particular character in the story you connect with? Why?
 - Emotions: How does this passage make you feel? Does it offer comfort or peace? Uncertainty or fear? Why?
 - Reveals: What about this passage reveals to you who Jesus is or what He desires for you?
 - Challenged & Called: What about this passage challenges you? What is Jesus calling you to do? How can you apply this passage to your life

(5m) **Closing Prayer for Life & Dignity** *Actual Run Time* _____

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of life, bless us with the courage to defend all life from conception to natural death. Bless us with the strength to respect all peoples from east to west, from north to south, so that we may truly follow the call of Jesus to be neighbor. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(5m) **Announcements & Wrap-Up** *Actual Run Time* _____



Night #2 - Your Sacred Identity

Option 1: Small Group Approach



Goal: That youth recognize their own sacredness and the abundant life God wants them to live.

Key Points:

- Your life is sacred and valuable. You are unique and unrepeatable.
- Through your Baptism, your identity has been firmly established as a Beloved Son or Daughter of the Father; no one and nothing, not even sin, can take that away from you.
- "I came that they might have life and have it in abundance." John 10:10

References:

- 1 Corinthians 6: 13c-15a, 17-20
- 1 Samuel 3: 3b-10, 19
- John 10:10 Psalm 139
- CCC 1691
- CCC 1700-1715

(15m) **Social & Welcome** *Actual Run Time* (i.e. 7:00 - 7:15 p.m.) _____

Gather your young people into space. Set the environment with music, lighting, etc. Use the time to engage them in conversation - How are they doing?

(10m) **Introductions of Youth & Opening Prayer** *Actual Run Time* _____

Begin with the leader(s) introducing themselves and have each youth introduce themselves: name, grade, school, and what are three words you would use to describe yourself?

- *Invite a young person to lead an opening prayer.*

Night #2 - Your Sacred Identity

Option 1: Small Group Approach

(25m) **Lectio Divina** *Actual Run Time* _____

Have youth open their Bibles to Sunday's 2nd Reading, **1 Corinthians 6: 13c-15a, 17-20**. Select two youth to be readers.

- Before hearing the reading the first time, invite the youth to just hear the story. Let it wash over them. The Adult Leader reads the passage one time through. Ask youth if they have any questions about the reading? Something doesn't make sense, or they don't know a word, etc.
- Before hearing the passage a second time (from one of the youth readers), invite the youth to look for a word or two that strikes them from the reading. Have the youth read it a second time. Allow for a moment of silence for youth to reread on their own. Give them an opportunity to share the word that is sticking out to them.
- Have the second youth reader read the passage a third time. Afterward, instruct them to take a few minutes of silence to sit with that word asking the Lord, "Why this word? What does it mean for me?" Note: Journaling may be a helpful process for them.
- After 2-3 minutes, open time for sharing their prayer and what is striking them from the reading. If youth are having a hard time with this, you might offer the following questions for discussion:
 - Captivates: What catches your attention? What word, phrase, or image sticks out to you? Why?
 - Imagine: Is there a particular character in the story you connect with? Why?
 - Emotions: How does this passage make you feel? Does it offer comfort or peace? Uncertainty or fear? Why?
 - Reveals: What about this passage reveals to you who Jesus is or what He desires for you?
 - Challenged & Called: What about this passage challenges you? What is Jesus calling you to do? How can you apply this passage to your life?

Night #2 - Your Sacred Identity

Option 1: Small Group Approach

(5m) **Night #2 - Your Sacred Identity** (Video Reflection) Actual Run Time _____

Play tonight's brief video (or offer a talk in its place that emphasizes the content from the video) to set the theme connecting the reading and small group discussion.

(20m) **Small Group Discussion** Actual Run Time _____

Begin in prayer, then discuss the following:

- What struck you from the video? Why?
- Where does society tell us that our worth and our identity come from?
- Are there any ways to combat these lies and falling into these traps?
- What part of your identity is important and easy for you to embrace? (i.e. I am a girl, I am a boy, I am from Italian descent)
- Which key point from tonight (about you and your identity) is the hardest for you to believe? Why?
 - Your life is sacred and valuable. You are unique and unrepeatable.
 - Through your Baptism, your identity has been firmly established as a Beloved Son or Daughter of the Father; no one and nothing, not even sin, can take that away from you.
 - Jesus came for YOU, that you might have an abundant life (John 10:10).
- Is there a part of your identity that you have denied or altered in order to win the approval of others? (i.e. your faith, friendships, family)
- What thing(s) are keeping you from living the abundant life Jesus wants for you? Where is Jesus inviting you to take a step toward healing or getting help?
- How do you think Jesus sees you?
- How does understanding your own sacred identity help you to see the sacredness of every human life?
- Post-It Note Challenge: Each day this week write an affirmation to yourself on a post-it note before you go to bed and place it in your bathroom mirror. At the end of the week, your mirror should be filled with affirmations.

(5m) **Closing Prayer for Life & Dignity** Actual Run Time _____

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of life, bless us with the courage to defend all life from conception to natural death. Bless us with the strength to respect all peoples from east to west, from north to south, so that we may truly follow the call of Jesus to be neighbor. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(10m) **Social & Wrap-Up** Actual Run Time _____

Night #2 - Your Sacred Identity

Option 2: Youth Group Approach



Goal: That youth recognize their own sacredness and the abundant life God wants them to live.

Key Points:

- Your life is sacred and valuable. You are unique and unrepeatable.
- Through your Baptism, your identity has been firmly established as a Beloved Son or Daughter of the Father; no one and nothing, not even sin, can take that away from you.
- "I came that they might have life and have it in abundance." John 10:10

References:

- 1 Corinthians 6: 13c-15a, 17-20
- 1 Samuel 3: 3b-10, 19
- John 10:10 Psalm 139
- CCC 1691
- CCC 1700-1715

(10m) **Social, Welcome, Opening Prayer** *Actual Run Time* (i.e. 7:00 - 7:15 p.m.) _____

Gather your young people into space. Set the environment with music, lightning, etc. Use the time to engage them in conversation - How are they doing?

(15m) **Post-It** *Actual Run Time* _____

Set-Up: Hang on the wall a large butcher paper with the words "Beloved Sons & Daughters." Now place another piece of butcher paper ON TOP (so that you cannot see that first piece of paper) and leave it blank.

Leader -- In 90 seconds recap last week's content and discussion, and give an overview of what tonight is all about, for example: Last week we began our "Sacred" Series talking about the sacredness of all life and the particular challenges to life and dignity through abortion. The topic of abortion might seem far away from you, and you might be wondering how the idea of "Pro-Life" or Sacredness of Life pertains to you. Tonight that's what we're going to get into - YOUR Sacred Identity.

Night #2 - Your Sacred Identity

Option 2: Youth Group Approach

Leader cont. You have two colors of post-it notes. Taking the blue post-its, I want you to write 3-5 ways people see you or would describe you. (Give youth 3-5 minutes to write down their answers and place them on the butcher paper.) Taking the green post-its, I want you to write 3-5 ways that you see yourself or words you would use to describe you. (Give them 3-5 minutes to write down their answers and place them on the butcher paper.)

Leader cont. The traits you've listed as negative are lies. Some of the traits and descriptions you've listed are good, but they don't share the whole story. At the end of the day, your worth and identity gets boiled down to one word -- pause and tear the top layer of butcher paper with the post-it notes so that the "Beloved Sons & Daughters" banner is now visible.



(5m) **Night #2 - Your Sacred Identity** (Video Reflection) Actual Run Time _____

Play tonight's brief video (or offer a talk in its place that emphasizes the content from the video) to set the theme connecting the reading and small group discussion.

(5m) **Testimony** Actual Run Time _____

Have an adult (or youth) share a testimony about a time when they came to recognize their identity as founded in Jesus. How did that make them recognize the Sacredness of their own life? How did that experience help them to then see the sacredness in other human persons?

(20m) **Small Group Discussion** Actual Run Time _____

Begin in prayer, then discuss the following:

Begin in prayer, then discuss the following:

- What struck you from the video? Why?
- What did you think about the opening activity?
- Where does society tell us that our worth and our identity come from?
- Are there any ways to combat these lies and falling into these traps?
- What part of your identity is important and easy for you to embrace? (i.e. I am a girl, I am a boy, I am from Italian descent)
- Which key point from tonight (about you and your identity) is the hardest for you to believe? Why?
 - *Your life is sacred and valuable. You are unique and unrepeatable.*
 - *Through your Baptism, your identity has been firmly established as a Beloved Son or Daughter of the Father; no one and nothing, not even sin, can take that away from you.*
 - *Jesus came for YOU, that you might have an abundant life (John 10:10).*

Night #2 - Your Sacred Identity

Option 2: Youth Group Approach

Small Group Discussion Cont.

- *Is there a part of your identity that you have denied or altered in order to win the approval of others? (i.e. your faith, friendships, family)*
- *What thing(s) are keeping you from living the abundant life Jesus wants for you? Where is Jesus inviting you to take a step toward healing or getting help?*
- *How do you think Jesus sees you?*
- *How does understanding your own sacred identity help you to see the sacredness of every human life?*
- *Post-It Note Challenge: Each day this week write an affirmation to yourself on a post-it note before you go to bed and place it in your bathroom mirror. At the end of the week, your mirror should be filled with affirmations.*

(15m) **Lectio Divina** Actual Run Time _____

Have youth open their Bibles to Sunday's 2nd Reading, **1 Corinthians 6: 13c-15a, 17-20**. Select two youth to be readers.

- Before hearing the reading the first time, invite the youth to just hear the story. Let it wash over them. The Adult Leader reads the passage one time through. Ask youth if they have any questions about the reading? Something doesn't make sense, or they don't know a word, etc.
- Before hearing the passage a second time (from one of the youth readers), invite the youth to look for a word or two that strikes them from the reading. Have the youth read it a second time. Allow for a moment of silence for youth to reread on their own. Give them an opportunity to share the word that is sticking out to them.
- Have the second youth reader read the passage a third time. Afterward, instruct them to take a few minutes of silence to sit with that word asking the Lord, "Why this word? What does it mean for me?" Note: Journaling may be a helpful process for them.
- After 2-3 minutes, open time for sharing their prayer and what is striking them from the reading. If youth are having a hard time with this, you might offer the following questions for discussion:
 - Captivates: What catches your attention? What word, phrase, or image sticks out to you? Why?
 - Imagine: Is there a particular character in the story you connect with? Why?
 - Emotions: How does this passage make you feel? Does it offer comfort or peace? Uncertainty or fear? Why?
 - Reveals: What about this passage reveals to you who Jesus is or what He desires for you?
 - Challenged & Called: What about this passage challenges you? What is Jesus calling you to do? How can you apply this passage to your life?

Night #2 - Your Sacred Identity

Option 2: Youth Group Approach

(10m) **Closing Prayer Experience: Beloved Affirmations** Actual Run Time _____

Give youth another color post-it note and ask them to write 3-5 short affirmations about someone gathered. Option to place those on the "Beloved" Banner and they can continue to put up affirmations throughout the week/next week. OR they can give the affirmations directly to the person to whom they are writing.

Wrap with Closing Prayer...

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of life, bless us with the courage to defend all life from conception to natural death. Bless us with the strength to respect all peoples from east to west, from north to south, so that we may truly follow the call of Jesus to be neighbor. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(5m) **Announcements & Wrap-Up** Actual Run Time _____



Night #3 - Sacred Margins

Option 1: Small Group Approach



Goal: That youth can see the sacred in the faces of the marginalized and can begin reaching out to someone marginalized in their community.

Key Points:

- God calls the most unlikely people to do his will. God equips those he calls.
- As part of the Body of Christ, we are called to work together with ALL of our brothers and sisters to build the kingdom of God here on earth.
- It is our responsibility as disciples to help the marginalized feel the love of God and answer their call as part of the Body of Christ.

References:

- Mark 1: 14-20
- Exodus 4
- 1 Samuel 16-17
- Acts 9: 1-31
- Luke 1: 26-38
- Luke 22: 54-62
- 2 Corinthians 9: 8
- 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31
- 1 Corinthians 12: 12-26
- CCC 782 - 791
- Fratelli Tutti 18

(15m) **Social & Welcome** *Actual Run Time* (i.e. 7:00 - 7:15 p.m.) _____

Gather your young people into space. Set the environment with music, lighting, etc. Use the time to engage them in conversation - How are they doing?

(10m) **Introductions of Youth & Opening Prayer** *Actual Run Time* _____

Begin with the leader(s) introducing themselves and have each youth introduce themselves: name, grade, school, and what did you want to be when you grow up?

- *Invite a young person to lead an opening prayer.*

Night #3 - Sacred Margins

Option 1: Small Group Approach

(25m) **Lectio Divina** *Actual Run Time* _____

Have youth open their Bibles to Sunday's Gospel, Mark 1: 7-11. Select two youth to be readers. Give youth an overview of the process outlined below, then guide them through it.

- Before hearing the reading the first time, invite the youth to just hear the story. Let it wash over them. The Adult Leader reads the passage one time through. Ask youth if they have any questions about the reading? Something doesn't make sense, or they don't know a word, etc.
- Before hearing the passage a second time (from one of the youth readers), invite the youth to look for a word or two that strikes them from the reading. Have the youth read it a second time. Allow for a moment of silence for youth to reread on their own. Give them an opportunity to share the word that is sticking out to them.
- Have the second youth reader read the passage a third time. Afterward, instruct them to take a few minutes of silence to sit with that word asking the Lord, "Why this word? What does it mean for me?" Note: Journaling may be a helpful process for them.
- After 2-3 minutes, open time for sharing their prayer and what is striking them from the reading. If youth are having a hard time with this, you might offer the following questions for discussion:
 - Captivates: What catches your attention? What word, phrase, or image sticks out to you? Why?
 - Imagine: Is there a particular character in the story you connect with? Why?
 - Emotions: How does this passage make you feel? Does it offer comfort or peace? Uncertainty or fear? Why?
 - Reveals: What about this passage reveals to you who Jesus is or what He desires for you?
 - Challenged & Called: What about this passage challenges you? What is Jesus calling you to do? How can you apply this passage to your life?

Night #3 - Sacred Margins

Option 1: Small Group Approach

(5m) **Night #3 - Sacred Margins** (Video Reflection) Actual Run Time _____

Play tonight's brief video (or offer a talk in its place that emphasizes the content from the video) to set the theme connecting the reading and small group discussion.

(20m) **Small Group Discussion** Actual Run Time _____

Begin in prayer, then discuss the following:

- What struck you from the video? Why?
- God calls the most unlikely. He calls the lowly, like these fishermen. Jesus called them to follow and be His disciples. Think of a person whose life didn't seem to have much potential, and what they've done with their life because of God's call. Share.
- Read these words from Pope Francis' new encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*:

"Some parts of our human family, it appears, can be readily sacrificed for the sake of others considered worthy of a carefree existence. Ultimately, "persons are no longer seen as a paramount value to be cared for and respected, especially when they are poor and disabled, 'not yet useful' – like the unborn, or 'no longer needed' – like the elderly."

- What human characteristics do we value as a society?
- What human characteristics make a person "less valuable" to our world?
- Who are some of the people in your parish/school/community that are marginalized and treated as "less worthy?"
- When we people are not valued or included, how does that affect the Body of Christ?
- Jesus employs us through His teaching of the Great Commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself." Last week we spent time focusing on our Sacred Self. How can we show others who are marginalized that they too are sacred and have an important role to play in creating God's kingdom?
- Reach Out Challenge: Take time this week to reach out to three people who are marginalized to show them God's love.

(5m) **Closing Prayer for Life & Dignity** Actual Run Time _____

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of life, bless us with the courage to defend all life from conception to natural death. Bless us with the strength to respect all peoples from east to west, from north to south, so that we may truly follow the call of Jesus to be neighbor. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(10m) **Social & Wrap-Up** Actual Run Time _____

Night #3 - Sacred Margins

Option 2: Youth Group Approach



Goal: That youth can see the sacred in the faces of the marginalized and can begin reaching out to someone marginalized in their community.

Key Points:

- God calls the most unlikely people to do his will. God equips those he calls.
- As part of the Body of Christ, we are called to work together with ALL of our brothers and sisters to build the kingdom of God here on earth.
- It is our responsibility as disciples to help the marginalized feel the love of God and answer their call as part of the Body of Christ.

References:

- Mark 1: 14-20
- Exodus 4
- 1 Samuel 16-17
- Acts 9: 1-31
- Luke 1: 26-38
- Luke 22: 54-62
- 2 Corinthians 9: 8
- 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31
- 1 Corinthians 12: 12-26
- CCC 782 - 791
- Fratelli Tutti 18

(10m) **Social, Welcome, Opening Prayer** *Actual Run Time* (i.e. 7:00 - 7:15 p.m.) _____
 Gather your young people into space. Set the environment with music, lighting, etc.
 Use the time to engage them in conversation - How are they doing?

(15m) **The Body of Christ** *Actual Run Time* _____

Set-Up: Prepare a large rope by tying it into a circular ring. The rope will need to be large enough for students to hold on to it with appropriate social distancing. If you have a large group, you may only want to use some of your students (or have them do this in their small group).

Night #3 - Sacred Margins

Option 2: Youth Group Approach

Leader -- In 90 seconds recap last week's content and discussion, and give an overview of what tonight is all about, for example: Last week in our "Sacred" Series we discussed YOUR Sacred Identity and your call to participation as disciples of Jesus through your Baptism. When Jesus discusses the second part of the Great Commandment, he tells us that we are called to "love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12: 31). Last week we focused on the first half of that statement. We learned that we are Christ's beloved and that we are called to love ourselves so that we can come to see the unique and sacred person that we were created to be. This week we will focus on what it means to love our neighbor as ourselves... to see the sacredness in those around us, especially those who are marginalized- the Sacred Margins.

In order to understand how we can better love our neighbor, we have to understand how we all fit together. In a moment, I am going to ask you to form a circle and grab hold of this rope with two hands. Then I would like each of you to lean back enough to where you are creating tension on the rope and are a little off balance. I need everyone to remain silent while we do this because as you lean back, I am going to read something. If I tap your shoulder, please sit down and drop the rope.

[The goal here is to have only one person left standing holding the rope alone when the reading is finished.]

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. Now the body is not a single part, but many. If a foot should say, "Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. **(tap)** Or if an ear should say, "Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. **(tap)** If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? **(tap)** If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? **(tap)** But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended. **(tap)** If they were all one part, where would the body be? **(tap)** But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body. **(tap)** The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," nor again the head to the feet, "I do not need you." **(tap)** Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, **(tap)** and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, **(tap)** and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. **(tap)** But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, **(tap)** so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. **(tap)** If [one] part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

Night #3 - Sacred Margins

Option 2: Youth Group Approach

Leader cont. What did you experience as people let go of the rope? Were you able to maintain your balance as people let go? What does this say to us about the Body of Christ? (We need each other to create God's Kingdom here on earth)



(5m) **Night #3 - Sacred Margins** (Video Reflection) Actual Run Time _____

Play tonight's brief video (or offer a talk in its place that emphasizes the content from the video) to set the theme connecting the reading and small group discussion.

(5m) **Teaching** Actual Run Time _____

Have someone share a personal testimony about what it is like to be marginalized and how he/she found his/her call as a disciple of Jesus. (Someone with disabilities, socially marginalized, racially marginalized, etc)

If you cannot find someone who can share, consider using the life of Harriet Tubman as an example. She was considered the lowest of low in our nation and she had severe epilepsy, but she answered God's call to lead people out of slavery time and time again.

(25m) **Small Group Discussion** Actual Run Time _____

Begin in prayer, then discuss the following:

- What struck you from the video? Why?
- God calls the most unlikely. He calls the lowly, like these fishermen. Jesus called them to follow and be His disciples. Think of a person whose life didn't seem to have much potential, and what they've done with their life because of God's call. Share.
- Read these words from Pope Francis' new encyclical Fratelli Tutti:

"Some parts of our human family, it appears, can be readily sacrificed for the sake of others considered worthy of a carefree existence. Ultimately, "persons are no longer seen as a paramount value to be cared for and respected, especially when they are poor and disabled, 'not yet useful' – like the unborn, or 'no longer needed' – like the elderly."

- What human characteristics do we value as a society?
- What human characteristics make a person "less valuable" to our world?
- Who are some of the people in your parish/school/community that are marginalized and treated as "less worthy?"
- When we people are not valued or included, how does that affect the Body of Christ?

Night #3 - Sacred Margins

Option 2: Youth Group Approach

Small Group Discussion Cont.

- *Jesus implores us through His teaching of the Great Commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself." Last week we spent time focusing on our Sacred Self. How can we show others who are marginalized that they too are sacred and have an important role to play in creating God's kingdom?*
- *Reach Out Challenge: Take time this week to reach out to three people who are marginalized to show them God's love.*

(20m) **Lectio Divina** Actual Run Time _____

Have youth open their Bibles to Sunday's 2nd Reading, **1 Corinthians 6: 13c-15a, 17-20**. Select two youth to be readers.

- Before hearing the reading the first time, invite the youth to just hear the story. Let it wash over them. The Adult Leader reads the passage one time through. Ask youth if they have any questions about the reading? Something doesn't make sense, or they don't know a word, etc.
- Before hearing the passage a second time (from one of the youth readers), invite the youth to look for a word or two that strikes them from the reading. Have the youth read it a second time. Allow for a moment of silence for youth to reread on their own. Give them an opportunity to share the word that is sticking out to them.
- Have the second youth reader read the passage a third time. Afterward, instruct them to take a few minutes of silence to sit with that word asking the Lord, "Why this word? What does it mean for me?" Note: Journaling may be a helpful process for them.
- After 2-3 minutes, open time for sharing their prayer and what is striking them from the reading. If youth are having a hard time with this, you might offer the following questions for discussion:
 - Captivates: What catches your attention? What word, phrase, or image sticks out to you? Why?
 - Imagine: Is there a particular character in the story you connect with? Why?
 - Emotions: How does this passage make you feel? Does it offer comfort or peace? Uncertainty or fear? Why?
 - Reveals: What about this passage reveals to you who Jesus is or what He desires for you?
 - Challenged & Called: What about this passage challenges you? What is Jesus calling you to do? How can you apply this passage to your life?

(10m) **Closing Prayer, Announcements & Wrap-Up** Actual Run Time _____

Wrap with Closing Prayer...

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of life, bless us with the courage to defend all life from conception to natural death. Bless us with the strength to respect all peoples from east to west, from north to south, so that we may truly follow the call of Jesus to be neighbor. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

STANDALONE YOUTH NIGHT

Goal of the Night

To Know: For youth to know that all human life is sacred.

To Do: Take one step to 1) taking better care of yourself and 2) to reaching out to someone on the margins i.e. a loner at school, serving at a local shelter, etc.



Of Note:

After the opening activity, the bulk of the night is made up of three 20-minute sessions, comprising a 5 minute video (or teaching/witness) and 15 minutes of small group discussion. To help manage time, here are a few suggestions:

Suggestion 1: Have youth remain in their small groups when the video is played so that they can just bounce back and forth between the video and discussion. (Offer a brief stretch break or short activity in between each 20 minute period).

Suggestion 2: Divide the youth into 3 groups (this could be the 3 small groups you have; or if you have 6+ small groups, combine 2-3 small groups together for 'traveling purposes.') Have youth rotate between 3 different rooms for each of the 20-minute sessions (and allow for a few minutes of travel time between each).

Suggestion 3: Assign each small group their own room with capability of streaming the videos and discussing at their own pace.

(10m) **Social, Welcome, Opening Prayer** *Actual Run Time (i.e. 7:00 - 7:15 p.m.)* _____

Gather your young people into space. Set the environment with music, lighting, etc. Use the time to engage them in conversation - How are they doing?

(15m) **The Body of Christ** *Actual Run Time* _____

Set-Up: Prepare a large rope by tying it into a circular ring. The rope will need to be large enough for students to hold on to it with appropriate social distancing. If you have a large group, you may only want to use some of your students (or have them do this activity in their small group).

STANDALONE YOUTH NIGHT

Leader -- In 90 seconds give an overview of what tonight is all about, for example: Tonight's focus is on "Life is Sacred." All life, from conception to natural death. Your life is sacred, as is the person sitting next to you, behind you; as are the lives of those in forgotten places, like the streets and prisons. All human life is sacred. We hear this repeatedly throughout Sacred Scripture starting with Genesis when God creates human persons in HIS Image & Likeness. The psalmist talks of the intimacy God shares with each human person (Psalm 139). Jesus spoke to the sacred life when He said He came to give us life in abundance (John 10:10) and that we are called to "love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12: 31). It begins with recognizing that we are Christ's beloved and that we are called to love ourselves so that we can come to see the unique and sacred person that we were created to be. This allows us to go out and share the love we've experienced from God by loving our neighbor as ourselves... to see the sacredness in those around us, especially those who are marginalized.

To help us understand the sacredness of each life and how we all need each other, we have to understand how we all fit together. In a moment, I am going to ask you to form a circle and grab hold of this rope with two hands. Then I would like each of you to lean back enough to where you are creating tension on the rope and are a little off balance. I need everyone to remain silent while we do this because as you lean back, I am going to read something. If I tap your shoulder, please sit down and drop the rope.

[The goal here is to have only one person left standing holding the rope alone when the reading is finished.]

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. Now the body is not a single part, but many. If a foot should say, "Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. **(tap)** Or if an ear should say, "Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. **(tap)** If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? **(tap)** If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? **(tap)** But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended. **(tap)** If they were all one part, where would the body be? **(tap)** But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body. **(tap)** The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," nor again the head to the feet, "I do not need you." **(tap)** Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, **(tap)** and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, **(tap)** and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. **(tap)** But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, **(tap)** so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. **(tap)** If [one] part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy. The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

STANDALONE YOUTH NIGHT

Leader Cont. What did you experience as people let go of the rope? Were you able to maintain your balance as people let go? What does this say to us about the Body of Christ? (We need each other to create God's Kingdom here on earth)

(5m) **Video Reflection #1: Sacred Life** Actual Run Time _____

Play video (or offer a talk in its place that emphasizes the content from the video).

(15m) **Small Group Discussion #1** Actual Run Time _____ Begin in prayer, then discuss the following:

- Who do you think knows you the best? Do you trust that that person loves you? Why?
- Based on the talk/video, why do we know that God values us as human beings?
- This means we have a dignity above all other creatures from the moment of conception until natural death. How is this belief different from ways we as a society may treat some people? In what ways have you seen some people being given a different level of dignity by our world today? (You can talk about abortion, assisted suicide, the elderly, those with disabilities, racism)
- What are some ways or situations where you struggle recognizing the value and worth of some people, whether in a small or big way?
- How can your small group/church community/youth group support you in efforts to do better? How can you invite God to help you do better?

(5m) **Video Reflection #2: Your Sacred Life** Actual Run Time _____

Play video **OR** Have an adult (or youth) share a testimony about a time when they came to recognize their identity as founded in Jesus. How did that make them recognize the Sacredness of their own life? How did that experience help them to then see the sacredness in other human persons? Make sure the testimony includes some of the pieces from Video Reflection #2 that will help answer the small group discussion questions.



STANDALONE YOUTH NIGHT

(15m) **Small Group Discussion #2** Actual Run Time _____

Begin in prayer, then discuss the following:

- What struck you from the video? Why?
- What did you think about the opening activity?
- Where does society tell us that our worth and our identity come from?
- Are there any ways to combat these lies and falling into these traps?
- What part of your identity is important and easy for you to embrace? (i.e. I am a girl, I am a boy, I am from Italian descent) Which key point from tonight (about you and your identity) is the hardest for you to believe? Why?
 - Your life is sacred and valuable. You are unique and unrepeatable.
 - Through your Baptism, your identity has been firmly established as a Beloved Son or Daughter of the Father; no one and nothing, not even sin, can take that away from you.
 - Jesus came for YOU, that you might have an abundant life (John 10:10).
- Is there a part of your identity that you have denied or altered in order to win the approval of others? (i.e. your faith, friendships, family)
- What thing(s) are keeping you from living the abundant life Jesus wants for you? Where is Jesus inviting you to take a step toward healing or getting help?
- How do you think Jesus sees you?
- How does understanding your own sacred identity help you to see the sacredness of every human life?

(5m) **Video Reflection #3, Sacred Margins** Actual Run Time _____

Play video **OR** Have someone share a personal testimony about what it is like to be marginalized and how he/she found his/her call as a disciple of Jesus. (Someone with disabilities, socially marginalized, racially marginalized, etc). *Make sure the testimony includes some of the pieces from Video Reflection #3 that will help answer the small group discussion questions.*



STANDALONE YOUTH NIGHT

(15m) **Small Group Discussion #3** Actual Run Time _____

Begin in prayer, then discuss the following:

- What struck you from the video? Why?
- God calls the most unlikely. He calls the lowly, like these fishermen. Jesus called them to follow and be His disciples. Think of a person whose life didn't seem to have much potential, and what they've done with their life because of God's call. Share.
- Read these words from Pope Francis' new encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*:

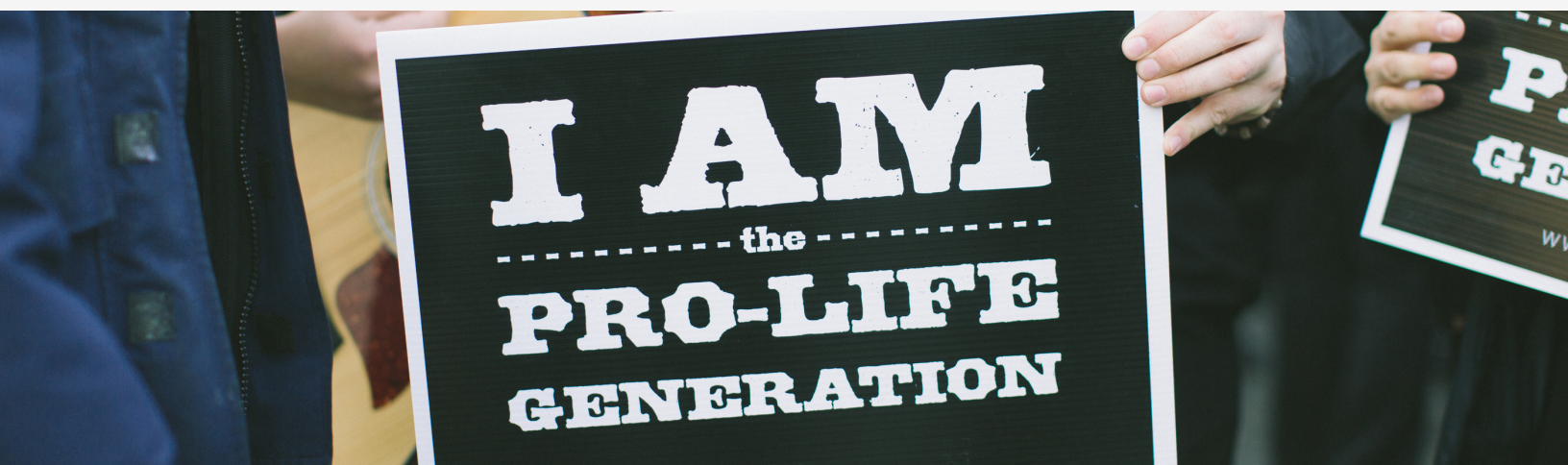
"Some parts of our human family, it appears, can be readily sacrificed for the sake of others considered worthy of a carefree existence. Ultimately, "persons are no longer seen as a paramount value to be cared for and respected, especially when they are poor and disabled, 'not yet useful' – like the unborn, or 'no longer needed' – like the elderly."

- What human characteristics do we value as a society?
- What human characteristics make a person "less valuable" to our world?
- Who are some of the people in your parish/school/community that are marginalized and treated as "less worthy?"
- When we people are not valued or included, how does that affect the Body of Christ?
- Jesus implores us through His teaching of the Great Commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself." Last week we spent time focusing on our Sacred Self. How can we show others who are marginalized that they too are sacred and have an important role to play in creating God's kingdom?

(10m) **Closing Prayer, Announcements & Wrap-Up** Actual Run Time _____

Wrap with Closing Prayer...

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of life, bless us with the courage to defend all life from conception to natural death. Bless us with the strength to respect all peoples from east to west, from north to south, so that we may truly follow the call of Jesus to be neighbor. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Movie Nights & Discussion

Movie nights are a great way to use media to prompt discussions with young people. Below you will find several movie suggestions that deal with the issue of the sanctity of human life. If you choose to show one of these films, please be certain that you obtain the proper license to show the film to a group and permission from parents/guardians when necessary.

Unplanned (R): Unplanned is the inspiring true story of one woman's journey of transformation. All Abby Johnson ever wanted to do was help women. As one of the youngest Planned Parenthood clinic directors in the nation, she was involved in upwards of 22,000 abortions and counseled countless women about their reproductive choices... Until the day she saw something that changed everything, leading Abby Johnson to join her former enemies at 40 Days For Life, and become one of the most ardent pro-life speakers in America.

Primary Life Issue Addressed: Abortion

Movie Trailer: <https://youtu.be/gBLWpKbC3ww>

See Website for the Discussion Question Guide.

Bella (PG-13): Sooner or later every one of us will face an irreversible moment that will change our lives forever. If it hasn't happened to you yet...it will. BELLA is a true love story about how one day in New York City changed three people forever.

Primary Life Issue Addressed: Abortion

Movie Trailer: <https://youtu.be/ZjbiRBCsC7U>

See Website for the Discussion Question Guide.

October Baby (PG-13): As the curtain rises, Hannah hesitantly steps onto the stage for her theatrical debut in college. Yet before she can utter her first lines, Hannah—unscripted—collapses in front of the stunned audience. After countless medical tests, all signs point to one underlying factor: Hannah's difficult birth. This revelation is nothing compared to what she then learns from her parents: she was actually adopted ... after a failed abortion attempt.

Primary Life Issue Addressed: Abortion, Adoption

Movie Trailer: https://youtu.be/I_9l7IEe-AA

See Website for the Discussion Question Guide.

Instant Family (PG-13): When Pete (Mark Wahlberg) and Ellie (Rose Byrne) decide to start a family, they stumble into the world of foster care adoption. They hope to take in one small child but when they meet three siblings, including a rebellious 15 year old girl (Isabela Moner), they find themselves speeding from zero to three kids overnight. Now, Pete and Ellie must hilariously try to learn the ropes of instant parenthood in the hopes of becoming a family. INSTANT FAMILY is inspired by the real events from the life of writer/director Sean Anders and also stars Octavia Spencer, Tig Notaro and Margo Martindale.

Primary Life Issue Addressed: Adoption, Foster Care

Movie Trailer: <https://youtu.be/vUgCSuEWhnc>

See Website for the Discussion Question Guide.

Movie Nights & Discussion

Gimme Shelter (PG-13): A pregnant teenager flees life with her drug-addicted mother and ends up living on the street before being welcomed into her first real home in Gimme Shelter, an extraordinary tale of survival and redemption inspired by actual events.

Primary Life Issue Addressed: Abortion, Abuse, Substance Abuse

Movie Trailer: https://youtu.be/tjyi_dMhYls

See Website for the Discussion Question Guide.

To Save a Life (PG-13): Jake Taylor has it all: friends, fame, a basketball scholar and the hottest girl in school. What could be better? Enter Roger Dawson. Roger has nothing. No friends. No hope. Nothing but put downs and getting pushed aside. Things couldn't get worse...could they? Jake and Roger were best friends when they were kids. But the politics of high school quickly pulled them apart. Now Roger doesn't fit in Jake's – or anyone's circle – and he's had enough. He walks onto campus with a gun in his pocket and pain in his heart and makes a tragic move. Jake's last-ditch effort can't stop Roger, and the sudden tragedy rocks Jake's world. Something breaks loose inside and sends him questioning everything. Most of all, he can't shake the question Could I have saved Roger? In a quest for answers, Jake finds himself looking for the next Roger and reaching out to the outcasts and lonely. But he quickly finds that crossing class castes threatens all his world is built on. And it could cost him his own friends, his girl, his dreams and even his reputation. Is it worth the price to find the answer to his ultimate question: What do I want my life to be about?

Primary Life Issue Addressed: Teen Pregnancy, Suicide, Substance Abuse, Peer Pressure

Movie Trailer: <https://tosavealifemovie.com/watch-the-trailer/>

See Website for the Discussion Question Guide.

Prayer Services

Here you will find some guides and resources provided by the USCCB for prayer and liturgies.

Consider making these parish-wide or inviting parents/families to attend with their youth. Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn

Children Pro-Life Prayers (including): Blessings for pro-life pilgrims, parents, and children in the womb Holy Hours for Life Litany for life Novena to St. Joseph on adoption, and to American Saints for Life Rosaries for Life and Pro-Life Rosary Prayer

Intentions Candlelight and/or Eucharistic Procession Holy Hour Suggestion for a Holy Hour 7:00

Entrance Hymn for Exposition 7:05 Optional prayer or words from Father/Deacon 7:10 Worship 7:20

Silence 7:25 Rosary for Life 7:45 Silence 7:50 Tantum Ergo > Benediction > Divine Praises 7:55 Holy

God - Repose the Blessed Sacrament 8:00 Close/Dismissal

PRAYERS AND LITURGY

Prayer Services

Here you will find some guides and resources provided by the USCCB for prayer and liturgies. Consider making these parish-wide or inviting parents/families to attend with their youth.

- Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life
- Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
- Pro-Life Prayers (including):
 - Blessings for pro-life pilgrims, parents, and children in the womb
 - Holy Hours for Life
 - Litany for life
 - Novena to St. Joseph on adoption, and to American Saints for Life
 - Rosaries for Life and Pro-Life Rosary Prayer Intentions
- Candlelight and/or Eucharistic Procession
- Holy Hour

Suggestions for a Holy Hour



- 7:00 Entrance Hymn for Exposition
- 7:05 Optional prayer or words from Father/Deacon
- 7:10 Worship
- 7:20 Silence
- 7:25 Rosary for Life
- 7:45 Silence
- 7:50 Tantum Ergo > Benediction > Divine Praises
- 7:55 Holy God - Repose the Blessed Sacrament
- 8:00 Close/Dismissal

PRAYERS AND LITURGY

LITURGY OF THE WORD

GIVING THANKS FOR THE GIFT OF HUMAN LIFE

Based upon the Mass for Various Needs and Occasions #48: "For Giving Thanks for the Gift of Human Life"

The readings used may be from the Lectionary for Mass Supplement, the Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life, nos. 947A-947E, or the Lectionary for Mass (vol. IV), the Mass For Justice and Peace, nos. 887-891., or those of the day.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Opening Song

An appropriate psalm, hymn or song may be sung by all to begin the celebration.

Sign of the Cross & Greeting

Minister: In the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

If a priest or deacon, the minister greets the people in the usual way.

If a lay minister, he/she leads the Sign of the Cross and greets those present with these or similar words:

Minister: Brothers and sisters, the Lord invites us to his table to share in the body of Christ: bless him for his goodness.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Opening Prayer

Minister: Let us pray.

(Pause for silent prayer)

God our Creator, we give thanks to you, who alone have the power to impart the breath of life as you form each of us in our mother's womb; grant, we pray, that we, whom you have made stewards of creation, may remain faithful to this sacred trust, and constant in safeguarding the dignity of every human life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

PRAYERS AND LITURGY

All are seated for the Liturgy of the Word.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Liturgy of the Word now takes place as at Mass. A lector reads the First Reading and Responsorial Psalm. If not sung, the Gospel Acclamation is omitted. A deacon reads the Gospel; if a lay minister presides, a lector – not the lay presider - will normally read the Gospel. In this last case, the greeting (“The Lord be with you.” is omitted.)

A homily or reflection may be given.

General Intercessions

Minister: To God the Father almighty,
dear brothers and sisters,
may every prayer of our heart be directed,
for his will it is that all humanity should be saved
and come to the knowledge of the truth.

For the holy Church of God,
that the Lord may graciously watch over her and care for her, we pray to the Lord...

For wise and compassionate leaders of cities, states, and nations, we pray to the Lord...

For all who are oppressed by any kind of need, that the Lord may graciously grant them relief, we pray to the Lord...

For a greater respect for the dignity of all human life, from conception to natural death, we pray to the Lord...

For the courage and fortitude to more effectively witness to value of God's gift of human life, we pray to the Lord...

For all who have died, we pray to the Lord...

For the prayers we hold in the silence of our hearts...(PAUSE)...we pray to the Lord...

O God, our refuge and our strength,
hear the prayers of your Church,
for you yourself are the source of all devotion,
and grant, we pray, that what we ask in faith we may truly obtain.
Through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

PRAYERS AND LITURGY

The Lord's Prayer

Minister: At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:
Our Father...

The embolism and doxology are not said.

Blessing

If the minister is a priest or deacon, he extends his hands, greets the people, and blesses them in the usual way. If a lay minister, he/she invokes God's blessing, and crossing him/herself, says:

Minister: May the Lord bless us +, protect us from all evil,
and bring us to everlasting life.
All: Amen.

Dismissal

Finally, the minister says:

Minister: Go in peace.
All: Thanks be to God.

An appropriate psalm, hymn or song may be sung to conclude the celebration.