



DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ, who calls us out of darkness into His marvelous light! We are continually invited to conversion. This conversion is not abstract; it touches the very roots of our existence, our families, our communities, and the world around us.

On Thursday, January 22, 2026, the Church in our country observes the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. This day marks the tragic anniversary of the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, which for nearly fifty years imposed a regime of abortion on demand across our nation. Though we give thanks to God that, in His mercy, the Supreme Court overturned *Roe* in 2022 with the *Dobbs* decision—returning the question to the states and to the people—much work remains. In many places, laws still permit and even promote the destruction of innocent human life in the womb. The culture of death persists, and so the Church calls us to a particular day of prayer, fasting, and penance: for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life, and for atonement for the grave violations against human dignity committed through abortion.

God loved us first, even when we were dead in our sins. He forms us in the womb, knits us together with care and purpose. As the Psalmist sings: “You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother’s womb. I praise you, because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works!” And the prophet Jeremiah hears the Lord say: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you.” This is no mere poetry—it is the revelation of God’s fatherly love, a love that begins at the moment of conception and reaches into eternity.

Yet in our time, this sacred gift is threatened. The world, wounded by sin, often chooses death over life, convenience over sacrifice, fear over trust in God’s providence. We see it in the rejection of openness to life, in the idols of autonomy that place individual choice above the dignity of the weakest. But the Lord has raised up His Church to proclaim the opposite: life is sacred from conception to natural death. Every child in the womb is a brother or sister, a person known and loved by God, called to share in the resurrection of Christ.

This Day of Prayer is a summons to us. It is a call to conversion of heart. Let us remember how the Lord has touched us in our own lives—perhaps in moments of darkness, failure, or despair—and brought us forgiveness and new life through the cross. The same mercy is offered to those who have been involved in abortion: mothers, fathers, doctors, legislators, all who have suffered or contributed to this wound. There is no sin that Christ’s blood cannot wash away. As Saint John Paul II proclaimed in *Evangelium Vitae*, the Gospel of Life is always a Gospel of mercy, inviting repentance and healing.

Let the announcement of the kerygma opens hearts, break down walls of fear, and restore families. May this same power touch our nation! Let us become missionaries of life, witnessing boldly in our words, our votes, our support for mothers in crisis, and our accompaniment of those who suffer.

Brothers and sisters, the Lord is making all things new. He has already overcome death. Through our prayer and penance on this day, may we cooperate with His grace to build a civilization of love, where every life is welcomed, protected, and celebrated as a gift from the Father.

Peace,