

ARCHDIOCESAN WEEK OF RESPECT FOR LIFE

Suggested format for service in parishes and schools, homes, prayer groups...wherever the family of God may be gathered.

Theme: RESPECT FOR LIFE

Opening Hymn

Suggestions:

They'll know we are Christians / Follow Christ / Wake up my people

Opening Prayer

Let us pray

(for a deep respect for life)

God of Life, source of all that is good, you gifted us with the bounty of all creation and made us stewards over the work of your hands. We pray for a deep appreciation for all that you have created. May we be mindful of our interdependence on all creation and grant us wisdom in our use of the earth's resources and dignity in our relationships with one another. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading – Deuteronomy 30: 11-16; 18-20

For this Law which I am laying down for you today is neither obscure for you nor beyond your reach. It is not in heaven, so that you need to wonder, "Who will go up to heaven for us and bring it down to us, so that we can hear and practise it?" Nor is it beyond the seas, so that you need to wonder, "Who will cross the seas for us and bring it back to us, so that we can hear and practise it?" No, the word is very near to you, it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to put into practice.

'Look, today I am offering you life and prosperity, death and disaster. If you obey the commandments of Yahweh your God, which I am laying down for you today, if you love Yahweh your God and follow his ways, if you keep his commandments, his laws and his customs, you will live and grow numerous, and Yahweh your God will bless you in the country which you are about to enter and make your own. Today, I call heaven and earth to witness against you: I am offering you life or death, blessing or curse. Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live, in the love of Yahweh your God, obeying his voice, holding fast to him, for in this your life consists, on this depends the length of time that you stay in the country which Yahweh swore to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that he would give them.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 32

Response: *May your love be upon us, o Lord, as we place all our hope in you.*

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
For praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
With ten-stringed lute sing him songs. (R)

For the word of the Lord is faithful
And all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
And fills the earth with his love. (R)

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
On those who hope in his love,
To rescue their souls from death,
To keep them alive in famine. (R)

Gospel Reading: Use Gospel reading for the day.

Homily or reflection or song, Love is his word or Love one another

Prayers of Intercession

Response: *Creator of Life, fill us with your love*

For the Church: Merciful God, look with compassion on your Church. Grant us the eyes of faith to see as you see and ears to hear your Word no matter how challenging it may be. May all leaders exercise servant leadership and lead by example in thought, word and Spirit. Give us the courage and wisdom, not only to teach about respect for life but to live it in our daily lives.

Response

For a seamless garment of life: Gracious and Compassionate God, you created us in your image and likeness. Instill within us a deep respect for all human life, from the womb to the tomb. Grant us the grace to see you in each person and to honor and strive for the wellbeing of all humanity. **Response**

For an end to all that is opposed to life itself such as crime and violence, unjust wars, abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, torture, subhuman living conditions, incest, domestic violence, pornography, arbitrary imprisonment, slavery, prostitution, human trafficking, disgraceful working conditions, child labour, forced labour and forced migration, religious intolerance,

racism, sexism, class bias, and the many forms of stigma and discrimination. Giver of Life, may we always remember that you are Creator and we are creatures. Cultivate within us the desire to bring life and be life-givers in every situation we encounter. Grant us hearts that are open to all of life so that we will do all that is within our power to foster, enrich and sustain life. **Response**

For a better quality of life for all: God of Justice, we pray for all of humanity that filled with your wisdom and zeal we may strive to promote a better quality of life for all. Remove from within us the blindness that encourages selfish ways. Touch our hearts that we may desire good for all and give us the means to bring about the systemic changes that are needed so that all people may enjoy peace, justice and love in our land. **Response**

For the environment: Creator of the Universe, everything exists because of your love for your creation. As the Psalmist says: *“To God belong earth and all it holds, the world and all who live in it”* (Ps 24:1). Enlighten our minds that we may be aware of the ways we harm the earth which you have given to us to cultivate and care for responsibly. Grant us wisdom and understanding to recognize all of creation as gift; to be mindful in our use of natural resources; and to respect the integrity of creation. Lead us to commit ourselves to promote human and environmental ecology as key elements to achieve authentic development for humankind and for all of creation. **Response**

For solidarity – Universal Community: God of Life, you created us for unity. Grant us wisdom to see that the destiny of any one person involves the destiny of others, society, region, nation and all of humanity. Create within us a deep awareness of our responsibility for each other whether it may be in this land or another country. **Response**

For just Governance: God of Justice, we pray for all leaders that their decisions will be for the good of the community they serve. May their decisions promote peace among all peoples and may they be based on justice and equality for all, especially those who are underserved, marginalized and socially excluded from the table of life. **Response**

The Rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christocentric prayer. In the sobriety of its elements, it has all the depth of the Gospel message in its entirety, of which it can be said to be a compendium. It is an echo of the prayer of Mary, her perennial Magnificat for the work of the redemptive Incarnation which began in her virginal womb. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer.

Apostolic letter - Rosarium Virginis Mariae of the Supreme Pontiff John Paul II

16th October 2002

The Rosary – Respect for Life

First Glorious Mystery

Jesus rises from the dead

It was early in the morning on the first day of the week, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb (John 20 v1)

Hail Mary ...(two times)

She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb (John 20 v2)

Hail Mary...(two times)

Peter bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground (John 20 v5)

Hail Mary...(two times)

The angels said “Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?”(John 20 v15)

Hail Mary....(two times)

Jesus said “Mary,” she knew him then and said “Rabbuni” which means “Master” (John 20 v16)

Hail Mary...(two times)

Second Glorious Mystery

Jesus ascends into heaven

I am going to the Father (John 14 v 13)

Hail Mary...(two times)

In a short while the world will no longer see me (John 4 v 19)

Hail Mary...(two times)

Now as he blessed them he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven(Lk 24 v 51)

Hail Mary...(two times)

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28 v 19)

Hail Mary...(two times)

Know that I am with you always, yes to the end of time (Matt. 28 v 20)

Hail Mary...(two times)

Third Glorious Mystery

The Holy Spirit descends on the Apostles

He breathed on them and said “Receive the Holy Spirit”(John 20 v 22)

Hail Mary...(two times)

He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures (Lk 24 v 45)

Hail Mary...(two times)

I am sending down to you what the Father has promised (Lk 24 v 49)

Hail Mary...(two times)

The Father will give you another Advocate to be with you forever (John 14 v 16)

Hail Mary...(two times)

The Holy Spirit ...will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you (John 14 v 26)

Hail Mary...(two times)

Fourth Glorious Mystery

The Assumption of Our Lady into heaven

“Is not his mother the woman called Mary?”(Matt. 13 v 55)

Hail Mary...(two times)

Jesus said to his mother “Woman this is your son” then to his disciple, “This is your mother” (John 19 v 26)

Hail Mary...(two times)

The disciple made a place for her in his home. (John 19 v 27)

Hail Mary...(two times)

I will feed from the tree of life, set in God’s paradise (Rev.2 v 7)

Hail Mary...(two times)

There is nothing to be afraid of in ... death (Rev 2 v 11)

Hail Mary...(two times)

Fifth Glorious Mystery

The Coronation of Our Lady as Queen of Heaven

Those who prove victorious, I will allow to share my throne (Rev 3 v 20)

Hail Mary...(two times)

A great sign appeared in heaven, a woman adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown (Rev 12 v 1)

Hail Mary...(two times)

Come here and I will show you the bride that the Lamb has married (Rev 21 v9)

Hail Mary...(two times)

His bride is ready, and she has been able to dress herself in dazzling white linen, because her linen is made of the good deeds of the saints (Rev 19 v 8)

Hail Mary...(two times)

Alleluia! The reign of the Lord God almighty has begun, let us be glad and joyful and give praise to God, because this is the time for the marriage of the Lamb (Rev 19 v7)

Hail Mary...(two times)