



Archdiocesan Week of Respect for Life 2012

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

**Theme: RESPECT LIFE:
BE LIVING WITNESSES
TO OUR FAITH**

Opening Hymn
Suggestions:
Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
/How Many Times/Fashion Me a People

Opening Prayer
Let us pray
(for a deep reverence for all that God has created)
Merciful God, you created us out of love, for love. We have strayed from your path. We have allowed the work of our hands to take priority in our lives, forgetting that you are the true Source of all life. Set alight within us that spark of your divine that we may be open to conversion of heart. Remind us that we are just stewards of all that you have created so that we may be more mindful of the generations to come.

Lord, help us during the Year of Faith to appreciate your gift of Faith; to give priority to prayer, and to the Eucharist which is the source and summit of all Christian life; to understand that if we truly live our faith we will respect all life. Let this year be "a special time of grace" for us (Pope Benedict XVI).
Lord, we believe, increase our faith. Deepen our encounter with you as we seek to integrate our faith into our daily lives. Renew our energy and enthusiasm to further the mission of our Church; to share our faith with others with courage and conviction.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading Jeremiah 1:1-10
The word of the Lord came to me, saying: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you; I appointed you as prophet to the nations. I then said, "Ah, ah, ah, Lord, you see, I do not know how to speak; I am only a child!" But the Lord replied, "Do not say, 'I am only a child,' for you must go to all to whom I send you and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of confronting them, for I am with you to rescue you, the Lord declares."
Then the Lord stretched out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: There! I have put my words into your mouth. Look, today I have set you over the nations and kingdoms, to uproot

and to knock down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant. The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 8
Response: O Lord how great is your name through all the earth

You have set your glory above the heavens
From the lips of children and of babes
You have ordained praise because of your enemies,
to silence the foe and the rebel.

When I see the heavens, the work of your hands,
the moon and the stars which you created;
Who are we, Lord that you keep us in mind
mortal beings that you care for us.

Yet you have made us little less than a god
with honour and glory you crown us
gave us power over the work of your hands
put all things under our feet

All of them, sheep and cattle
the birds of the air and the fish that make their way through the water.
O Lord our God how great is your



name through all the earth

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word; and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came into being, no one thing came into being except through him. What has come into being in him was life, life that was the light of men; and light shines in darkness, and darkness could not overpower it.
A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness to the light, so that



everyone might believe through him. He was not the light; he was to bear witness to the light.
The Word was the real light that gives light to everyone; he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had come into being through him, and the world did not recognise him. He came to his own and his own people did not accept him. He gave power to become children of God, to those who believed in his name who were born not from human stock or human desire or human will but from God himself.
The Word became flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that he has from the Father as only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Homily or reflection or song
(Suggested songs - *Song of a Young Prophet / Tell of My Love to the Islands*)

Prayers of Intercession
Response: God of life, fill us with new life

For the Church: Compassionate God, we pray that Church leaders may be moulded after your own heart. Grant wisdom to our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, may he be a healing presence in a divided world. May all bishops, clergy and administrators exercise servant leadership as they minister to God's people especially here in Trinidad and Tobago
Response: God of life, fill us with new life

For a seamless garment of life: Gracious God, Creator of all life, grant us the wisdom to see all life as sacred. You created us in your own image and likeness. Remove the

blinders and divisions from our hearts and minds that categorise people. From birth to natural death may we honour all life as sacred and work towards educating others that all of life is sacred.
Response: God of life, fill us with new life

For an end to all that is opposed to life itself: Lord, many times by our silence we fail to recognise all that opposes life 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 be promoters of life. Grant us the grace to recognise when life is threatened and the courage to oppose all that



threatens the fullness of life.
Response: God of life, fill us with new life

For a better quality of life for all: Compassionate God, so many times our selfishness keeps us living with constant blindness. We begin and end each day unaware of the sufferings of our brothers and sisters; sometimes within our own families and community. All your children should share in the goods of this earth. Yet we see the misery of people on our television screens, both near and far, and our hearts are not moved. Help us, Lord to understand that as Christians we belong to the Body of Christ and when our brothers and sisters are not experiencing a quality of life that is acceptable that it is our duty to assist and work towards the alleviation of all that prevents them from living their lives with dignity.
Response: God of life, fill us with new life



For the environment: Creator God, you have put us as stewards of your creation. Yet, today there are serious ecological problems because of ignorance and our actions. Help us to use all that is available to us to educate ourselves so that we may take up our role as stewards of your creation seriously. Lord, inspire us as we promote environmental justice.
Response: God of life, fill us with new life

For solidarity – Universal Community: Lord, we have not taken seriously the call to be our brothers' and sisters' keeper. We do not love our neighbour as ourselves. We live in a time when society and culture does not promote Christian virtues and values. We have adopted a secular way of life that focuses on "I" and not "We". Help us O Lord to recognise that we are travelling down a path that keeps us in bondage. Free us to be the people that you created us to be, reflecting your image and goodness and help us to recognise you in all peoples.
Response: God of life, fill us with new life

For just governance: God of Justice, so many times we accept positions of leadership, well-intentioned to bring about change. So many times we fail because we do not use wisely the resources you put before us. Help us as leaders to understand that we cannot effect change unless we model change. May we accept the talents of others and all the technological resources you make available to us. May our decisions benefit those most in need, the underserved, the marginalised and those socially excluded from the table of life and our Eucharistic table.
Response: God of life, fill us with new life

THE ROSARY
The Rosary, precisely because it starts with Mary's own experience, is an exquisitely contemplative prayer. Without this contemplative dimension, it would lose its meaning. As Pope Paul VI clearly pointed out: "Without contemplation, the Rosary is a body without a soul, and its recitation runs the risk of becoming a mechanical repetition of formulas, in violation of the admonition of Christ: 'In praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think they will be heard for their many words' (Mt 6:7). By its nature the recitation of the Rosary calls for a quiet rhythm and a lingering pace, helping the individual to meditate on the mysteries of the Lord's life as seen through the eyes of her who was closest to the Lord. In this way the unfathomable riches of these mysteries are disclosed". (14)
Apostolic letter – *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, Pope John Paul II – October 16, 2002

The Rosary – Respect for Life

The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary

1st Luminous Mystery:
The Baptism of Jesus
Our Father
a) A body thou hast fitted to me,



behold I come to do thy will, O God
Hail Mary... (twice)
b) *Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John* (Mt 3:13).
Hail Mary... (twice)
c) *John tried to dissuade him "It is I who need baptism from you, and yet you come to me"* (Mt 3:14).
Hail Mary... (twice)
d) *As soon as Jesus was baptised, he came up from the water and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and came down on him* (Mt 3: 16)
Hail Mary... (twice)
e) *And suddenly there was a voice from heaven, "This is my Son, the Beloved, my favour rests on him"* (Mt 3:17)

Hail Mary... (twice)
Glory be to the Father ...

2nd Luminous Mystery:
The Wedding Feast at Cana
Our Father
There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee and the mother of Jesus was there (John 2:1)

Hail Mary... (twice)
b) *The wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him "They have no wine"* (John 2:3)
Hail Mary... (twice)
c) *His mother said to the servants "Do whatever he tells you"* (John 2:5)
Hail Mary... (twice)
d) *Jesus said to the servants "Fill the jars with water"* (John 2:7)

Hail Mary... (twice)
e) *The water had turned into wine* (John 2: 9)
Hail Mary... (twice)
Glory be to the Father

3rd Luminous Mystery – Proclamation of the Kingdom
Our Father
a) *Proclaim that the Kingdom of heaven is close at hand* (Mt 10:5)

Hail Mary... (twice)
b) *There is no need to be afraid.* (Mt 10:11)

Hail Mary... (twice)
c) *Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened, I will give you rest* (Mt 11:28)
Hail Mary... (twice)
d) *"The Kingdom of God is among you"* (Luke 17: 21)
Hail Mary... (twice)
e) *Set your heart on his Kingdom* (Luke 12: 31)
Hail Mary... (twice)
Glory be to the Father

4th Luminous Mystery – The Transfiguration
Our Father
a) *Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain. There in his presence, he was transfigured* (Mark 9: 2).

Hail Mary... (twice)
b) *Peter spoke to Jesus: "Master, it is good for us to be here"* (Mark 9: 5).

Hail Mary... (twice)
c) *A cloud came covering them in shadow* (Mark 9:7)

Hail Mary... (twice)
d) *There came a voice from the cloud, "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him"* (Mark 9: 8).

Hail Mary... (twice)
e) *They looked around and saw*

I believe, Lord, increase our Faith

By *Leela Ramdeen, Chair, CCSJ* (<http://rcsocialjusticett.org>) and Director, CREDI

"Social change begins in the human heart... there will be no social justice if you do not touch and help the conversion of hearts... the first task of evangelization of the Church is the conversion of the heart. We need to help the Christian life to be part of everyday life." Bishop Martin Kay Schmalhausen, SCV, Bishop of the Prelature of Ayaviri, Peru. He was interviewed recently for a TV programme: *Where God Weeps*.

As I read these words, I thought of the various challenges we face in converting hearts in our country/world today. However, if we are to be living witnesses to our Faith, then we have no option but to meet these challenges.

Bishop Martin's words above call to mind a statement in the Vatican II document: *Gaudium et Spes* (The Church in the Modern World): "This split between the faith which many profess and their daily lives deserves to be counted among the more serious errors of our age."

Respect For Life Week (RFLW) runs from Saturday, October 6 to Saturday 13 with an event in Bourg Mulatresse parish on Sunday 14 at 4.00 p.m. (see Calendar of Events).

The theme, as you know, is: **Respect Life: Be living witnesses to our Faith.** This is the third year that the Archdiocese is observing RFLW. The Faithful at the third sitting of Synod in 2009 had asked that a week be devoted each year

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only Jesus (Mark 9: 8).
Hail Mary... (twice)
Glory be to the Father

5th Luminous Mystery – The Institution of the Eucharist
Our Father

a) *When he had said the blessing, he took some bread, broke it and gave it to his disciples* (Mt 26: 26)
Hail Mary... (twice)
b) *'Take it and eat', he said, 'this is my body'* (Mt 26:26).

Hail Mary... (twice)
c) *... he took a cup...he handed it to them saying, 'Drink from this, all of you ...this is my blood'* (Mt 26: 27)
Hail Mary... (twice)
d) *... this is my blood.... poured out for many'* (Mt 26: 28).
Hail Mary... (twice)
e) *May they all be one, just as, Father; you are in me and I am in you...* (John 17:21)
Hail Mary... (twice)
Glory be to the Father

2nd Annual Competition

Colour & Win!

5-7 years

Colour the picture in the Catholic News

* no photo copies *

8-10 years OR 11-13 years

Draw & Colour any aspect of your Church

* Paper size: 8 1/2" x 11" *

* Send in a masthead of the Catholic News along with your entry. *

Deadline for Submission of Entries
Monday, October 22, 2012

*****Enter as many times as you wish!*****
Entries may be mailed to Camsel – 31 Independence Sq. Port of Spain OR handed to your school Principal.

Vicariate Judging (North/Tobago, South, East and Central/Suburban) will take place during the period October 22 - November 9, 2012
Finals - November 17, 2012
*The judges' decision is final.

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