9 DAYS FOR LIFE www.9daysforlife.com

Day One

Intercession: May the tragic practice of abortion end.

Prayers: Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

Reflection: At every stage and in every circumstance, we are held in existence by God's love. The presence of an illness, disability, or other challenging situation never diminishes the value of a human life. God does not call us to perfection of appearance or abilities, but to perfection in *love*. Christ invites us to embrace our own lives and the lives of others as true *gifts*.

Abortion tragically rejects the truth that every life is a good and perfect gift, deserving protection. This violent practice ends the life of a human being at its very beginning and horribly wounds all those involved. But Christ came that we "might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10), taking on human flesh for the sake of our redemption. May our culture experience the power of God's transforming love, that all eyes may be opened to the incredible beauty of every human life.

Acts of Reparation (Choose one.)

- Take a break from television and movies today. Consider spending some of that time praying with today's reflection.
- Pray the short prayer "Every Life is Worth Living," reflecting on the gift of human life. (The prayer is also available to order or download at <u>usccb.org/worth-living</u>.)

Heavenly Father, thank you	Grant us the humility to accept
for the precious gift of life.	help when we are in need,
Help us to cherish and protect	and teach us to be merciful to all.
this gift, even in the midst of fear,	Through our words and actions,
pain, and suffering.	may others encounter the
Give us love for all people,	outstretched hands
especially the most vulnerable,	of Your mercy.
and help us bear witness to the	We ask this through
truth that every life is worth living.	Christ, our Lord. Amen.

• Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today's intention.

One Step Further: Abortion is frequently a topic in the news, political debates, and everyday conversations with family or friends. Because abortion can be a controversial and emotional issue in any arena, many of us may feel intimidated when the topic arises, not knowing what to say. "Another Look at Abortion" provides a basic overview and summarizes key points. This article will help you be better prepared to witness to the sanctity of human life: respectlife.org/another-look-at-abortion.

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9 DAYS FOR LIFE: DAILY PRAYER INTENTIONS www.9daysforlife.com

Day One: May the tragic practice of abortion end.

Day Two: May each person suffering from participation in abortion find forgiveness, hope, and healing in Christ.

Day Three: May every pregnant mother receive compassionate care and support as she nurtures the life in her womb.

Day Four: May every father of a preborn child lovingly support the mother of his child in welcoming new life.

Day Five: May every pregnant mother choosing adoption receive grace and support in embracing this loving option.

Day Six: May all who support or participate in abortion experience a conversion of heart to seek and receive the Lord's boundless mercy.

Day Seven (Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children): May all preborn children be protected in law and welcomed in love.

Day Eight: May civic leaders work for the protection of all human life, in every stage and circumstance.

Day Nine: May all who defend life find strength and renewal in the Holy Spirit.

