

## RESPECT FOR LIFE ALLOCATION AND PRAYERS

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I'm sure many of you have seen fields of white crosses outside various churches in our city. When you then realize that each one represents 2000 unborn children then the enormity of this awful disrespect for the most fragile of all human life is frightening. It is perhaps the dreadful end point of our throw away culture. My friends, it is our duty to speak out for them, for these lost voices.

Only one month ago our churches and the whole Christian community and many others were thanking God for the gift to us of His son, the Word made Flesh, who walked amongst us and talked the Good News of Salvation. Yet even then, 2000 years ago, there were powers trying to silence the beauty of the voice of the divine child. We have to be the voice of the silenced ones and by our actions the instruments of God's mercy.

We have to speak for those not yet breathing, walking or talking amongst us but whose hearts beat with life both vital and innocent.

*It is not right, dear God, for the harmony of our world, your creation, to be lessened by the loss of the melodies of these innocent ones. We must sing their song in such an increasingly alienating land. Amen*

We must also speak up, act and provide hope for those who find themselves facing the dreadful choice of what to do with the gift of a child that has come into their lives unplanned or unwanted at that moment.

*It is not right, dear God for any member of our community to feel such despair that they would have to contemplate this clinically, sanitized violence. We must be their support. Amen*

But we must also speak up for respect for all human life. It would be interesting, would it not, perhaps to have crosses of different colors at different times of the year reminding us others in our community whose lives are diminished and marginalized by our ignorance, which builds our prejudice, and can lead to our malice.

We must speak up for those who are dying in our community unwanted, discarded, scared and alone and for the elderly and homebound.

*It is not right, dear God for us to be alone, since the beginning of time you created us to live with each other as equals, as lovers, as companions along the way and to accompany each of us when times are rough, or when suffering becomes an unwanted*

*companion, or when our own flame is waning. Give us a tender heart for the elderly, the suffering, the unwanted and the bereaved. Amen*

We must speak up for the many people we have ignored or avoided because they are living on our streets, or their minds have wandered or speak and act oddly. Or those we have belittled by our sense of superiority because they've lost control of their lives through drugs or alcohol.

*It is not right, dear God, for us to live in ignorance and prejudice, or to deliberately shun those whose lives seemed to have messed up one way or another. Turn our hearts Lord to see these troubled ones as our brothers and sisters in humanity and offer them the hand of mercy and friendship. Amen*

We must speak out louder each day when we see that, though we are creatures of infinite variety, we are limited in our appreciation of each other. We continue to disrespect others because of the color of their skin, to disparage others for the language they speak, and the culture they celebrate. We cheapen the gift of each other's sex and denigrate their choices of whom they love. We hold in contempt people who view the world differently to our own and we think suspiciously of those who pray and believe differently to our own faith. We constantly show contempt for the poor and weak

*It is not right dear God, for us to be like this, constantly living by our prejudices which only reduce the glory and wonder of our common humanity and only serve to foster discord between us. Give us new eyes to see your divine plan in each and every person we meet, seeing them as your gift, and open hearts to love and respect them as pilgrims along the paths of life. Amen*

**God of life and love,  
you created us in your image  
and sent your Son to bring us life.  
Instill in us a respect for all life,  
from conception to natural death.  
Empower us to work for justice for the poor.  
Nourish us that we may bring food to the hungry.  
Inspire us to cherish the fragile life of the unborn.  
Strengthen us to bring comfort to the chronically ill.  
Teach us to treat the aging with dignity and respect.  
Bring us one day into the glory of everlasting life.  
We ask through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**