

## HOPE AND TRUST IN LIFE



***The Church is called to proclaim the gift of life,  
to serve life, and to promote a culture of life.  
This is the message of hope we are called to proclaim.***

***Pope Benedict XVI***

### PRESENCE of GOD

***We are the work of Your hands, O God. We are the glory of Your love.  
We are Your living work of art. You cherish us all and Your Being  
dwells within us all, creating us still, O God of the living.  
All glory and honor, praise and thanksgiving to You Creator God,  
Redeeming Son and Life-giving Spirit.***



***"Nowadays, in America as elsewhere in the world, a model of society appears to be emerging in which the powerful predominate, setting aside and even eliminating the powerless: I am thinking here of unborn children, helpless victims of abortion; the elderly and incurably ill, subjected at times to euthanasia; and the many other people relegated to the margins of society by consumerism and materialism. Nor can I fail to mention the unnecessary recourse to the death penalty when other "bloodless means are sufficient to defend human lives against an aggressor and to protect public order and the safety of persons. Today, given the means at the State's disposal to deal with crime and control those who commit it, without abandoning all hope of their redemption, the cases where it is absolutely necessary to do away with an offender 'are now very rare, even non-existent practically'". This model of society bears the stamp of the culture of death, and is therefore in opposition to the Gospel message. Faced with this distressing reality, the Church community intends to commit itself all the more to the defense of the culture of life."***

***Ecclesia in America, Pope John Paul II, 1999***

### HYMN: LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING

***Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
To God the Creator triumphantly raise.  
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us, His light goes before us,  
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.  
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished  
As forward we travel from light into light.  
  
His law He enforces, the stars in their courses  
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
The deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.***

*We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
With glad adoration a song let us raise  
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:  
"To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise*

**PSALM 138 (139)**

*For You created my innermost being  
as You knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I will praise You, for You made me so wonderfully:  
so wonderful are Your works,  
so perfect Your knowledge.*

*Even my bones were not hidden from You  
as I was being created in secret,  
put together in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes saw me before ever I was completed.  
All my days were written in Your book  
before any of them came into being.  
Your thoughts, O God, are precious to me:  
precious above all things and too many to count.  
If I try to count them, they are more than the sand:  
if I come to an end, still I am with You.*

*Look into me, God, and know my heart:  
examine me and know my paths.  
See if I am wandering on ways that lead nowhere,  
and set my feet on the path to eternity.*

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**GENESIS 1:27**

*"God created man in His own image."*

**JOB 10:12**

*"Thou hast granted me life."*

**PSALM 8**

*"When I consider the heavens, the works of Your hands, the moon  
and the stars, which You have made; what is man, that Thou doest  
take thought of him? And the son of man that You care for him? Yet  
You have made him a little lower than God, and crown him with glory  
and majesty! You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You  
have put all things under his feet.... O Lord our Lord, how majestic is  
Your name in all the earth."*

**PSALM 139:13-15**

*"You did form my inward parts, You knit me together in my  
mother's womb...You knew me right well; my frame was not hidden  
from You, when I was being made in secret..."*

**JEREMIAH 1:4-5**



**"Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you."**

**JOHN 10:10**

**"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly"**

### **REFLECTION**

**The culture of death has taken root and spread its errors throughout society. This is seen by the wide approval that intentional killing of human beings is a solution to problems.**

**It is most disturbing.**

**We must stop the violence and attacks against innocent life, most especially upon the unborn.**

**All God's faithful can hope and trust in life.**

**Consistently promote and reflect the Gospel of Life in all areas of our lives, in the workplace, the courtrooms and the classrooms and in the voting booths. We must transform our culture to one that embraces life at all ages and stages.**

**Bishop Edward U. Kmiec  
Diocese of Buffalo, NY**

### **PRAYERS of INTERCESSION**

**Leader: We know that God is near to all who call upon Him. We turn now to our generous God with our prayers and needs.**

**RESPONSE: LORD OF LIFE GRANT US LIFE.**

**That the pope, bishops, priests, deacons and consecrated religious will be signs of God's living presence among us as they preach the Gospel of Life, we pray to the Lord...**

**For government officials on the national, state, and local levels, that they may govern with humility and ensure the rights of all, we pray to the Lord...**

**That we may look upon the poor, the vulnerable, the stranger, and the unborn with the unconditional love and welcome portrayed by the Gospel, we pray to the Lord...**

**That those entrusted with the catechetical ministry in our Church may be strengthened in their zeal to share the truth of Christ's teaching to all seeking the living God, we pray to the Lord...**

**That our parish communities will imitate the generosity called for by the Gospel and be faithful and generous stewards of life, we pray to the Lord...**

**O God, listen to the prayers of your people, and make us respectful and reverential toward the abundant gifts especially the gifts of creation and life You have given us. We ask this through Christ our Lord Who promises us life. Amen.**

**+RESPECT LIFE+**

**Almighty God, Giver of all that is good. We thank You for the precious gift of human life.**

**For life in womb, coming from Your creative power**

**For the life of children, making us glad with their freshness and promise**

**For the life of young people, hoping for a better world**

**For the life of the handicapped and disabled, teaching us humility  
For the life of the elderly, witnessing the ageless values of patience  
and wisdom.**

**Like Blessed Mary, may we always say yes to Your gift. May we  
defend it and promote it from conception to it's natural end and bring  
us at last O Father to eternal life, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**O Mary, Bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the Living, to you do  
we entrust the cause of Life. Look down, O Mother, upon the vast  
numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives  
are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal  
violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of  
misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe in your Son may  
proclaim the Gospel of Life with honesty and love to the people of  
our time. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift  
ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their  
lives, and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to  
build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth  
and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life.**

**I set before you life or death, blessing or curse.  
Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live  
in the love of the Lord."**

**Deuteronomy 30:19**

#### **HYMN: CHOOSE LIFE**

**Lord, You came to bring us life  
that we might have it more and more.  
we who share Your love, Your life.  
we choose life, choose life.**

**You set before us life or death:  
a blessing or a curse.  
we choose life that we may live  
in the land of the living forever.**

**We choose life that our children might live  
and grow in the life of our God.  
Heeding His voice we will cling to Him;  
We will share His life, His love forever.**

**For it is You, Lord, that we choose;  
You Who bring abundant life  
To whom else, Lord, can we go?  
You are the Way, the Truth and the Life**

***To propose respect for life in our society means to speak on behalf of the voiceless, the defenseless, the weak.***

***Abortion is not a choice; it is the deliberate ending of human life.***

***We must be strong and consistent in voicing our opposition to abortion. Our respect for life leads us to defend the weak and voiceless on the other end of the spectrum -- the elderly and the infirm. Euthanasia is the deliberate and willful ending of life and, as such, cannot be condoned or supported.***

***But respect for life does not just mean the beginning and end of life but the full range of human existence. Human persons have not only the inalienable right to life but to a life of dignity and respect.***

***Every human being has a right to the basic necessities of life: to food, clothing shelter, health care and education, employment, respect and equality.***

***Msgr. George Trabold  
Archdiocese of Newark***



***Saint John Baptist de La Salle  
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,  
help us to instill in others the value of all human life.***

***Live Jesus in our hearts.  
Forever!***