



## OPEN PRAYER DAY FOR THE REVERENCE FOR 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 and embody in a world where self-centeredness, greed, violence, and cynicism so often seem to choke the fragile growth of grace in people’s hearts.” - Pope Benedict XVI*

In promoting the culture of life, the Respect Life Program in collaboration with the Parish Social Ministry Department of Catholic Charities would like to continue an *Open Prayer Day* revolving around life issues. This would consist of silent prayer and reflection, one day per month for all parishes. Each month will include the *Life Promise* prayer and a specific life issue would be highlighted. You may provide your own prayers for these or use the ones included in this packet.

Beginning in October, for this year, we are promoting the Saint Francis Pledge. This is in conjunction with the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi falling during the month of October. The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change is featured in this issue. Other life issues will be highlighted in the months to follow. We wish to invite parishes to make their worship space available for a specific hour one day during the first week of each month. Catholic schools will also have the opportunity to participate in this initiative according to their schedules and will receive similar materials. Each month you will be receiving the issue for the following month’s “Open Prayer Day”. Mailings will be via electronic and postal delivery.

The day and time would be determined by the parish, but we ask that it remains the same (i.e. every first Tuesday at 7:00PM) for consistency. Please encourage participation through bulletin and mass announcements or other ways your parish communicates with its members. Anyone who would like to participate could come anytime during that hour for silent prayer and bulletin inserts have been created for parishioners to use at home. We suggest an organization or organizations within the parish, or staff should be present to distribute the prayer sheets. We also invite you to designate a “Life Prayer Candle” and light it every month during this time.

The reason we ask for silent prayer is twofold. The “reverence of silence” can be the invitation to connect with all of those whom have gone before us during the history of our Church. The communion of saints is shown special attention during this time. The power of silence invites us to look inwardly, at our self, to concentrate on the issue within the prayer. This silence can speak very loudly in and of itself. A call to action will be included on the back of the prayer sheet. It includes an invitation to contact elected officials regarding the issue of that particular month as it relates to Church teaching. We also hope the parishes will examine other actions steps to take, such as vigils or community organizing, and share your experiences with us.

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### Schedule of Issues



October 2009	Saint Francis Pledge
November 2009	Health Care
December 2009	Immigration
January 2010	Abortion
February 2010	Poverty
March 2010	Stations of the Cross
April 2010	Embryonic Stem Cell
May 2010	Domestic Violence
June 2010	Those with Disabilities
July 2010	War and Peace
August 2010	The Elderly
September 2010	Living wage and Workers Rights