



A Respect Life Prayer

Father,

all-powerful and everlasting God, we offer you thanks and praise. You are the source of all life; you are life's reason for being and all life is a sign of your presence. Human life is marked with your image and from you derives its dignity and destiny. Human life is bathed in the mystery of your Son: it is precious because of His Incarnation, redeemed because of His Death and Resurrection, and called to eternity because of His Glorification.

By the gift of the Holy Spirit, human life grows in freedom, develops in the community of faith, and attains its end in response to grace. Human life is the most perfect expression of the divine of this earth.

Gracious Father, look with love upon your people. We are gathered to renew our respect for life, to discover afresh its sacredness, and to recommit ourselves to its protection.

We pray, Father, for those who would harm or destroy this life in any form and in any way: We pray for their conversion and our reconciliation to them.

Enlightened by your Word, and guided by the teachings of your Church, may we see the awesome truths and lofty ideals that inspire us to witness to a kingdom of truth and life, of holiness and grace, to a kingdom of justice, of love and of peace.

We stand united, with all people of good will on earth, and the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints. With them we join in an unending acclamation of praise, as we sing:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ...
Lord God of Hosts
Heaven and Earth are Full of Your Glory
Hosanna in the Highest!
Blessed is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the Highest!

James P. Lyke, O.F.M.

This **Respect Life Prayer** was offered by the Most Rev. James P. Lyke, Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland, on the occasion of a Respect Life Lecture delivered by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, Archbishop of Chicago, at Regina High School, South Euclid, Wednesday, Oct. 30, 1985.