

IN THE POWER OF HIS SPIRIT



INVOKING THE HOLY SPIRIT
TO END ABORTION

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In the Power of His Spirit

The Holy Spirit, as we profess in the Creed, is “the Lord and giver of Life.” He is the bond of love between the Father and the Son, and hence the source of love and unity within the human family – including the love between parents and their children. He breathed on the darkness and chaos at the dawn of creation and brought light out of darkness, order out of chaos, and life out of death. He breathes over the chaos of the culture of death today.

Through the ages, he spoke through the prophets, calling God’s people to acknowledge his sovereignty, respect human life, and care for the helpless. He makes us prophets today to witness against the lie of abortion. Jesus said he would convict the world of sin and also be our Comforter and our Advocate, hence enabling us to comfort and advocate for others, including the smallest and weakest among us. He brings the gift of repentance for all who have had abortions or participated in them.

The Holy Spirit is the source of all God’s gifts, those that make us pleasing to Him and those that help us serve others for the building up of the Body of Christ – and the building of the Culture of Life. The Spirit gives speech to the tongue, enabling us to proclaim the Gospel of Life, and is the source of courage, so that we keep doing so even in the midst of great opposition.

It therefore made a lot of sense to create this prayer booklet, *In the Power of His Spirit*, to accompany my previous three booklets of pro-life prayers, *In the Palm of His Hand*, *In the Heart of His Mercy*, and *In the Light of His Word*.

As we pray these prayers, whether alone at home, or in prayer chapels, or with our families, fellow parishioners, or pro-life groups, or out in front of abortion mills, may we experience the same insight, courage, comfort and power that the apostles did at Pentecost, and proceed quickly to total victory over abortion and protection for our unborn brothers and sisters!



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The Golden Sequence

Prior to the Gospel reading on Pentecost Sunday, commemorating the coming of the Holy Spirit, this prayer, called "The Golden Sequence," has been prayed for centuries by the Church throughout the world. Let us join in it again, praying in particular for an end to abortion.

**Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
Shed a ray of light divine!**

**Come, Oh Father of the poor!
Come, Oh source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine.**

**You, of comforters the best;
You, the soul's most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below!**

**In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.**

**O most blessed Light divine,
Shine within these hearts of thine,
and our inmost being fill!**

**Where you are not, we have naught,
nothing good in deed or thought,
nothing free from taint of ill.**

Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.

On the faithful, who adore
And confess you evermore,
In your sevenfold gift descend;

Give them virtue's sure reward;
Give them your salvation, Lord;
Give them joys that never end.

Amen. Alleluia.



No Cowardly Spirit

God our Father, your Apostle Paul declared
that the Spirit you have given us
is no cowardly spirit,
But rather one of power, love and self-control (2 Tim 1).
Fill us today, Lord, with that Spirit,
As we live amidst a culture of death
In which many contradict our beliefs about life
And many try to hinder our work of saving lives.

Amidst falsehood, You call us to proclaim truth;
In the shadow of death, You empower us to bring about life;
In the face of opposition, You command us to stand firm.

We rely on your Spirit,
Who leaves no room for cowardice,
But fills us with the courage to defend the unborn.

In your Spirit, we speak for these children
When others pretend they do not exist,
And we call for their protection
As others make a shameful profit by killing them.

Free us from all cowardice, and give us courage.

Give the preacher the courage
to proclaim the Gospel of Life.
Give the student the courage
to defend the unborn on campus.

Give the lawmaker the courage
to introduce pro-life bills.
Give the voter the courage
to elect pro-life candidates.
Give the reporter the courage
to convey the truth about abortion.
Give the doctor and nurse the courage
to reject any involvement in abortion.
Give the pro-life advocate the courage
to endure ridicule and rejection.
Give the pro-life counselor the courage
to lead the abortion-minded client toward life.
Give the mom, the dad, and the grandparents the courage
to welcome unexpected new life.
Give those who have had abortions the courage
to turn back to you with repentance.
Give each of us the courage
to do exactly what we need to do to end abortion.

Father, Your Spirit is our sweet rest in the midst
of our labors to build the Culture of Life.
May we enjoy each day the abundance
of His presence and grace,
And always know that in You our labors
are never in vain.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Spirit Brings Hope

Holy Spirit of God,
You are the one who inspires hope.

You remind us of all Jesus taught us,
And you unite us with all the saving power
Of his paschal mystery.

We know that abortion does not come from freedom,
But from despair.

Breathe on your people,
And replace despair with hope.

Come to those who are pregnant and afraid,
And whose despair is tempting them to abort.
Give them new hope, and the strength to say Yes to life.

Come to those who have had abortions,
And who despair of God's forgiveness.
You are the best of Counselors; You are the Comforter.
Therefore, give them new hope, that they may receive his
mercy and healing.

Come to those who work to end abortion,
But are weary and unsure of the future.
Give them new hope that they will indeed
see the victory of life.

Holy Spirit, may the hope you inspire
Enable us to take hold now
Of the eternal life that we will share forever
With you, with the Father,
And with Jesus the Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.



I Believe

“I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life.”

Lord, we your people joyfully profess this creed of the whole Church.

**We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Lord,
Equal in every way to you, O Father, and to your Son
Jesus Christ.**

**The Spirit is the same God, the same Power, the same
infinite Wisdom.**

**And the Holy Spirit is the same Life – Life that is eternal,
and the source of all created life.**

**He is the giver of Life.
He breathed on the chaos at the beginning of creation
And brought order out of chaos,
Light out of darkness,
And life out of death.**

**And at the crowning of Your creation,
When you said, “Let us make man in our own image,”
The Holy Spirit brought forth the human life that has been
passed on to all of us
And is shared by both born and unborn.**

Grant, O God, that at every moment
We may give fitting and eager worship
To the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life.

May we worship him by proclaiming that no human being
can own another human life
And that no human choice can ever authorize the killing of
the innocent.

May the Holy Spirit reign over every life, every choice, and
every moment of our existence.
We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.



He Proceeds from the Father and the Son

Holy Spirit of God,
You proceed eternally from the Father and the Son.
There was never a time when you did not exist.
Rather, as long as the Father and the Son have existed,
That is, from all eternity,
You have been the bond of infinite love between them.

Holy Spirit, you are the font of love.
All love that is of God is your gift
And nobody can experience that love unless
you are present.

Holy Spirit, as you are the bond of love,
So bind the human family together in that same love.

Bind together mother and unborn child,
That no fear or despair may ever separate them.

Bind together mother and father, that they may know
That only in preserving the life of the child
they have conceived
Can they find their own fulfillment.

Bind together all your people
In the unity that makes us care for one another,
That makes us treat the stranger as a fellow member
of the one human family,

That enables us to see every unborn child,
Not just as somebody else's problem or choice,
or responsibility,
But as our own brother or sister.
Enable us to see every child as a blessing,
And never as an unwanted burden.

Come, Holy Spirit, who proceed from
the Father and the Son,
And lead us back to them,
That we may love and welcome every child
With the eternal love of God Himself.
In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.



With the Father and the Son He is Adored and Glorified

Holy Spirit, the world worships you
And we join the worship and adoration
Poured out to you
Throughout the ages.

Spirit of God, Spirit of Life,
We know that when we worship,
We place you at the center of our lives,
At the center of our desires,
At the center of our choices.

It is no longer “our choice” or “our freedom” that is primary,
But rather your will, your goodness, your favor to us.

Grant that we may worship you at every moment
And in every circumstance.
May we seek to know your will,
To see and accept your plan for us,
And to serve you in everything we do
And in everything we suffer.

May we adore and glorify you
By welcoming and defending every unborn child.

We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

He Has Spoken Through the Prophets

Holy Spirit, You have spoken through the prophets.
We hear your voice today
Summoning us through the prophet Isaiah,
“Cry out full-throated and unsparingly, lift up your voice
like a trumpet blast; Tell my people their wickedness,
and the house of Jacob their sins” (*Is. 58:1*)
And warning us that if there is blood on our hands,
That is an obstacle to our worship and prayer (*Is. 1*).

We hear your voice
In the prophet Amos, crying out,
“Let justice surge like water, and goodness like
an unfailing stream” (*Am. 5:24*)
and in the prophet Jeremiah, that you have “rescued the life
of the poor from the power of the wicked!” (*Jer. 20:12*).

You command us through the prophet Zechariah,
“Render true judgment, and show kindness and
compassion toward each other.
Do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the alien or the
poor; do not plot evil against one another in your hearts”
(*Zec. 7:9-10*).

Holy Spirit, as we hear the words of the prophets,
So enable us to speak them.
Descend on us as at Pentecost,
And set our tongues on fire to proclaim truth,
justice, love and life!

You have anointed us as prophets at our baptism,
To share in the great mission of Christ to spread the Word
of the Kingdom, the Word of Life.

May we never fail to be prophets to our nation,
Prophets who call for the protection of the unborn
And summon all people to love them as our youngest
brothers and sisters.

Holy Spirit, who have spoken through the prophets,
Speak through us as prophets for the unborn today!

We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen!



Lord Send out Your Spirit, and Renew the Face of the Earth

Send out your Spirit, O Lord
The same Holy Spirit who brought forth life
at the dawn of creation,
The same Holy Spirit who came at Pentecost
to initiate the Church's proclamation of the Gospel,
And the same Holy Spirit who inspired
the courageous and holy actions
Of the apostles, prophets, martyrs and
saints throughout the ages.

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
For the face of the earth is stained with blood today.
Just as the ground swallowed up the blood of Abel
When his brother Cain became his murderer,
So the blood of countless unborn children
Stains the earth today.
Then, as now, it cries out to you.
All creation groans and longs for renewal.

Send forth your Spirit,
That the world, so often unaware of the sin of abortion,
Might be awakened to its guilt and embrace
life-giving repentance.

Send forth your Spirit,
That where there has been the shedding of blood,

There may be instead the shedding of tears by
those who turn back to you
And grieve over the lives of these children.

Renew the face of the earth,
That the land may again rejoice in the fullness of life
That the smallest children may again rejoice that they are
welcomed and protected,
And that moms and dads may be free of the despair that
leads to the temptation of abortion.

Renew the face of the earth
With a new solidarity among all human beings
To care for one another's lives in every way
And never to regard a child as an unwanted intruder or a
disposable burden.

Lord, send the Holy Spirit, who is the "father of the poor,"
And protect the children in the womb,
Who are the poorest of the poor.

May we, together with them, rejoice
As you renew the face of the earth
And make the whole world the sanctuary of life
That it was created to be.

We pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Bring us Repentance

Lord Jesus,
On the day of your Resurrection,
You breathed on the apostles and said,
“Receive the Holy Spirit... whose sins you shall forgive,
they are forgiven” (*Jn. 20:22-23*),
And you commissioned them
That repentance for the forgiveness of sins was to be
preached in Your Name
To all the nations (*cf. Lk. 24:47*)

Lord, we need the Holy Spirit
To bring repentance and forgiveness
On this land that is engulfed by the killing
of babies by abortion.

Lord, the darkness is deep,
Even leading to the killing of born babies
who survive abortion.

Send your Holy Spirit, and awaken all of us to repentance.

Awaken the abortionists, the lawmakers, the judges,
Those in academia and the media,
and those clergy who have bought the “prochoice” lie.

Inspire deep repentance, and confidence
in your forgiveness,

In the hearts of all those who have forced or pressured
others into abortion,
whether they be parents, grandparents, friends,
counselors or doctors.

Awaken the hearts of those who have participated in
abortion in any way;
Lead them to ask forgiveness, and start them on
the path of healing.

Give the consolation of Your Holy Spirit
To all moms and dads who grieve the loss of their
child to abortion.
Give that consolation also to the grandparents,
the aunts and uncles,
The siblings, the friends, and all those whose lives would
have been blessed
By the presence of the child who was killed.
Your Spirit is our solace in the midst of woe;
Send Him today, for we all need Him.

Lord Jesus, we are sinners, and you are our Advocate
with the Father,
And you, and the Father, have sent us another Advocate,
The Holy Spirit.

How blessed we are,
And how confident we should be,
Because he brings us Your Mercy, Your Healing,
and Your Peace,

And he empowers us to give witness to that
Mercy before others.

Send him to us, and to the whole world.
Renew the face of the earth,
And bring us all the salvation, for the sake
of which you died and rose,
and now live and reign forever and ever. Amen.



The Spirit Conquers Our Temptations

Lord,
Your Word tells us that no matter
what temptation may come to us,
You are faithful and never allow us to be
tempted beyond our strength.
The Power of your Spirit can set us
free from any temptation,
That we may avoid sin and remain faithful to You (*cf. 1 Cor. 10*).

Your Word teaches us that You, O God, tempt no one,
But that we are enticed by our own desires.

Your Word also declares,
“Blessed is the man who perseveres in temptation,
for when he has been proved he will receive the crown of life
that he promised to those who love him” (*James 1:12*).

We thank you, Father, for these promises,
And we pray today for those tempted to have abortions.

Lord, by the power of your Spirit,
Free them from the fear and despair that
leads to this temptation.

Through the presence of the pro-life community,
Free them from the feeling of isolation
that increases this temptation
And makes them think that the only person there to help them
Is the abortionist.

Lord, bring new strength to your people,
Bless moms and dads who are afraid to be moms and dads,
And grandparents who are afraid to be grandparents.

May your Holy Spirit give them new courage,
New insight into the beauty and adventure of welcoming life,
And new conviction that you never entrust us with a child
Without at the same time providing us with
every grace necessary
To welcome, protect, and nurture that life.

Send the Holy Spirit of love,
That His own love will fill your people,
Enabling them to love, welcome, and protect the unborn,
And build a society where they are recognized as
equal in dignity to everyone else.

By the power of your Spirit, Father,
Free us from temptation,
Free us from sin,
And free our whole world from the evil of abortion.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.





Holy Spirit, Bring Your Gifts!

Holy Spirit of God,
You bestow generously your gifts
Upon the People of God.

You transform us at our baptism,
Cleansing us of original sin
And making us adopted sons and daughters of God!

You fill us with faith, hope, and love,
And with so many other virtues
That make us pleasing to God.

You grant us wisdom and understanding,
Counsel and fortitude,
knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.

And you also freely bestow on each of us
The gifts that enable us to build up the Body of Christ,
Each according to our own vocation.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Your people need your gifts
To build the Culture of Life,
To protect the unborn,
And to effectively counteract the lies of abortion.

Come, Holy Spirit!

By the power of your gifts,
Make the pro-life movement a unified yet beautifully
diverse force
To persuade all people to welcome the unborn,
To convincingly teach all people that abortion is wrong,
And to craft public policies that will end this violence.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Give pro-life advocates ever new ideas
For presenting the eternal Word of life,
Ever new and creative strategies
For advancing the eternal Gospel of life,
And ever new energy
For proclaiming, celebrating, and serving the gift of life!

Come, Holy Spirit!

We are ready to receive your light, your gifts, your strength,
And the victory of life that comes from you!

We pray in Jesus' Name. Amen!



The Fruits of the Spirit

Holy Spirit,
Your presence in us
Brings about the fruits
of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
Generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

As we fight against the forces of abortion,
And face the reality of this evil,
We feel righteous anger.

We do not ask you to remove that anger from us,
But to prevent it from controlling us.

O Holy Spirit, may we
Submit that anger to you
And allow you to guide us
To concrete, positive action on behalf of the unborn.

As we face the hatred of the other side,
And the ridicule of those who oppose us,
We ask that as we adhere to the truth without compromise,
We may always present that truth with kindness and
compassion.

May our words and behavior manifest You,
the Spirit of God.

May our faithfulness always live together
with our gentleness.

May our generous service of the unborn
Always be filled with that peace and joy
Which only You can give,
And which nobody can take away from us.

Give us, O Holy Spirit, the fruits of your presence.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Holy Spirit, Break the Power of Denial and Despair

Lord Jesus Christ,
Who together with the Father, send us your Holy Spirit,
You taught us that the Spirit would convict the world of sin,
That he would enlighten us about what is right
and what is wrong,
And show us where we have been unfaithful to your Word.

Jesus, you told us that the Holy Spirit
Would remind us of all that you taught us,
And lead us into the fullness of truth.

We pray, therefore, for the Spirit to come
And enlighten us about our own sins,
Especially those that are hidden or that we too easily try to
justify.

We pray also that the same Spirit
Will enlighten all who are deceived by the sin of abortion.
Send the Holy Spirit upon all who say they are “pro-choice,”
And change their minds and hearts.

Enable them to see that abortion is violence, and evil,
And that there is never a reason to kill a baby.

We pray that the Holy Spirit will come on every judge and
lawmaker.

Free them from the falsehood that they are
supposed to be neutral
About life and death,
And remind them that their first duty is to protect life.

Let the Spirit come to every abortionist and clinic worker
And set them free from the lie that they are helping women.
Enable them instead to see that abortion is destroying
women and everyone else.

Send your Spirit, and close every abortion clinic,
Stop the suction machines,
And keep the forceps far away from the
sanctuary of the womb.

Change every supporter of Planned Parenthood
and of abortion
Into a supporter of life!

Lord, through the power of Your Spirit,
Break the power of denial,
And send far away the spirit of deception.
Cancel the power of false ideas
That tell people the baby isn't really a baby
Or that abortion isn't really killing.

Let falsehood flee in the presence of the Spirit of Truth,
And let that Spirit bring our every thought into
line with the truth of Christ,
Which sets us free.

Set our whole world free from the lie, the sin,
the darkness of abortion.

And as that Spirit convicts the world of sin,
So let repentance, forgiveness, righteousness
and healing fill the land.

Bring us all to the fullness of Your Kingdom of Life,
For you live and reign forever and ever! Amen!





Bring the Dry Bones to Life

Lord, you challenged your prophet Ezekiel
To preach to a field of dry bones (*cf. Ez. 37*)

You summoned him to have faith
That something which appeared to human eyes
to be foolish
Would be carried out as a pleasing act in your eyes --
An act of faith in the power of your Spirit.

As Ezekiel preached, O Lord,
You gave life to the dry bones.
Flesh came upon them
And the Spirit entered them.

Yours is the Spirit that gives life.

Today, O Lord, our nation is strewn with dry bones,
The bodies of tens of millions of aborted children,
And the dead consciences of those who justify abortion.

And today, Lord, you command your prophets again
To speak to the dry bones.

You call your people, both clergy and laity,
To proclaim the Word of Life,
To awaken consciences to the dignity of every life,
starting with the unborn,
To stir to repentance those who have
compromised with abortion,

And to call those drifting in apathy
To take an active and vocal part in a great campaign on
behalf of life.

We are ready today, Lord, to respond to the
call of your Spirit,
And we are confident that the dry bones of our times
Will in fact arise and come to life.

Through the power of your Spirit,
may we see before our eyes
The victory of Life.

We pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.



The Spirit Sets Free the Oppressed

Lord Jesus, at the beginning of Your earthly ministry,
You quoted the prophet Isaiah,
Declaring that the Spirit of the Lord is upon You
For the liberation of the captives
And the freedom of the oppressed.

We rejoice, as members of Your Body,
As living stones of Your Temple,
As branches on the True Vine,
That we share the same Spirit.

We too, Lord, long for the day
When the oppressed will be set free,
When the unborn, too long ignored
And treated as less than human,
Will be given the full respect and protection they deserve.

This, Oh Lord, is a work of your Spirit,
And therefore a work that all your disciples
Are called to support.

In the power of Your Spirit, Lord Jesus,
Set the unborn free,
And make us agents of their freedom.

Lord, we are your Bride,
And filled with Your Spirit,

**We long for Your return,
To establish the fullness of the Kingdom of Life.
“The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come!’
“Let him who hears their voices say, ‘Come!’” (Rev. 22:17)
For You live and reign forever and ever. Amen!**



The Spirit Challenges Kings and All in Authority

God of our Fathers, through many ages
Your Holy Spirit inspired prophets
To speak truth to power
And to challenge earthly Kings to obey you,
the King of heaven.

In the days when King Ahab and Jezebel
were promoting false worship,
And leading the people away from the Covenant,
And punishing the prophets of the Lord,
You raised up Elijah your prophet (*cf. 1 Kg. 17*).

Filled with the Spirit of the Lord,
He challenged Ahab, Jezebel, and the false prophets,
Boldly manifested the power of the true God,
And challenged the people to decide whom
they would serve.

When the fullness of time had come,
You raised up John the Baptizer
Who pointed out to the world the Lamb of God,
your Son Jesus Christ.

In the power of your Spirit,
John proclaimed a baptism of repentance,
Warning all the people urgently to turn away
from their sins.

He also warned King Herod,
Who was committing adultery
By taking the wife of his brother.

When Herod became upset by this and punished John,
He did not apologize or water down his message,
But endured prison and martyrdom
By the power of the Spirit.

Today, Lord God, the world is full of public authorities
Who trample your law underfoot
And even try to change its meaning
To justify their pursuit of evil.

They defend and promote the killing of babies
Yet claim to be devout Catholics, Christians, or other
believers in God.

Father, send your Holy Spirit.

Raise up prophets, preachers, and faithful witnesses
Who, like Elijah, like John the Baptist,
And like countless other prophets and saints
Have used “the sword of the Spirit,” the Word of God,
And challenged those in power to obey you,
the Lord of every nation.

Raise up voices in our midst,
And enable each of us to raise our voices,
To declare that no earthly ruler
Can in any way authorize the killing of a baby,

And that any nation that permits abortion
Becomes a tyrant state,
Destructive of democracy and of the
very foundations of civilization.

Grant, O Father, that nothing may silence your people,
But rather that the voice of your Spirit, the voice of Life,
May rise above all the discordant voices of falsehood,
And transform the culture of death into the eternal
Kingdom of Life.

We ask this in Jesus' Mighty Name. Amen.



Prayer to the Spirit of Truth

Holy Spirit, you are the promised Spirit of Truth, constantly revealing the splendor of truth to Your people, and leading us deeper into the Mysteries of our Faith.

Come to us today, and deepen in our minds and hearts the truth about life: its greatness, its dignity, its reflection of the eternal God. Make us appreciate ever more the truth that life is always a good, and that every life is of equal dignity, despite all the different characteristics people have, or the different circumstances under which they come to be.

Come, Spirit of Truth. Free all your people from the falsehoods that lead to the evil of abortion. Free them from the false and harmful ideas which make a god out of their own choices, or which fail to recognize the right to life of children in the womb.

Come, O Holy Spirit, and as you immerse us in your truth, so make us effective witnesses of that truth within our families, among our friends, and to all the world. Amen.



Prayer to the Holy Spirit, Giver of Life

Come Holy Spirit, Creator of all things...You who breathed over the waters at the dawn of creation and brought forth all living beings...You who filled the apostles when the Risen Lord breathed on them on the first Easter night, giving them the power to restore life to those dead in sin...You who, on the last day, will breathe again over all the dead and raise them from the grave--Come!

Come and breathe on our world again, immersed as it is in the Culture of Death!

Come, O Lord and Giver of Life! Defeat the works of death in our midst, that abortion may no longer stain our land.

We worship You, O Holy Spirit, and we rejoice in You. We know that no matter how strong the forces of death may be, we can still find in You the endless source of life.

Renew that life in each of us, and make us worthy apostles of the Culture of Life in our day! Amen.



Prayer to the Holy Spirit, the Advocate

O Holy Spirit of God, you were promised to us by the Lord Jesus as an Advocate, as one who pleads our cause and speaks up for us in the heights of heaven. "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever..." (*Jn.14:15*).

The apostle Paul has taught us that you intercede for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in speech (*Rom. 8:26*).

We praise you today for the gift of salvation, for we are deeply aware that we cannot save ourselves. We have sinned, and we cannot win forgiveness on our own. We need an Advocate.

We ask you, O Holy Spirit, to make us ever more aware of those who need us as advocates. Grant that we may hear the cries of our youngest, smallest brothers and sisters, those still in the womb, who cannot speak or defend themselves, and who cannot even pray.

Holy Spirit, as you are the Advocate, so make us advocates. As you hear our cries for mercy, so let us hear the cries of others for mercy. Save us from the misfortune of seeking mercy only for ourselves, while being deaf to others. As you loosened the tongues of the apostles at Pentecost, so grant us today a Pentecost for the unborn, that we may speak for them before the great and the small, before governments and institutions, and before all your people. Amen.

Civil Rights Litany for Justice and Life

by Fr. Frank Pavone and Evangelist Alveda King

Note: Evangelist Alveda King, niece of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., started her fulltime work with Priests for Life in 2005 and declared that the Civil Rights movement of today is the pro-life movement. The Holy Spirit is the source of justice, peace and love, and therefore we share here the litany that Dr. King and Fr. Frank Pavone put together and have prayed across this nation.

PETITION ONE

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. declared, "It really boils down to this: that all life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Let us pray.

Lord, open our eyes, to see that our own destiny, as individuals and as a people, is directly tied to the destiny of our youngest brothers and sisters, the children in the womb. Help us and all our fellow citizens to understand that when the unborn are deprived of their rights as persons, this is an assault on the dignity of us all. Give us grace to understand that our own rights are only as safe as the rights of the smallest children.

We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PETITION TWO

Dr. King declared, “The next thing we must be concerned about if we are to have peace on earth...is the nonviolent affirmation of the sacredness of all human life.”

Let us pray.

Lord God, Author of Peace, you created all human beings that they might live as one, and you entrusted the life of each to the care of all. We pray for peace in our times – a peace which is not simply the absence of bombs and tanks, but rather the full protection of everyone’s rights, and the harmonious relationships of human beings with each other and with you. Help us to see that the greatest destroyer of peace and love is abortion, and that peace on earth must begin with peace in the womb.

We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PETITION THREE

Dr. King declared, “We have a task, and let us go out with a ‘divine dissatisfaction’... Let us be dissatisfied, until from every city hall, justice will roll down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.”

Let us pray.

Lord, we are dissatisfied today. We are deeply troubled that we live in a land where an act of dismembering a

baby masquerades as a legal right. We are dissatisfied, furthermore, that so many of our fellow citizens have made peace with this travesty of justice, and have accommodated themselves to this triumph of violence. We pray today that the institutions of government, which exist for the purpose of ensuring justice and protecting life, may no longer fail in that purpose, and may no longer be hijacked by the forces of evil. Rather, may your light shine in every Court, every legislature, and every executive mansion, and give your people a Divine impatience to place in those institutions public servants who know the difference between serving the public and killing the public. May your kingdom come, and may it come soon.

We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PETITION FOUR

Dr. King declared, "Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love."

Let us pray.

Lord, all power resides in you, and the hearts of the powerful are in your hands. Infuse those hearts with a true grasp of the meaning of power, the demands of justice, and the attraction of love. Help them understand that power does not mean domination, but service. Help them to know that justice is not subject to the whims and shifting interpretations of mortals, but rather is based in you, the

unchanging and eternal God. Help them to grasp the fact that love means to sacrifice oneself for the good of the other, while abortion means one sacrifices the other for the superficial good of oneself. Give us, Lord, a culture of life, where power serves justice and love transforms all.

We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PETITION FIVE

Dr. King declared, “Strangely enough, I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. You can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be.”

Let us pray.

Lord, give us the courage today to face the biggest obstacle in our mission to end abortion. Help us realize that this obstacle does not reside in media, government, or large pro-abortion organizations. Rather, our greatest obstacle resides within ourselves. Our greatest challenge is our own fear, our self-doubt, our hesitations, our second-guessing about the things we need to do and to sacrifice to advance the cause of justice. Free us, O Lord, from all that weighs us down. Let us be all that we ought to be, so that the unborn can be all that they ought to be as well.

We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PETITION SIX

Dr. King declared, “We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late...Now let us begin. Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter – but beautiful – struggle for a new world.”

Let us pray.

Lord, give us the grace to respond to the fierce urgency of now, for the time is always right for justice. Later is too late for the babies killed today. And the thousands of children scheduled for death tomorrow cannot wait around for us to build a consensus that they should be protected. Give us, furthermore, a sense of the urgency to bring healing to those who are in despair today, and to bring freedom to those whose sin of abortion weighs them down. Let us not wait, let us not delay. Give us boldness and courage to act now for justice and for life.

We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PETITION SEVEN

Dr. King declared, “So we’ve come here today to cash a check...The Constitution and the Declaration of Independence were a promissory note...that all...would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness...America has defaulted on this

promissory note...America has given...a check which has come back marked 'insufficient funds.' We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds...and so we've come to cash this check."

Let us pray.

Lord, we live in a time when America has returned another check marked 'insufficient funds.' America has failed to protect the unborn. Yet we are here to cash that check. We too refuse to believe that the vaults of freedom and justice and opportunity and life are somehow insufficient to cover the children in the womb. We refuse to believe that, and therefore we ask you for the strength to do what it takes to demand their protection and their freedom.

We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PETITION EIGHT

Dr. King declared, "I know that you are asking today, "How long will it take?" I come to say to you, however difficult the moment, however frustrating the hour, it will not be long, because truth pressed to earth will rise again.

How long? Not long, because no lie can live forever.

How long? Not long, because you still reap what you sow.

How long? Not long. Because the arm of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice.

How long? Not long, 'cause mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord...Our God is marching on!"

Let us pray.

Father, we pray today for all those who have dedicated themselves to defend the unborn. We pray for all our brothers and sisters in this great movement of justice. Lord, some of your people have fought this evil of abortion from even before the days of Roe v. Wade. And we hear them echo what is also in our hearts ... "How long?" When will be the day of restoration, the triumph of equality? Renew our conviction today, O Lord, that it will not be long. For your Son Jesus Christ has promised that he is coming soon. The day of the Lord does not tarry. Strengthen our faith, enliven our hope, and deepen our love, that we may hasten the day when the unborn enjoy equal protection under the law.

We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Fr. Frank and Evangelist Alveda King invite you to add your name to the declaration, "The Beloved Community and the Unborn," stating that the dream of Dr. King will not be fulfilled until the unborn are also included in the protection of our laws.

Read and sign it at
www.TheBelovedCommunityAndTheUnborn.com

Notes and Prayer Intentions

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Priests for Life is one of the largest organizations in the world focused on ending abortion. We are a family of ministries, including a team of speakers consisting of clergy and lay men and women who offer presentations, trainings, preaching and broadcasting throughout the world. This family of ministries also includes the Silent No More Awareness Campaign and Rachel's Vineyard, the world's largest ministry of healing after abortion. Priests for Life likewise promotes pro-life laws and political responsibility, as well as youth outreach, daily live programming, a publications division, prayer campaigns, outreach programs for minority communities, and international work in many countries, at the Organization of American States, and at the United Nations.

Fr. Frank Pavone has led this ministry as National Director since 1993. Fr. Denis G. Wilde, OSA, is Associate Director; Janet Morana is Executive Director and co-founder of Silent No More. Bryan Kemper heads up "Stand True," our youth ministry. Dr. Theresa and Kevin Burke, the founders of Rachel's Vineyard, are full-time pastoral associates of Priests for Life. Evangelist Alveda King started our "Civil Rights for the Unborn" ministry and has served fulltime on our team for 16 years.

Find out more at our main website www.EndAbortion.US and on social media, in particular, on Twitter, GETTR, Instagram, Parler, Rumble and YouTube @frfrankpavone, and on Facebook at FatherFrankPavone.

See our other platforms on ProLifeSocialMedia.org,
our broadcasts at EndAbortion.TV and our podcast at
EndAbortionPodcast.US.

Leave us your prayer intentions at PrayerIntentions.org!

Please also support our work with a tax-deductible donation at our secure site: www.ProLifeDonation.com or call us at 321-500-1000.

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