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December 13, 2018

Your Eminence/Excellency:

9 Days for Life (www.9daysforlife.com) is the annual novena for the respect of all human life. Thousands of Catholics from parishes across the country join together to pray this novena, and each day focuses on a different aspect of respecting each other's God-given dignity.

The Committee on Pro-Life Activities invites you and your staff to join and share 9 Days for Life, which takes place **Monday, January 14 – Tuesday, January 22**.

Leading up to the annual Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children on January 22nd, this multi-faceted novena highlights a different intention each day and provides reflections, educational information, and suggested acts of reparation.



A leaders' toolkit (with resources in both English and Spanish) will include pulpit/bulletin announcements, flyers, downloadable images, a social media toolkit, and other resources. (Updates continue to be made to the webpage.)

Additionally, you will find attached a sample letter that can be used to send to the priests of your diocese requesting their participation and invitation to others at the parish level.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Anne McGuire in the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities at amcguire@usccb.org. Inquiries from other entities can be sent to prolife@usccb.org with "Attn: 9 Days for Life" as the subject line.

With the assurance of my gratitude for your support of the Gospel of Life and for all that you do to witness the presence of the Lord to the people we serve, I am,

In Jesus, the Lord of Life,

Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann
Archbishop of Kansas City, Kansas
Chairman
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
Committee on Pro-Life Activities

Sample Letter from Local Ordinary to Priests
Introducing *9 Days for Life* 2019

[Date]

Dear Brother Priests:

As you know, in January 1973, the Supreme Court effectively removed every legal protection from human beings before birth through its rulings in *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*. Since that time, millions of lives have been destroyed by abortion, and countless women have been traumatized so deeply that they spend years struggling to find peace, healing, and reconciliation.

Leading up to the annual Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children on January 22nd, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities sponsors a **nationwide novena** called *9 Days for Life*. This year, the novena runs **Monday, January 14 – Tuesday, January 22**.

The overarching intention of this multi-faceted novena is the respect of all human life, and each day highlights a different intention, also providing daily reflections, educational information, and suggested acts of reparation.

Participants can visit www.9daysforlife.com to get the novena by downloading a free mobile app (with customizable daily reminders), or by signing up for daily email or text messages. (A printable version is also available online.)

Pope St. John Paul II wrote that, “a great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer” (*Evangelium Vitae*, no. 100).

Please take a moment to consider sharing *9 Days for Life* with your parish community. Resources have been developed to assist you and your parish leaders in this effort. Bulletin/pulpit announcements, flyer, sample intercessions, homily helps, graphics, and more can be found at www.usccb.org/9-days-for-life-toolkit.

With gratitude for your continued leadership in life issues, I am

Faithfully in Christ,

[Signature]

[Bishop Name]