

Day 9: October 21

Intercession: May all Catholics help build a culture that cherishes every person as a precious gift from God.

Prayers: *Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be*

Reflection: Human life is under attack in countless ways in our culture today. In the face of so many threats to life, we may become discouraged and wonder how we can make a difference. As Christians, we depend not on our own strength, but on God and His Spirit moving within us.

Changing the culture is a process of conversion that begins in our own hearts. We are called to draw close to Jesus, willing to be instructed in His truth and transformed by His love. When we encounter Christ, experience His love, and deepen our relationship with Him in prayer and the sacraments, we come to a greater understanding of our own worth and that of others.

As we become more united with Jesus, it becomes easier to perceive how He is guiding us. God has given each of us particular gifts, and with those gifts He entrusts us with a role and duty within the Body of Christ.

There are many ways that we can help to build a culture that cherishes the gift of human life, including service, advocacy, education, and civic engagement, for example. With prayer as our essential foundation, may God guide each of us in how we are uniquely called to contribute to a culture of life.

Acts of Reparation (*Choose one.*)

- Abstain from meat today.
- Offer the “Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life” for today’s intention (respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph).
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today’s intention.

One Step Further: Prayer changes us. Spending time with Jesus transforms our hearts and opens us to receive the fullness of God’s grace. Inspired by God’s love, we are called to put our love into action. Reflect more deeply on how you can help build a culture of life in, “Radical Solidarity” (respectlife.org/radical-solidarity-reflection).

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