



A great prayer for life
is urgently needed,
a prayer which will rise up
throughout the world.

John Paul II (EV 100)

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Programme of "World Prayer for Life"

Aware of the enormous of evil that has been done around the world – millions of assassinations on human life: abortions, euthanasia, genetic manipulations; noticing various modern threats to human life and trusting deeply in God's Mercy and the omnipotence of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, as well as in the intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, we start on the 13th of October 2007, on the 90th Anniversary of the Fatima Revelation, in the World Centre of God's Mercy, Lagiewniki, Cracow (Poland) constant prayer for:

- Merciful God's expiation of the rejected gift of life,
- The increase of respect for every human being from conception until natural death,
- Ensuring in the legislation of all countries the unconditional right to life for every human being from conception until natural death.

Our every day prayers will include: the decade of Holy Rosary and The Chaplet of Divine Mercy. We will supplement our prayers – as much as is possible – with acts of mercy and the apostolate for the protection of human life.

We appeal to all people of good will to join in this act of praying and help spread this appeal in your environments.

Let this prayer be our response to the words of God's servant Pope John Paul II written down in the encyclical letter "Evangelium vitae": "A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world" (EV, No. 100).

We do not set any time limitations for this prayer; let every life protector decide for himself how long he wants to participate in this act of prayer.

World Prayer for Life was blessed by His Eminence Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz, Archbishop of Krakow, and His Eminence Tadeusz Rakoczy, Bishop of Diocese of Bielsko-Zywiec, where during the II World War, Nazi German Concentration Camp Auschwitz-Birkenau existed.





Prayer – a powerful weapon of life protectors

The Twentieth century and the beginning of the Twenty-first is a period of never-ending mass attacks on human life: The First World War, The Second World War with the terrible crime of the Holocaust, criminal communist revolutions, mass abortions, euthanasia, terrorism.

According to reliable estimations in the Twentieth century and so far in the Twenty-first over 1 billion unborn human lives have been killed.

The First World War brought death to around 10 million people, The Second World War about 55 million, the war with the unborn – 1 billion victims. This horrible war with unborn children is still on and recently its toll has been rising by 50 million annually.

Mass killing of unborn children started in the last century, after "the legalization" of the crime of abortion by the communist genocidal leader W.I. Lenin, in The Soviet Union in 1920.

The second leader who partially legalized the crime of abortion was another genocidal leader, Adolf Hitler. In 1936 this criminal introduced into The Third Reich the "law" allowing the killing of unborn children with defects or diseases. Practically speaking, in the Nazi Third Reich the crime of euthanasia started to be mass practiced.

The second half of the Twentieth century brought the legalization of the crime of abortion in many countries, here, among us, we all know about it well enough.

Let's put these figures together once again:

- The First World War – 10 million victims
- The Second World War – 55 million victims
- The war with unborn children – 1 billion victims.

This war continues, and every year another 50 million killings of unborn children are carried out, which means that nowadays, every day 140 thousand unborn children are deprived of life in a very cruel way.

God – the Life Giver and its only Master – gave us the Fifth commandment "Do not

kill" and on the pages of the Bible he enclosed a very dramatic warning: "Your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground!" (Gen 4, 10)

The conscience of present mankind, which counts 6 billion people, is burdened by the crime of 1 billion murders. It is difficult to talk about it in a calm way, it is difficult not to think about the possibility of God's punishment for this enormous evil.

In this special place, in the world's Center for God's Mercy in Cracow, Łagiewniki, aware of the size of the blame but also of the power of God's Mercy we do not fall into despair, we do not lose hope but with faith we call: "Jesus, I trust in You."

Let me here, in this place, during the Second World Prayer Congress for Life, to all life protectors of the 23 countries from around the world, quote the words of St. Paul – the Disciple of the Nations:

"But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful kindness became more abundant. So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful kindness rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom 5, 20–21)

Beloved, let's not be scared by the terrible toll of the civilization of death. Be willing to notice through the eyes of faith the immensity of the grace of Jesus Christ, which is waiting for those who with God's help will undertake the work of life protection.

We see the immensity of crime and we are confident with the strength of our faith that for us, for every single one of us, the immensity of Almighty God's Grace is prepared to help us eliminate this terrible evil.

In this place, by the relics of St. Sister Faustina, we need to recall her words: "(...) All grace comes through a prayer." (Diary. 146)

Let me remind you of just four utterances on prayer made by Jesus himself and written down in the Bible:

"Keep on asking, and you'll be given what you ask for. Keep on looking and you

will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened." (Mt 7, 7)

"You can pray for anything, and if you believe, you will have it." (Mk 11, 24)

"If two of you agree down here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three gather together because they are mine, I am there among them. (My 18, 19–20)

"You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, because the work of the Son brings glory to the Father. Yes, ask anything in my name, and I will do it!" (J 14, 13–14)

Here, in this Sanctuary of Divine Mercy, where our trust in God gets stronger I will remind you of the words of St John, the Disciple:

"And we can be confident that he will listen to us whenever we ask him for anything in line with his will." (1J 5, 14)

Can anyone of us doubt that our requests, prayers for life protection are not in line with God's will?

Today is the 90th anniversary of the Fatima Revelation. The first World Prayer Congress for Life took place last year in Fatima. We remember the calling of God's Mother for a prayer, for a prayer for the conversion of a sinner and for penance.

I'd like to remind you also of God's Mother's words written down in S. Faustina's diary:

"...My daughter, I demand from you a prayer, prayer and once again prayer for the world (...) everywhere, always in every place and every time – day or night whenever you wake up, pray with your spirit. With your spirit you can always keep on praying." (Diary 325)

Now, on behalf of the organizers I want to present a project, a prayer initiative (see: previous page).

Antoni Zięba, Ph.D. Eng.
President of the Polish Association
for the Protection of Human Life

A lecture from II World Prayer Congress for Life, Cracow Łagiewniki 11–14. X. 2007.

And this is the most important appeal!

You need to pray always, and never stop. Jesus said to pray and form your life through prayer (...) So from this place let this simple but essential appeal from the Pope reach all of you that listen to me, for this is the most important appeal. The most essential message!

God's Servant John Paul II (Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, 7 June 1979)

Fight for the right to be born granted to each and everyone... Do not be discouraged by problems, objections and failures you can encounter on your way. It is the human being that is at stake here and in this situation we cannot lock ourselves in a passive resignation.

Being Christ's vicar on earth, vicar of Christ the Incarnated Word of God, I say to you: put your faith in God, the Creator and the Father of all human beings. Also trust in the man who has been made in the image and likeness of God and called to be the child of God.

In the name of Christ who had died and risen, the cause of man received its final judgment: LIFE WILL CONQUER DEATH!

God's Servant John Paul II (Rome, 26 February 1979)



Photo: R. Rzepecki

To defend and promote life, to show reverence and love for it, is a task which God entrusts to every man...

*God's Servant John Paul II,
Evangelium vitae, No. 42*

May each one, according to his own possibilities, professionalism and competence always feel impelled to love and serve life from its beginning to its natural end. In fact, welcoming human life as a gift to be respected, protected and promoted is a commitment of everyone, all the more so when it is weak and needs care and attention, both before birth and in its terminal phase.

The Holy Father Benedict XVI, Rome, 3 February 2008

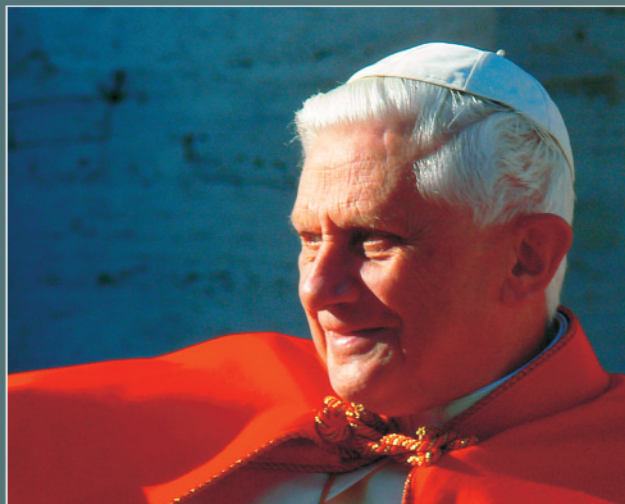


Photo: Father R. Wajczak



8 weeks from conception



3,5 months from conception



11 weeks from conception

Photos: A. Zachwieja

Human being from conception

- DAY 1.** Human life begins at the moment of conception. It is when many features of the child are determined. These are: sex, the colour of eyes, hair and skin, height, good health or tendency to certain diseases.
- DAY 21.** The heart of the child starts beating. The brain is formed.
- WEEK 6.** Child's spine and bones are formed. Kidneys, lungs, liver and heart already function. Electromagnetic signals transmitted by human brain can be registered.
- WEEK 10.** All the body organs function. Child's little hands and feet have been formed. There are papillary ridges on child's fingers. The child reacts to external stimuli, e.g. it feels pain. From this point on all the body organs only need to improve their efficiency and the child needs to grow and put on weight.
- WEEK 12.** The child can gather up its little legs, turn its feet, and straighten out its toes as well as clench its fist and raise its brows. Child's uniqueness can be seen in child's build and in its behavior. The child is sensitive to its mother's emotions and reacts to them.
- WEEK 40.** The child is born after 9 months of life in its mother's womb.

Józefa Deszczowa MD, PH.D

Human being since the very beginning

People of science and medicine on the beginning of human life

The human being is human from the moment when the sperm cell of the human male fertilizes the ovum of the female.
Prof. E. Blechschmidt, MD, PH.D, director of Institute of Anatomy at University of Göttingen

Truly, a living being exists from the moment of conception. The unborn child is a person...
Prof. A. Ingelman-Sunberg, MD, PH.D, head of Gynecology and Obstetrics Clinic in Stockholm

The life of a human being does not start from the moment of birth but from the moment of conception.
Prof. J. Roszkowski, MD, PH.D, member and co-founder of International Gynecological Society and member of Science Committee in Institute of Mother and Child in Warsaw

The union of an ovum with a sperm, called female and male gamete, starts a new, separate life. As a result of fertilization, a new man, fully genetically is formed, who develops all his or her life. Therefore such names as: embryo, fetus, new-born baby, child, adult, elderly person – refer to specific biological phases of development of always the same person.
Antoni Marcinek, MD, PH.D, director of Gynecology and Obstetrics Hospital in Cracow

Thanks to the excellent technological progress, we have invaded into the private life of fetus (...). The obvious fact that after conception a new human being is created is not a matter of preferences or opinions anymore. Human nature of this being from the moment of conception to his or her old age is not a metaphysical statement we can argue with but an ordinary experimental fact.

Prof. J. Lejeune, MD, PH.D, director of Institute of Genetics at University of R. Descartes in Paris