

# *Novena to Saint John Paul II* for life and against physician assisted suicide in Maryland

## ABOUT THE NOVENA

This novena, nine days of intercessory prayer, can be prayed starting anytime in January, February and March 2024 to urge the defeat of physician assisted suicide legislation in Maryland. We pray for a commitment by our elected officials to prioritize palliative care and support for those most at risk from physician assisted suicide: those with disabilities, who are nearing the end of life, or are struggling with a mental illness. We pray to Saint John Paul II, who showed us the value of human life through his own struggles and faith.

## *Novena*

### START THE NOVENA WITH THIS PRAYER EACH DAY

Merciful God, we pray with thanks and gratitude for the great spiritual gift of Saint John Paul II's apostolic life and mission.

Through his heavenly intercession we ask for the defeat of the physician assisted suicide bill and that the infinite worth of each human person is upheld through proper investment in palliative care.

Grant also that we may grow in love for You and proclaim boldly the love of Jesus Christ to all people. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

### DAILY QUOTE/REFLECTION:

Read the day's quote or reflection (on the next page)

### CONCLUDE THE NOVENA EACH DAY WITH THESE PRAYERS

#### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth,  
as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily  
bread, and forgive us our  
trespasses,

as we forgive those who  
trespass against us,

and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

#### Hail Mary

Hail, Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women  
and blessed is the fruit of thy  
womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our  
death. Amen.

#### Glory be to the Father

Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning  
is now, and ever shall be  
world without end. Amen.



## Novena to Saint John Paul II | Day One

All life has "inestimable value" — "even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect."

*Pope Francis, July 2013*

## Novena Day Two

"A society lacks solid foundations when, on the one hand, it asserts values such as the dignity of the person, justice and peace, but then, on the other hand, radically acts to the contrary by allowing or tolerating a variety of ways in which human life is devalued and violated, especially where it is weak or marginalized. Only respect for life can be the foundation and guarantee of the most precious and essential goods of society, such as democracy and peace."

*Evangelium Vitae, 101*

## Novena Day Three

"A society will be judged on the basis of how it treats its weakest members; and among the most vulnerable are surely the unborn and the dying."

*Pope Saint John Paul II, May 2000*

## Novena Day Four

"Respecting the dignity of people who are dying must involve respecting their lives, for without life there is no dignity."

*Cherishing Life, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2004*

## Novena Day Five

"Laws which legitimize the direct killing of innocent human beings through abortion or euthanasia are in complete opposition to the inviolable right to life proper to every individual; they thus deny the equality of everyone before the law."

*Evangelium Vitae, 72*

## Novena Day Six

"As believers, how can we fail to see that abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide are a terrible rejection of God's gift of life and love? And as believers, how can we fail to feel the duty to surround the sick and those in distress with the warmth of our affection and the support that will help them always to embrace life?"

*Pope Saint John Paul II, 1999*

## Novena Day Seven

"Fragility, pain and illness are a difficult trial for everyone...they are an appeal for patience, for suffering-with; we cannot give in to...temptation to apply quick and drastic solutions, stirred by false compassion or by simple criteria of efficiency and economic saving....True compassion marginalizes no one...much less consider their death as a good thing."

*Pope Francis, June 2016*

## Novena Day Eight

"We deserve to grow old in a society that views our cares and needs with a compassion grounded in respect, offering genuine support in our final days. The choices we make together now will decide whether this is the kind of caring society we will leave to future generations. "

*To Live Each Day with Dignity, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2011*

## Novena Day Nine

"Never tire of firmly speaking out in defense of life from its conception and do not be deterred from the commitment to defend the dignity of every human person with courageous determination. Christ is with you: be not afraid!"

*Pope Saint John Paul II, 2001*