**Petitions for Sanctity of Life Sunday or other occasions**

*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,*

*The below petitions are intended as a helpful resource for congregational and devotional life. They were specifically designed for Sanctity of Life Sunday, but are suitable for many occasions, and for the widest distribution. Please feel free to use any or all of them, amending them however you wish.*

Heavenly Father and protector of the innocent, as You sent Your Son to be conceived by the Holy Spirit and to be nurtured for nine months in Mary’s womb, we implore You to preserve all preborn children, and to grant us courage and resolve to seek their protection by the authorities that You have raised up for this purpose. Lord, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.

God our Father, Who has made all things by Your Word and Spirit, and has fashioned us men in Your own image, carefully and lovingly knit us together in our mother's womb: Renew in our hearts Your holy fear, that we may bear witness to the value of all human life redeemed by Christ’s death on the cross. Grant us conviction to speak boldly for the sake of those unable to speak for themselves, including preborn children, the elderly and frail in both body and mind. Teach us to defend the dignity of all human life from conception to natural death, and grant us grace to speak Your saving word of the Gospel to those who repent of sinful choices so that they would not despair but have the hope and healing in Your precious Son’s sacred blood. Lord, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Almighty God and merciful Creator, Whose enfleshed Son revealed His glory by healing the sick in mind and body, and by casting out evil spirits who foment despair, give patience and hope to the seriously and terminally ill, and move all health care workers to tend them in kindness till their life’s end. Lord, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Great Physician of body and soul, look tenderly on all those suffering want and distress, especially from the lingering effects of exposure to COVID. According to Your mercy and will, grant strength, healing, and restoration. Where You allow sickness to persist, grant patience, comfort, and the assurance that Your abundant promises surpass all momentary afflictions through which You refine our faith, more precious than gold or silver, in preparation for the fullness of healing of our resurrected bodies in our heavenly home. Lord, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.

O Wise and compassionate thrice holy Lord, have mercy on all who suffer the scorn of the world, harassment, and loss of employment for decisions taken for conscience’s sake, and in Your goodness restore and preserve the liberties of our land and its people in these dark days, so that all families may together rejoice in your generous provisions of daily bread and sustenance. Lord, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Lord of Righteousness, whose enfleshed Son freely shared our woes and suffered death in our human nature, grant us humbly to accept our mortality and deliver us from false trust in uncertain remedies, so that placing all our trust in You, we may patiently bear the cross and walk in Jesus’ footsteps through this life to the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.

King of the nations, Who alone are the Lord of life, receive our praise for the art of medicine, and our thanks for all advances made in this field. Grant Your holy fear to all physicians and nurses, that they may exercise their skills in accordance with Your commandments. Lord, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Almighty Creator and Blessed Redeemer, we praise you for all the gifts of your Creation, including medicine, technology and science. Teach us to rightly use these gifts according to Your will, and for Your glory. Where we have misused and abused them, especially through the willful or unknowing embrace of technologies derived from the murder of unborn children, forgive us and deliver us from our iniquities. Teach us to walk in your ways, that we may be responsible stewards of Your creation. Lord, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Light of the World, awaken Your Church in the darkness of these last days, work repentance and revival through the bold preaching of Your Word and the winsome witness of Your people. Speak Your Law in the hearts of all who bear authority in this land and grant them to rule in mindfulness of Your coming judgement. Lord, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.

O Wisdom from on high, You enlighten the hearts of all men with your glorious Truth and merciful presence. Teach us rightly to fear You, to follow Your instructions, and to walk according to Your will, and, thereby, to love one another. Grant that we would always seek understanding grounded in your authoritative Word, relying not on the ways of the faithless world which would quickly lead us astray down paths of unrighteousness and self-assuredness. Care for the health and wellbeing of our children and their development, protecting them from all things that may endanger their upbringing and threaten their Christian faith. Bring forgiveness of sins, peace of mind and a strengthening of faith to all who suffer guilt for decisions that they may regret. Lord, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Holy and Perfect King of heaven and earth, in Whom the dividing wall of hostility has been removed by the blessed water and blood which flowed from the side of Your tender Lamb when He offered His life for the sake of the world; impart to us a desire for Your holy things, and sincere fellowship with our brothers and sisters in the faith. Hinder all discord and division sown by the evil one in your Holy Church. Deliver us from all hostility and schism. Grant us unity in Faith and practice in the bond of peace. Deliver us from bondage to fear that, with joyful hearts we may eagerly attend services in Your house and receive all that You desire to give, edifying one another and glorifying your holy name in both word and deed. Lord, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Almighty and Everlasting God, from Whom comes all authority and wisdom; grant Your wisdom to our rulers, that as your servants they may govern peaceably and according to Your gracious will and for Your glory; that they would deter all wickedness, rebellion, and sedition to Your holy orders; and that the Gospel may be spread without hindrance. Where there has been abuse of authority and power, and when you allow wickedness to befall us, keep us steadfast in our faith and confession and more boldly speak Your truth in love, for the eternal benefit of our neighbours and for Your glory. Forgive us for any compromises, unfounded fears, and quickness to conform to the patterns of thinking and ungodly reasonings of the world, that we may be transformed by the renewal of our minds through your holy and powerful word; that the lips of the faithful singing Your praise, and the mouths of Your pastors proclaiming your truth, may never be silenced. Restore and confirm your presence and blessing to us that, mindful of the presence and testimony of the holy angels and great cloud of witnesses, we would treasure all that You have handed as we await our entrance into our eternal home. Lord, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.

King of Kings and Lord of lords, before Whom all must give an account on the Last Day, and Who alone is our salvation and hope; help us to remain steadfast to the One True Faith in spite of all pressures to conform to the ways of the world, and so remain bold confessors of Your glorious name. Deliver us from the secret idols of our hearts which we fear, love and trust instead of You. Cause the nations of this world to turn away from all false gods which seek to hold us in bondage to fear and superstition, that they may join with us in beholding Your Son, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world. Lord, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.