

# **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND PENANCE**

*(Monday, January 23, 2006 - USCCB's Observed Anniversary of Roe v. Wade)*

## **Holy Sacrifice of the Mass Intercessions**

For an end to all laws which legalize the taking of a human life, that our nation might embrace truth and justice;

We pray to the Lord:

For little children who await the birth of a brother or sister: that they may learn to cherish the child in her mother's womb;

We pray to the Lord:

For all who work in abortions clinics: that through the intercession of the Mother of God, they might come to love the unborn child;

We pray to the Lord:

For all women and men who have suffered the loss of a child through abortion: that they might find peace, hope, and healing in the Merciful Love of Christ and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

We pray to the Lord:

## **Roe v. Wade Prayerful Rememberances Ideas** **(Jan. 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2006)**

### **LIGHT A CANDLE FOR LIFE**

#### **PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM**

To provide a visible symbol of the community's effort to commemorate the anniversary of Roe v. Wade and remember the unborn children that have lost their lives since the Supreme Court decision in 1973 and the post-abortive suffering of their parents. As a sign of hope--the light symbolizes the unwavering commitment to continue the fight for the Gospel of Life into the future; that these children are now "with the Lord" (EV #99); and that the merciful love of the Gospel is a sign of hope and healing for post-abortive parents.

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- ◆ Ask the members of your parish, and if possible, the wider community, to "Light a Candle for Life" by displaying a lighted candle in a prominent window of their home on the night of January 22nd. To give it more attention, send a letter to your local newspaper announcing this activity and the purpose behind it. Invite other members of the community to join in this awareness effort.

## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

### PURPOSE OF PROGRAM

To communicate in a very specific way, the effects of abortion. Often associated with the memorialization of a death or serious event, church bells are a marked reminder that children's lives are actually being lost through abortion and their parents and society scarred by its wounds. No euphemisms or semantics can be applied to the sound of ringing bells as the community is reminded in very strong terms that *the culture of death* is still present among us, calling us to pray and sacrifice, for "*This demon can only be cast out by prayer and fasting.*" -Gospel

### INSTRUCTIONS

- ◆ Ask your pastor and the pastor of any other pro-life churches in your community to toll their church bells one minute for each million of abortions since 1973 or each year it's been legal. (As of 1998 there have been roughly 37 million surgical abortions in the U.S. There are roughly 1.5 million surgical abortions annually.)

## A SIMPLE REMEMBRANCE

### PURPOSE OF PROGRAM

To help remind the congregation to offer up the Mass for the babies whose lives have been lost through abortions since 1973 and for healing for their parents.

### INSTRUCTIONS

- ◆ A vase of white or red roses, one for each year of legal abortion or one for each million surgical abortions since 1973, could be carried in during the entrance or offertory procession and placed before the altar as a reminder to offer the Mass on behalf of the victims (parents and their children) of abortion. Some announcement should be made to explain the significance of the roses. (As of 2001 there have been roughly 40.5 million surgical abortions in the U.S. There are roughly 1.5 million surgical abortions annually.)

## OTHER SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

### A VASE OF RECOGNITION

### PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

To promote the "Culture of Life" on the parish level by remembering in this special way all parish families expecting babies as well as those members of the parish family who have lost a child from miscarriage, still birth or abortion. The roses represent the child in the womb, giving meaning to God's words in Jeremiah: "Before you came to birth I consecrated you". Suggested date is December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, but this can be done at any time.

### INSTRUCTIONS

- ◆ A vase should be placed on Mary's altar or another appropriate place. Those who are pregnant or who know someone who's pregnant are asked to place a pink or white rose in the vase. Those who lost a child or know of a child lost from miscarriage, still birth, or abortion place a red rose in the vase. Some announcement would need to be made a couple weeks ahead of time to explain the significance of the roses and invite parishioners to place the roses in the vase.