

## 1. Opening prayer

Heavenly Father, the beauty and dignity of human life was the crowning of your creation. You further ennobled that life when your Son became one with us in his incarnation. Help us to realize the sacredness of human life and to respect it from the moment of conception until the last moment at death. Give us courage to speak with truth and love and with conviction in defense of life. Help us to extend the gentle hand of mercy and forgiveness to those who do not reverence your gift of life. To all, grant pardon for the times we have failed to be grateful for your precious gift of life or to respect it in others. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

2. Walking with Moms in Need — this very important initiative is not really getting off the ground in the parish. I was hoping to meet with Dawn from the Archdiocese a couple weeks ago about it but wound up getting way laid by work. So I will try that again, but if anybody knows somebody who they think would be really great for this, please get them in touch with me and dawn.

3. Garden of the Innocents cross artwork - we will again be doing this year. Donna Vessini, the art teacher with the school, is soliciting drawings. We will hang them after 12/26 daily Mass.

4. 9 days for life – Novena January 19 - 27.

## 5. Closing prayer

O gentle Jesus, through whom all life came to be,  
hear our prayers for all men and women.  
Hear our prayers for the great and powerful.  
Hear our prayers for the weak and broken.  
Hear our prayers for the littlest and most innocent.  
Hear our prayer for tall human cedars  
and the very littlest of human flowers.  
May all see in each the souls so precious to You,  
and through the intercession of Saint Thérèse may each of them be kept saved and loved.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Article for the month: