



## DIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY-ST. JOSEPH RESPECT LIFE

### 40 Days for Life Opening Prayer & Reflection

Wednesday, September 26, 2018



#### **Comments:**

Thank you, Wendy; and thank you to everyone here this morning and to everyone whose presence over the next few weeks will make this 40 Days for Life Campaign event such a faithful witness to His Love and Mercy.

The dictionary defines the word, *dilemma*, as “a situation in which a difficult choice must be made between two or more undesirable alternatives.””

*Do I sacrifice my education, the goals for which I have worked so hard and, in so doing, possibly also alienate myself from my family in my greatest hour of need? Do I end the life of my child and risk carrying the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual burden for the rest of my own life?*

C.S. Lewis once said, “I believe in Christ, like I believe in the sun – not because I can see it, but because by it, I can see everything else.”

It is because of the light of truth that shines through the efforts of organizations like KC Coalition for Life, our many local Pregnancy Resource Clinics, and countless volunteers of prayer and counsel like yourselves, that young mothers and fathers can know that an untimely pregnancy is not a dilemma, but rather a wonderful unexpected gift.

Furthermore, as evil as the scourge of abortion is, Christ’s love and mercy are still greater. They can heal the pain of ridicule and separation and even death. More importantly, His forgiveness is always available to us no matter who we are and no matter what we have done. He desperately wants us to have it, even when we have not yet found our own personal path to forgiving ourselves.

Similarly, we must not forget that we are doing His work, not our own. We are merely tools so all we can do is commit ourselves to remaining well-oiled and sharp. Furthermore, He does not ask us to be successful, He only asks us to be faithful. Likewise, we cannot presume to even know when our efforts have been successful.

We will never know how many vehicles do not pull into the parking lot because of our prayerful presence. We cannot know how many people drive by simply to make sure they know where to go for their appointment tomorrow and choose not to return. We may never know about the bottled-water delivery person or landscaper who goes back to work and asks his or her company to stop doing business with the abortion facility. We can only speculate how many repairpersons, passersby or local business professionals witness our peaceful prayerful presence and then decide to stop trying to coerce a wife, girlfriend, sister or friend into having an abortion.

In fact, trying to count the number of babies we have saved is simply Satan’s way of setting us up to be discouraged and disappointed in those times when we feel we have not been successful.

Prayer is both the most powerful and the most abundant tool we have. We need only to humbly request and faithfully accept Christ’s limitless mercy.

Let us now bow our heads and together, as one Body of Christ, make use of this most powerful and most abundant tool.

#### THE CATHOLIC CENTER

Post Office Box 419037 . Kansas City, Missouri . 64141-6037

20 West Ninth Street . Kansas City, Missouri 64105

816. 756.1858, ext. 544 . 816.756.5221 fax . [www.respectlifekcsj.org](http://www.respectlifekcsj.org)

**Prayer:**

In the name of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit

Gracious and merciful Lord, we praise You and adore You, for it is only through Your grace and the gifts with which You have blessed each of us that we are able to do Your will.

We give You thanks for the gifts of KC Coalition for Life and the current 40 Days for Life Vigil and for those here today and all those who will participate who understand that through the light of Your truth, when it comes to the evil of abortion, there is no dilemma.

Lord, we offer a prayer of thanksgiving for our pastors and to all religious leaders who continue to speak the truth and who choose to lead and to protect their flocks.

As faithful members of the laity, we pray for strength and wisdom in the realization that any real and meaningful solution will depend on all of us, working together -- young and old, men and women, Evangelical, Baptist, Catholic and everything in between, to do Your Holy will.

Let us also pray for God's wisdom and strength for renewal as we follow St. Paul's instruction: 'Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect' (Romans 12:2)."

As we prepare to share in this 40 days of prayer and sacrifice, most importantly, let us remember His own sorrowful passion and solemn death, let us also pray willingly for the forgiveness of offenses

...for mothers, deaf to Your words, "This is my body, given up for you."

...for fathers, who like Judas, betray in return for the false promises of riches and personal gain.

...for the Pontius Pilates, who proclaim, "I am personally opposed, however..."

...for the Peters, who deny the truth out of expediency and fear.

...and finally, for the Roman soldiers among us who have bought into the lies of the Culture of Death, crucifying the innocent and then casting lots.

Lord, let us be like Your Blessed Mother and Your beloved disciple. Let us remain at the foot of the cross in steadfast union with our most innocent and most defenseless brothers and sisters during their hour of crucifixion.

Let us also remember even the Blessed Mother and St. John did not stop the crucifixion of Our Lord. Therefore, help us always to humbly acknowledge that we are doing Your will, not our own. Let us not be discouraged when we are unable to conquer every evil we encounter and let us rejoice in the knowledge that the eternal victory has already been won, and it is only through redemption that Your limitless mercy can be made manifest.

In Your Glorious and Merciful name, we pray. Amen.