

WORD OF LIFE: SEPTEMBER 2019

Recommended dates are provided, but you are welcome to use these materials at any time!

FEATURED THIS MONTH...

September 9, 2019

Memorial of Saint Peter Claver, Priest National Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities

St. Peter Claver was a Jesuit missionary from Spain who, in the 1600s, served and ministered to captured and enslaved Africans as they were taken off the slave ships landing in South America. St. Peter Claver desired to offer his life as “a slave of the slaves.”¹

The U.S. Catholic bishops suggest that parishes “could use the National Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities, which falls on the feast of St. Peter Claver (September 9), to organize activities that foster community, dialogue, and reconciliation. These encounters will help open our minds and hearts more fully and continue the healing needed in our communities and our nation.”²

The following resources are available:

- [Prayer Service for the Feast Day of St. Peter Claver](#)
- [Prayer for Peace in Our Communities](#)
- [Prayer of the Faithful for the Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities](#)

¹ Collect from the Mass of Saint Peter Claver, *Roman Missal, Third Edition*.

² USCCB, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*, 25.

Excerpt from *Roman Missal, Third Edition*, © 2010 International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Racism and Life Issues

In their November 2018 Pastoral Letter Against Racism, [Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love](#), the U.S. Catholic bishops wrote, “racism occurs because a person ignores the fundamental truth that ... all [humans are] equally made in the image of God.”¹ Racism fails to acknowledge the dignity with which God creates each person, and it contributes to a culture of death. The Church in the United States has spoken out consistently against abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, the death penalty, and other threats to human life; it is not a secret that these attacks have severely affected people of color. These brothers and sisters are targeted for **abortion**, disproportionately affected by **poverty**, have the greatest numbers on **death row**, and are most likely to feel pressure to end their lives through **assisted suicide** when facing serious illness.²

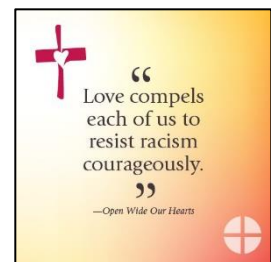
The feast of St. Peter Claver is an opportunity to highlight the connection between racism and various attacks against human life. As St. John Paul II reminded us, “*Where life is involved, the service of charity must be profoundly consistent*. It cannot tolerate bias and discrimination, for human life is sacred and inviolable at every stage and in every situation; it is an indivisible good”³ (emphasis added.) Additional [parish resources for combatting racism](#) are available online.

¹ USCCB, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*, 4.

² *Ibid*, 30.

³ Pope Saint John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1995), no. 87.

Excerpt from *Evangelium vitae*, © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.



View, download, and order the 2019-2020 Respect Life Program materials! www.usccb.org/respectlife

Copyright © 2019, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

WORD OF LIFE – September 2019

Intercessions for Life

September 1st

May the life of every human person,
from conception to natural death,
be protected in our laws
and cherished in our hearts;

We pray to the Lord:

**Twenty-second Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

September 8th

For solidarity and peace
in our global human family:
that we may work together
to protect the lives of those
who are most vulnerable;

We pray to the Lord:

**Twenty-third Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

September 15th

For all whose hearts ache
from participating in abortion:
may they be strengthened to seek
the Lord's compassion, mercy, and healing
in the Sacrament of Reconciliation;

We pray to the Lord:

**Twenty-fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

September 22nd

For all who are forgotten or cast off,
especially the unborn, the poor, the sick, and the aged:
may they be treated according to the dignity
with which God creates them;

We pray to the Lord:

**Twenty-fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

September 29th

For our elected officials:
That they may seek righteousness,
and work to secure justice and protection
for every human life;

We pray to the Lord:

**Twenty-sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

Bulletin Quotes

September 1st

“The Church has consistently taught that every human life is precious and worthy of protection.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

“Another Look at Abortion”



[Order](#) | [Download](#)

September 8th

“By our baptism, we are members of Christ’s body and sharers in his mission. Imitating Christ, we must care for all members of our communities, honoring each person as unique, sacred, and created in the image of God.

USCCB, “Open Wide Our Hearts” Bulletin Insert



[Download](#)

September 15th

“Throughout salvation history, God has welcomed repentant sinners with special joy. Jesus concludes the parable of the lost sheep with these words: ‘there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance’ (Lk 15:7).”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

“Life Matters: Forgiveness and Healing After Abortion”



[Order](#) | [Download](#)

September 22nd

“Suicidal individuals—with or without a terminal illness—typically do not want to die... The patient requesting assisted suicide is often asking, ‘Does anyone want me to be alive, or care enough to talk me out of this request and support me through this difficult time?’”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

“Every Suicide is Tragic”



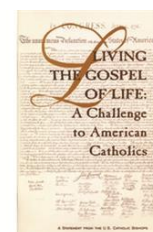
[Order](#) | [Download](#)

September 29th

“In a striking way, we see today a heightening of the tension between our nation's founding principles and political reality. We see this in diminishing respect for the inalienable right to life and in the elimination of legal protections for those who are most vulnerable. There can be no genuine justice in our society until the truths on which our nation was founded are more perfectly realized in our culture and law.”

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics



[Order](#) | [Read Online](#)

View, download, and order the 2019-2020 Respect Life Program materials! www.usccb.org/respectlife

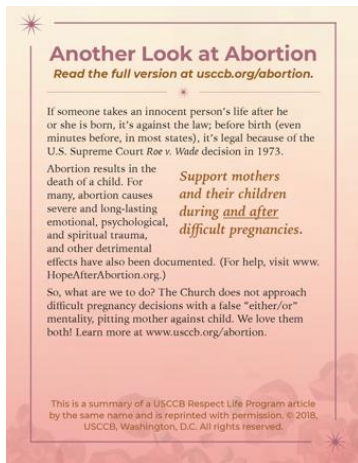
Copyright © 2019, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

WORD OF LIFE - September 2019

Bulletin Art

You are welcome to use these and other downloadable images from the online [Respect Life image gallery](#), provided they are not altered in any way, other than the size. Thank you!

Sunday, September 1st, 2019



- Bulletin Box (Color): [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- Bulletin Box (Grayscale): [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

Sunday, September 15th, 2019



- Image: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

Sunday, September 22nd, 2019



- Image: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

View, download, and order the 2019-2020 Respect Life Program materials! www.usccb.org/respectlife

Copyright © 2019, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.