

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday Litany

Love is patient.

How long, oh Lord, will we wait for an end to abortion? Give us new ideas, fresh compassion, and renewed purpose as we hope for a day when all lives are valued, and that anything that stands in the way of a baby being born -- money, support, sickness, stress, racism -- would be met with a deep, lasting solution.

Love is kind.

Give us kindness. Not niceness, which stays silent in the face of injustice, but kindness which sees others as fully human, and offers the resources that you've given us to advocate for everyone's flourishing.

It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

If there is a part in us that judges others, or considers ourselves better than another, root it out of us, Lord. We are all sinners, we have all been saved not by our goodness, but by your grace. May this community be a place not of boasting but of welcome for women and men who have experienced abortion.

It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

God, people feel so strongly about abortion. And we know that there are likely people in this room who disagree with one another about how to solve the problem of abortion, or how to protect unborn life, or how to address the inequalities that give some babies a chance at flourishing and prevent others from the same. Some see this as a simple issue. Others see more complexity. Help us to honor each other. You created the church to be unified in the face of difference. So whenever we talk about political issues, help us to remember those who are most impacted -- women of color, babies not yet born, those who grieve after the loss of a child, or who face impossible situations while pregnant. Help us to honor them in the ways we talk and argue, in the ways we debate, in the ways we vote.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

Give us eyes to bravely see the ways that racism has impacted black and brown and Indigenous women, and their babies, even if knowing that truth leaves us feeling helpless or defensive or sad. And as we know better, help us to do better -- to see people as wholly beloved by you, to embrace one another in relationships and community, to advocate for changes in policies and practices that could save the lives of mothers and babies.

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

In the face of racism, death, and grief, give us a renewed vision for your good news, Oh Lord. Protect us from complacency, give us trust that each life is in your hands, give us hope that racism and its evil impacts will someday come to an end, and help us to persevere in seeking that day -- bravely considering our own hearts, our own relationships, and our own power to change systems and structures so they reflect the heart of the gospel.

Love never fails.

You don't fail us, Lord. In this strong truth, we pray.

Amen.

