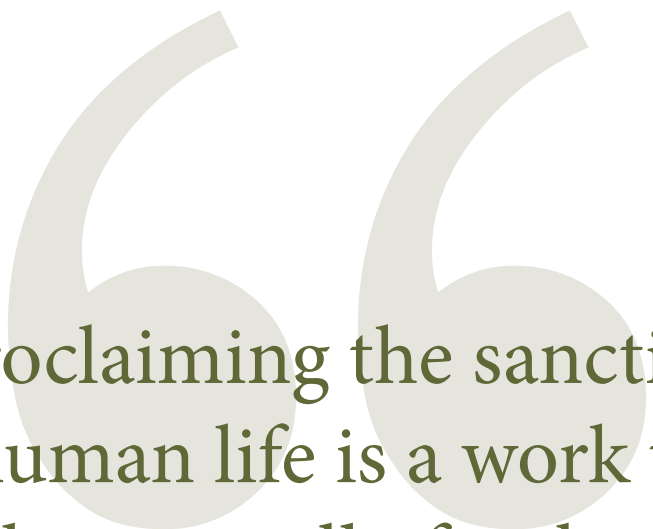




VIDEO 3

THIS IS GOD'S WORK:
THE POWER OF PRAYER



Proclaiming the sanctity
of human life is a work that
belongs to all of us but it
is primarily God's work.
We are his instruments; it's
the Holy Spirit that moves
and makes it all happen.

SUMMARY

In the third video, “This is God’s Work: The Power of Prayer,” participants are invited to enter into a relationship of prayer with God, who is love, and to reflect on the reality of prayer as the foundation and cornerstone of a culture of life. Proclaiming and upholding the sanctity of human life is a work that belongs to all of us, but is primarily God’s work. We can do nothing without him. We need to be grounded in prayer for our actions and efforts to be ultimately fruitful, because it is ultimately Jesus who changes hearts and minds and gives life.

OPENING PRAYER

Most Holy Trinity, we praise and thank you for loving each one of us into life. We ask for the grace to receive anew the gift of our own lives, that we may live deeply out of our true identity as your beloved sons and daughters. We pray that each person may know themselves as chosen and loved, willed into being from the very beginning of time and held in existence at every moment by your love. Father, we ask you to fill us with your light and renew us with your peace. Holy Spirit, we ask for the courage to speak your Word of life; may our actions, words, and thoughts serve to uphold and protect the dignity and worth of every person, and may our lives give radiant witness to the truth of your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Participants are invited to share something that is meaningful to them. Sharing an experience of importance is deeply humanizing and encourages the formation of trust between participants. These connections are the groundwork for building community.

Time: 10 minutes

Materials: *INTO LIFE: Love Changes Everything* Participant Guide

Instructions: Invite participants to share their response to the "Introductory Question".

Reminders: Remind participants of time boundaries (if any) and confidentiality.

INTRODUCTORY QUESTION

Describe an experience or moment in your life when you realized the power of prayer.

Read the question twice and allow a few moments for quiet reflection.

VIDEO #3

THIS IS GOD'S WORK: THE POWER OF PRAYER



Time: 10 minutes

Materials:

Video 3: "This is God's Work: The Power of Prayer"

Instructions:

Introduce video segment.

Sample Introduction:

In this third video, "This is God's Work, The Power of Prayer," we are invited to reflect on prayer as essential to a culture of life. The work of proclaiming the dignity of life belongs to all of us, but it is first and foremost God's work. We are co-workers, humble instruments in the hands of a loving God. He invites us into this work and through the gifts of the Holy Spirit makes even our smallest works bear fruit in eternal life.

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

Time: 15-30 minutes

Space: Church, if possible, or a quiet place for reflection.

Materials: *INTO LIFE: Love Changes Everything* Participant Guide

Instructions: Transition to period of personal reflection.

Reminders:

Remind participants that this time is for their personal reflection and that they are not required to answer every question or reflect on every Scripture passage, but should follow the promptings of God.

Suggested Scripture passages and questions are offered as aides to prayer.

Space for note-taking and journaling is provided in the *INTO LIFE: Love Changes Everything* Participant Guide.

SCRIPTURE FOR REFLECTION

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

“Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

MARK 11:22-24

“And Jesus answered them, ‘Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.’”

JEREMIAH 29:12

“Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.”

MARK 9:29

“Lord, why is it that we weren’t able to cast the demon out?’ and the Lord said, ‘This kind of demon can only be cast out by prayer and fasting.’”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Was there a word, phrase, or idea that resonated with me? That was new to me?
2. In the video, Sister Virginia Joy, SV says, “Prayer is a personal relationship of love with the living God.” Is this how I experience prayer? What does prayer look like in my own life?
3. Sister Virginia Joy also says, “God desires you, your prayer. He desires to live in you. There’s no one who can replace you.” Do I give God the time and space to gaze upon me and to reveal to me how he sees me? Pause for a moment and ask God to show you how he sees you.
4. Do I trust that God cares about my life, my prayers, and the life of others? What are barriers that cause me to doubt God’s infinite care and power?
5. Sister Virginia Joy observes, “There are many ways to pray for the cause of life ... every [prayer] can be an act of love for those who are wounded by the culture of death and, ultimately, for Jesus who said, ‘As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’” How does hearing these words change my understanding of prayer and sacrifice? In what ways do I feel called to pray and offer sacrifice for others?
6. Sister Virginia Joy shares, “Prayer means allowing our own hearts to be converted first, by opening ourselves in loving surrender to Christ. This is why prayer frees us from self-reliance and burnout... because we’re leaning our full weight on the God who created the cosmos, not on our own strength.” Are there areas of my life that I have not surrendered to God and in which I feel overly burdened or burned out? Imagine Jesus is sitting in front of me right now, reaching out to me, and inviting me to place all those things that burden me into his hands. Take a moment to hand over, one by one, all those areas of your life that you have not surrendered to him.
7. Is there a fruit from my prayer that I would like to share with others?

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We need silence to be able to touch souls.
The essential thing is not what we say,
but what God says to us and through us.
All our words will be useless unless they
come from within; words that do not give
the light of Christ increase the darkness.

—MOTHER THERESA

”

DISCUSSION

After a period of personal reflection and prayer, participants re-gather as a large group for sharing and discussion.

Time: 15-30 minutes

Materials: *INTO LIFE: Love Changes Everything* Participant Guide

Instructions: Facilitator transitions to group discussion. Offer conversation guidelines, if using them.

Reminders:

Remind the group to maintain confidentiality. All comments and stories should stay within the group.

Remind participants that they are encouraged, but not required, to share.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Is there a fruit from your prayer that you would like to share with others?
2. Sister Maeve Nativitas, SV says, “Praying outside of an abortion clinic is about being a sidewalk contemplative at a modern day Calvary. We approach a clinic as we would approach Jesus hanging on the cross. ... In a real, mystical way the crucified Jesus is there in the frightened hearts of the mothers and in the vulnerable lives of their children.” How do you understand the act of praying outside of an abortion clinic? What new ideas or insights does Sister Maeve Nativitas’ insight raise for you?
3. Sister Virginia Joy says, “Proclaiming the sanctity of human life is a work that belongs to all of us but it is primarily God’s work. We are his instruments; it’s the Holy Spirit that moves and makes it all happen. ... We can do nothing without him.” Is this your experience of pro-life work? How have you or can you allow God to work and speak through you?
4. Do you ever feel burned out? In what areas of your life do you feel burned out? What are ways in which you try to counter burnout? How have you experienced prayer as an antidote burnout?

“

Sometimes we may feel insignificant or that our labor has been for nothing, but everything done in and with the Lord carries eternal consequences. He takes our prayer, our love, our faithfulness seriously and allows us to participate in the salvation of the world.

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CLOSING

Thank the participants for sharing and their openness and sharing in the discussion. The facilitator may also ask if there are any closing questions, comments, or points of clarification before proceeding to the closing prayer.

What's coming up next?

Video 4: "Vulnerability: An Identity Crisis"

In the fourth video, "Vulnerability: An Identity Crisis," participants will be introduced to the profound vulnerability experienced by a woman who is unexpectedly pregnant. Deep and genuine accompaniment is needed if this experience of vulnerability is to be transformed into an experience of grace and strength.

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, we praise and thank you for your goodness and mercy.

We ask for an outpouring of your Spirit upon the whole world. We pray that every person may powerfully encounter your love today, and that all will come to know that life is a gift to be cherished and protected. Please give us the grace of deep prayer, that we may be united to your heart, filled with your love, and radiant with your grace. We give you permission to draw souls to life through us.

We ask this in your name as we pray: Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

Amen. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of Life, pray for us.

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