

Respect for Life



St. Mother Teresa at the National Prayer breakfast in Washington DC in 1997 spoke boldly but eloquently on selfless love and the need to respect life in all its forms but especially in the womb. (1) Here are brief excerpts:

- It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish.
- Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use violence to get what they want. That is why the great destroyer of love and peace is abortion.
- Abortion is profoundly anti-women. Three-quarters of its victims are women: Half the babies and all the mothers.
- If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.
- If you want a love message to be heard, it has got to be sent out. To keep a lamp burning we have to keep putting oil in it.
- Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.
- In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love.

And so, this day, let us pray:

God of life and love, you created us in your image and sent your Son to bring us life. Instill in us a respect for all life, from conception to natural death. Empower us to work for justice for the poor. Nourish us that we may bring food to the hungry. Inspire us to cherish the fragile life of the unborn. Strengthen us to bring comfort to the chronically ill. Teach us to treat the aging with dignity and respect. Bring us one day into the glory of everlasting life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen (2)

1. Full text of the speech is available at www.crossroadsinitiative.com
2. Publication: Liturgy of the Word, Year A p.279

