## Prayer for the Protection of Human Life

Heavenly Father,
Lord and Maker of all that is good, Fill our hearts
with joy before the wonders of Your creation.
Open our eyes to the presence of
Your beloved Son Jesus
in all those we encounter and especially
in the weakest and most vulnerable among us.
Where we see life threatened, at its beginning or
at its end, or by poverty and deprivation,
inspire us with love and mercy, so that,
empowered by Your Holy Spirit,
we may work together to defend human dignity.
Help us to build a culture of life,
a culture in which each and every person is loved
and valued as Your child,
from conception to natural death, and in every
circumstance of life.
*Amen.*


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### National March for Life – May

This is an opportunity for pro-lifers across Canada to witness to the right to life in this country and to expect from the federal government that it protects the lives of Canadian children who are threatened by abortion. The March for Life will also take place in every province in front of provincial legislatures.

### 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care – May

Initiated by CWL, this is usually held during National Hospice Week in May. The event is a prayerful and profound witness for the sanctity of human life.

### LIFE CHAIN – October

Life Chain is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life individuals across Canada standing for 60 minutes praying for Canada and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that the church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death.

### 40 Days for Life

This is a peaceful time of prayer and fasting to pray for an end to abortion. It is a time of community outreach and for speaking out for those who cannot speak for themselves.


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## The Catholic Women's League of Canada
## believes in life from its beginning to its natural end.

***Let us not underestimate the power of so many voices united in prayer.*** (Pope Francis)

The Catholic Women's League of Canada represents almost 80,000 women across Canada, in every province, territory and in the military. Members address the respect and protection of all human life from conception to natural death -locally, nationally and internationally.

Being pro-life invites members to take action. They see God in the destitute, lonely, disadvantaged, ill and those in palliative/hospice care. To be pro-life is to cherish life from conception to natural death. As advocates, members make their sisters aware of issues such as abortion, euthanasia and physician assisted suicide.

This pamphlet is an invitation to members to pray, walk, write and work until all human life is respected and cherished. We need to ask ourselves, "What more can I do to support ALL stages of human life?"

National Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

# Beginning of Life

## As a member, I can help by:

- Praying for expectant mothers
- Attending a mass each month for the unborn
- Praying for pro-life organizations and the volunteers who administer them
- Standing up for life by taking part in events such as March for Life, Life Chain and 40 Days for Life
- Volunteering for pro-life events
- Donating financially to pro-life organizations

## When life is chosen, members can continue to help by:

- Providing new clothing for babies and hosting baby showers for pregnancy care centers
- Knitting/sewing quilts for seniors, hospitals or palliative hospice care units

## Actions by members across the country:

- Helping to distribute pro-life information
- Serving on boards of directors for pro-life organizations
- Erecting billboards and signs respecting all forms of life

# Natural End of Life

## As a member I can:

### Pray:

**You will find the appropriate prayers and services at cwl.ca.**

- Pray for the protection of human life
- Pray for caregivers
- Pray the rosary reflecting on palliative/hospice care issues
- In May organize or attend 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care and respect of all human life issues. Encourage your parish to have a mass for palliative care that day.

### Help by:

- Arranging for and/or attending a presentation on palliative/hospice care
- Creating or joining a committee to open a hospice home in your community
- Fundraising for a palliative care facility
- Writing letters to members of the federal and provincial governments to support League resolutions:
  - to inform them of Catholic views on abortion, palliative/hospice care and euthanasia
  - to request that the freedom of conscience of healthcare professionals be protected
- Circulating and signing petitions to identify palliative hospice care as a defined medical service covered under the *Canada Health Act*

### Visit

- Visit those in palliative/hospice care homes to help them avoid loneliness and depression
- Encourage them to talk about themselves, find out what they like to do and help them to do it (e.g., poetry, reading, singing, painting, knitting, playing cards)
- Spend time accompanying the sick and shut-ins at home or in hospitals.

### Educate yourselves and others

- Become trained as a palliative/hospice care volunteer. See the Life Canada website www.LifeCanada.org for training opportunities through the *Dying Healed* program
- Arrange to show the new shorter version video *Fatal Flaws* (55 mins.) to your council. Include your whole parish in the viewing. To purchase this video go to the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition website www.epcc.ca or call (877)-439-3348.