

# Pope Saint John Paul II Novena

## to prevent passage of the assisted suicide bill in Massachusetts

### ABOUT THE NOVENA

As assisted suicide bill misleadingly called the “End of Life Options Act” is repeatedly introduced in Massachusetts, we continue our work against its advancement. Pray that legislators and doctors reject the false compassion that seeks to alleviate suffering by eliminating the sufferer, and that they reject the dangerous appeal of those who want to control the manner and timing of their deaths. May they seek to protect the countless people with disabilities, chronic illnesses, and those who are dying from being repeatedly offered assisted suicide instead of care and comfort. Pray they protect the good of all by safeguarding our healthcare system in which doctors are not permitted to provide patients with the means to end their lives. Defeat it by raising our voices in opposition to our elected officials.

## Novena

### START WITH THE NOVENA PRAYER EACH DAY

Merciful God, we pray with thanks and gratitude for the great spiritual gift of Saint John Paul II’s apostolic life and mission. Through his heavenly intercession, we ask that the “End of Life Options Act” be defeated and that the infinite worth of each human person be upheld in all health care. Grant that his example and teaching help us to grow in love for You and to proclaim boldly to all the love of Jesus Christ and dignity of every human person. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

### DAILY QUOTE/REFLECTION

Read the quote/reflection for the day (on the next page)

### CONCLUDE WITH THE LORD’S PRAYER, HAIL MARY, AND THE GLORY BE

#### The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth,  
as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who  
trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

#### Hail Mary

Hail, Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women  
and blessed is the fruit of thy  
womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our  
death. Amen.

#### Glory Be

Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen

Pope Saint John Paul II, pray for us!

# Novena Reflections

## Day One

"All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect."

*Pope Francis, July 2013*

## Day Two

"A society lacks solid foundations when, on the one hand, it asserts values such as the dignity of the person, justice and peace, but then, on the other hand, radically acts to the contrary by allowing or tolerating a variety of ways in which human life is devalued and violated, especially where it is weak or marginalized. Only respect for life can be the foundation and guarantee of the most precious and essential goods of society, such as democracy and peace."

*Evangelium Vitae, 101*

## Day Three

"A society will be judged on the basis of how it treats its weakest members; and among the most vulnerable are surely the unborn and the dying."

*Pope Saint John Paul II, May 2000*

## Day Four

"Every sick person has the need to be heard and to understand that Christ 'knows' what it means to feel alone, neglected, and tormented by the prospect of physical pain."

*USCCB Samaritanus bonus Compendium, 2020*

## Day Five

"Laws which legitimize the direct killing of innocent human beings through abortion or euthanasia are in complete opposition to the inviolable right to life proper to every individual; they thus deny the equality of everyone before the law."

*Evangelium Vitae, 72*

## Day Six

"As believers, how can we fail to see that abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide are a terrible rejection of God's gift of life and love? And as believers, how can we fail to feel the duty to surround the sick and those in distress with the warmth of our affection and the support that will help them always to embrace life?"

*Pope Saint John Paul II, January 1999*

## Day Seven

"Physician-assisted suicide is part of a 'throwaway culture' that offers a 'false compassion' and treats a human person as a problem... True compassion does not marginalize anyone, nor does it humiliate and exclude - much less considers the death of a person as a good thing."

*Pope Francis, June 2016*

## Day Eight

"Every individual who cares for the sick has the moral responsibility to recognize the inalienable good that is the human person and adhere to the highest standards of respect by safeguarding human life until natural death."

*USCCB Samaritanus bonus Compendium, 2020*

## Day Nine

"Never tire of firmly speaking out in defense of life from its conception and do not be deterred from the commitment to defend the dignity of every human person with courageous determination. Christ is with you: be not afraid!"

*Pope Saint John Paul II, February 2001*

Based on a novena from the Bishops Conference of England and Wales ~ <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/novena-to-john-paul-ii/>