

November 2024

PRAYING WITH *the Holy Father*

Monthly Intention Lesson Plan developed for
Middle School and High School Students



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
UNITED STATES | CANADA APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

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in collaboration with [St. Joseph Ministries](#)

IN HONOREM PRINCIPIS APOSTOLICI V. B.

November 2024

For Anyone Who Has Lost A Child

Opening Prayer

- Begin with the Sign of the Cross
- Prayer: The Daily Offering



Father, here I am. I know you are always with me. I place my heart in the Heart of your Son, Jesus, who gives Himself to us in the Eucharist each day. May your Holy Spirit make me His friend and apostle, available for His mission of compassion. Take, Lord and receive all of my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings this day -all I am and possess- in communion with my brothers and sisters in the Pope's prayer network. With Mother Mary, I pray for the mission of the Church, for our bishops, and for the Pope's intention this month. Amen.

Introduce Intention

The Intention

- For November, the Holy Father invites us to pray with him for anyone who has lost a child.
- We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

The Pope Video

- If time allows, watch the Pope Video produced for this month.
- The video is available at <https://thepopevideo.org/>

Sacred Scripture

- Read Psalm 34:18 or Revelation 21:4

Note: Invite one of your students to read the scripture entry.

Reflection

by Dr. Abby Jorgensen, Professor at Saint Louis University

We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

The suffering of losing a child – to violence, to hunger, to random genetic mutations that science explains simply as bad luck – can be overwhelming. As parents whose child has died or is dying, we can relate deeply to Jesus' words in the Garden of Gethsemane, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow, even to the point of death" (Matthew 26:38)! And, as the pastors, parishioners, friends, and family members of those experiencing this suffering, it can be an uncomfortable or frightening call to walk alongside someone suffering in such a way.

Where, here, is love? God's love for us is present in, not despite, our pain. As we grieve our children, it can be easy to lose sight of the justness, generosity, or joy of God. And in all of these moments, we can with surety return to the foundational principle that God is love.

In Jesus' grief in Gethsemane, He turned to His friends. Each of us members of the Church has the opportunity to be the friend, present to the grieving person who sobs and sweats blood in the middle of the night.

As community members who learn of the deaths of the children around us and are called to support their parents, let us heed the call to enter willingly into the pain of another and keep watch with loss parents.

My fellow loss parents, let us marvel at the existence of our children and at our role in their being. Let us weep and wonder and cry out together at their passing. Let us take comfort in the Holy Spirit and remind both ourselves and each other how deeply beautiful their short lives were.

My fellow support people, let us, the community members, rise to our call of providing loving, tender, and quiet care to those who grieve, and let us, the mourners, seek our consolation in the Great Comforter.

Saint Connection

St. Gianna Beretta Molla stands as a model of faith and selfless love in the modern Church. A devoted wife, mother, and physician, she is remembered for her deep trust in God and her ultimate sacrifice for the life of her unborn child.

- Advocate for the dignity of life, both in her medical profession and in her personal decisions, becoming a symbol of respect for life in all stages.
- Known for her unwavering courage: a mother who faced the choice between her own life and the life of her child, and who chose to prioritize the child's survival.
- Despite the personal cost, St. Gianna's faith and profound love for her family united her with Christ's example of self-giving, making her a powerful witness to the sanctity of life and the strength of maternal love.

Discussion

Encourage students to reflect on the monthly intention. Allow them to share their thoughts aloud.

- How can we follow St. Gianna Beretta Molla's example of faith and perseverance in supporting those who are grieving?
- What can we do to help bring peace and consolation to those who have lost a loved one?

Extension Activities:

- Discuss ways to raise awareness and support for grieving families through parish activities or community service projects.

Closing Prayer

- Prayer:

Lord, we thank you for the example of St. Gianna and ask for her intercession for all parents who have lost a child. May they be comforted by your presence and supported by their community. Help us to be instruments of your peace and consolation. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- End with the Sign of the Cross