

July 2026

PRAYING WITH *the Holy Father*

Monthly Resource

for small group gatherings or classroom use



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
UNITED STATES APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

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July 2026

For respect for human life

Opening Prayer

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



Good Father, I know you are with me. Here I am on this new day. Place my heart once more with the Heart of your Son Jesus, who gives himself for me and who comes to me in the Eucharist. May your Holy Spirit make me his friend and apostle, available for his mission of compassion.

I place in your hands my joys and hopes, my works and sufferings, everything that I am and have, in communion with my brothers and sisters of this Worldwide Prayer Network.

With Mary, I offer you my day for the mission of the Church and for the prayer intentions of the Pope and my Bishop for this month. Amen.

Introduce Intention

The Holy Father's July 2026 Intention

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing its as a gift from God.

The Pope Video

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

Reflection

Emily Berning, Co-Founder & President

Let Them Live

Formed by the Same Hands

When I think of pro-life Bible verses, my mind usually goes to Jeremiah 1:5 or Psalm 139:13-16, because what could be more pro-life than being known, knit together in our mother's womb, and created with purpose? But the other day, I came across a verse I haven't seen used in a pro-life context before.

Job 31:15 says, "Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same One form us both within our mothers?"

In this verse, Job is talking about how he treats other people and what shapes that. It is not based on their status, their choices, or their circumstances. It goes deeper than that: they share the same origin, for the same God formed them all.

Job understood that human value is not something we get to assign to one another. It's something we receive from our Creator. Before we are ever known by the world, we are known by God. Before we are seen as wanted or unwanted, planned or unplanned, we are formed with intention.

And that truth reaches all the way into the womb.

The unborn child is not outside of this reality, but right at the center of it. Formed by the same hands, bearing the same image, and carrying the same dignity as you and I. There is no real distance between us and the lives we are called to protect.

After more than seven years since starting the pro-life organization Let Them Live, I've seen over 1,000 lives saved from abortion. It never becomes ordinary because it never stops being a miracle. The same God who formed us is still forming them.

Every life is known, deeply loved, and formed by the same hands.

Sacred Scripture

- Jeremiah 1:5- “ Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you.”
- Job 31:15- “Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same One form us both within our mothers?”

Saint Connection

St. Margaret of Castello (1287- 1320)– Patron Saint of the blind and disabled

- She was born blind, a dwarf, and with a curved spine, and her parents hid her away for years out of shame, yet she became a saint and witness to the dignity of disabled life.
- At age 16, her parents abandoned her when she was not healed, but the poor of the town took her in, showing the importance of caring for the most vulnerable.
- She chose to serve the sick, dying, and prisoners despite her own suffering, demonstrating a concrete commitment to defending and loving every human life.

Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to see human life in every stage as a gift from God rather than something to be measured by usefulness, health, or age?
- The reflection says human dignity is something we receive, not assign. Where do we see society trying to assign value to life, and how should we respond as Catholics?
- The phrase “formed by the same hands” suggests a deep unity. What practical actions can we take to live out that unity, especially toward the most vulnerable?

Closing Prayer

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of life,
bless us with the courage to defend all life
from conception to natural death.
Bless us with the strength to respect all peoples
from east to west, from north to south,
so that we may truly follow the call of Jesus to be neighbor.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.
Amen

- End with the Sign of the Cross