

**October:
Life of the Unborn Child -
Pray & Protect
Respect Life Month**

Opening Prayer:

Let us pray...

Dear Lord, You have created each of one of us in our mother's womb. Thank You for the gift of life that You have given us. Help us to cherish our life each and every day. Please show us the purpose for which we were created so that we may always live Your Will. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.



Spiritual Adoption: A Reflection -Your Baby is 1-month old!

Thank you for praying for me every day! Can you believe I am already one month old? My heart is now pumping my own blood and my backbone is growing. I am still very tiny, and I am so thankful for your prayers. I know that your prayers are helping me to grow every day.

Spiritual Adoption Prayer:

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger."

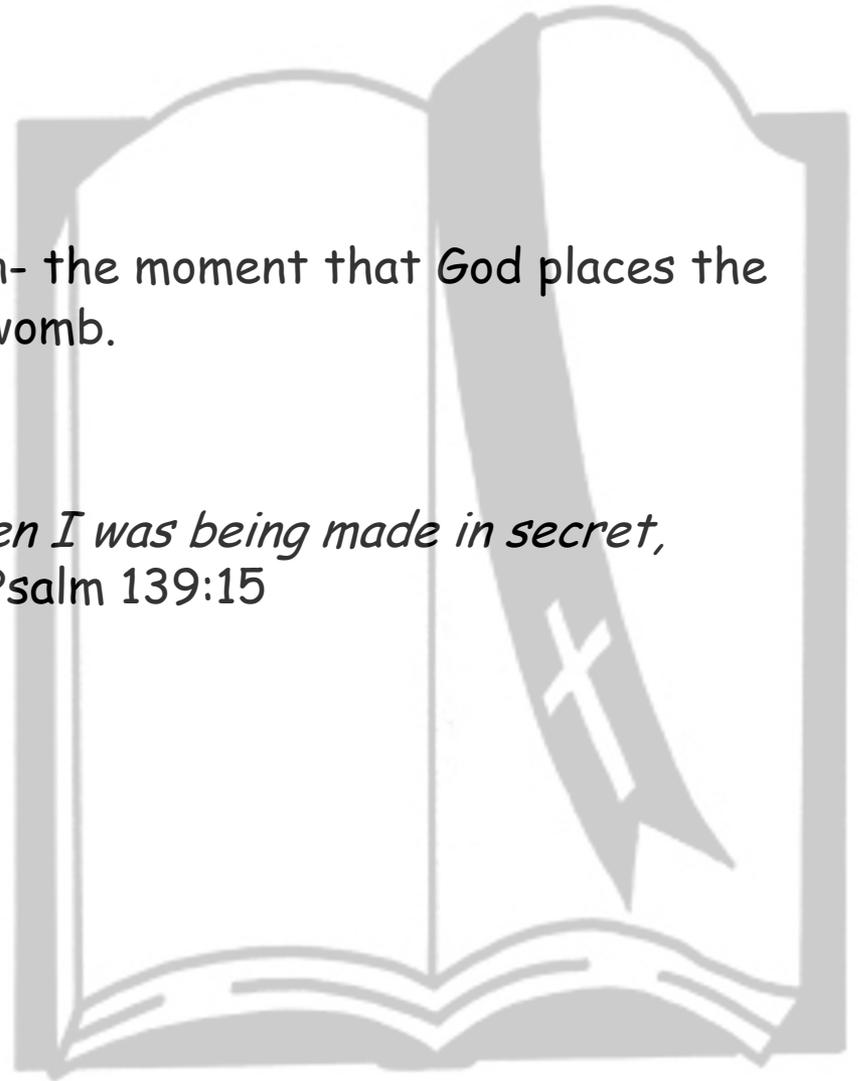
- Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen



Objective: Life begins at conception- the moment that God places the infant's soul inside his or her mother's womb.

Bible Verse:

"My bones are not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, fashioned in the depths of the earth." Psalm 139:15



Theme: You were planned by God and created in your mother's womb. He has a purpose for you in this world. When you were growing inside your mom, you were the same person that you are today. You were just smaller and needed protection to grow. We are called to pray for and protect the unborn babies.

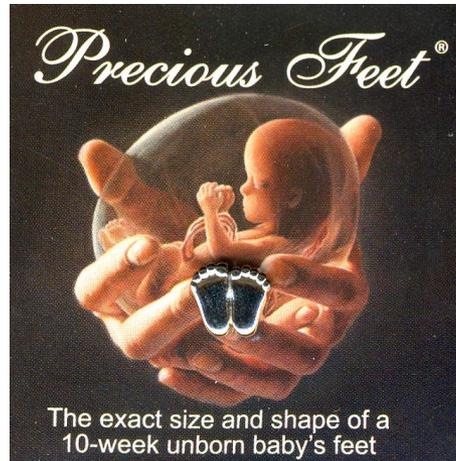
Did you know?

Fetus- means "little one"- life



DISCUSSION:

Little Feet Pin or Baby Model



Pictures of baby development & ultrasound video

National Right to Life Fetal Development -

<http://www.nrlc.org/archive/abortion/facts/fetaldevelopment.html>

DISCUSSION:

- "Fetus" means "little one," not "blob of tissue." It is a life.

Stages of Fetal Development:

- Conception - ALL inherited traits are determined - eye color, hair color, dimples, height, gifts, talents and so much more! With ultrasounds and research, science shows that life begins at conception.
- Day 22 - The baby's heart begins to beat with the baby's own blood.
- 6 weeks - The baby's brain waves can be detected.
- 7 Weeks - The baby is kicking and swimming.
- 8 Weeks - All of the baby's organs are in place and the baby can begin to hear.
- 9 Weeks - The baby has permanent, individual fingerprints.
- 10 Weeks - The baby can "breathe" amniotic fluid and can hiccup.
- 11 Weeks - All of the baby's organs are functioning.
- 12 Weeks - The baby can suck his/her thumb and smile. The baby can feel pain.



Questions?

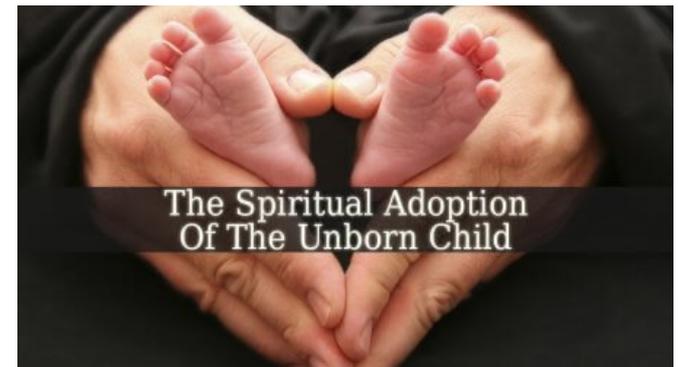
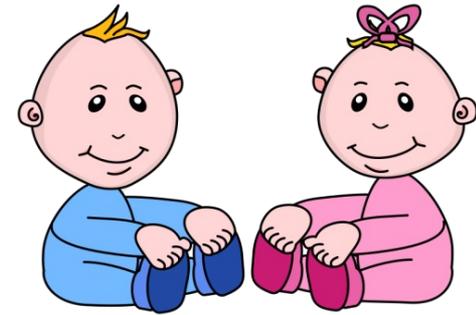
Write the answers in your journal.

Let's learn more about the humanity of the unborn baby.

- When does the unborn baby's heart begin to beat?
- When are all the baby's organ systems functioning?
- How long is the baby inside his or her mother's womb?
- What happens at _____ weeks? _____ month? (Feet Pin card or brochure)
- What is most surprising to you about the unborn baby's development?
- Is the baby a human before it's born? Why or why not?
- Were you alive before you were born?
- When does the baby's life have value?

• Discuss the fetal development .

Pray daily for your spiritually adopted baby.



6th Grade - 8th Grade Additional Discussion:

- Abortions occur when the mother chooses to end the life of her baby before he or she is born.
- This is not God's plan because she is taking the life of another person.
- There are many reasons that a mother may choose abortion. Some of these reasons may include fear, hopelessness, age, and doubt of ability to raise a child.
- Most of these women feel that abortion is their only choice.
- Our prayers and support for these women are very important

- What effect do you think that abortion has on the mothers and fathers of the aborted babies?
- How can we help parents who are faced with unplanned pregnancies. .



Activity: Slogan Poster

- Have the students create posters or cards with Respect Life slogans on them.
- The slogans need to be positive and inspirational.
- The students could possibly print pictures from the internet.
- These posters can be displayed at school for October, Respect Life Month.

Examples:

Life- The Greatest Gift
Babies are a Blessing
Children Color the World Beautiful
Dignity- Compassion- Truth for All
I AM-Positively-PRO-LIFE



Discussion:

Have the students share their posters or cards and tell why they chose that particular slogan. Discuss the slogans with the class and how they believe their slogan will have an impact on the community.

Activity: "It's A Baby...But It's Still Me"

- Have each student bring a baby picture to school to show the students.

Discussion:

Although they have grown and changed over the years, they are still the same person. This is just like the unborn baby- the baby doesn't look like a newborn baby and will change over the years, but he or she is still the same person.

Option:

Using a baby picture of a grandparent or elderly person, show that although their appearance has changed drastically, they are still the same person. Our identity is in Christ, not our appearance.

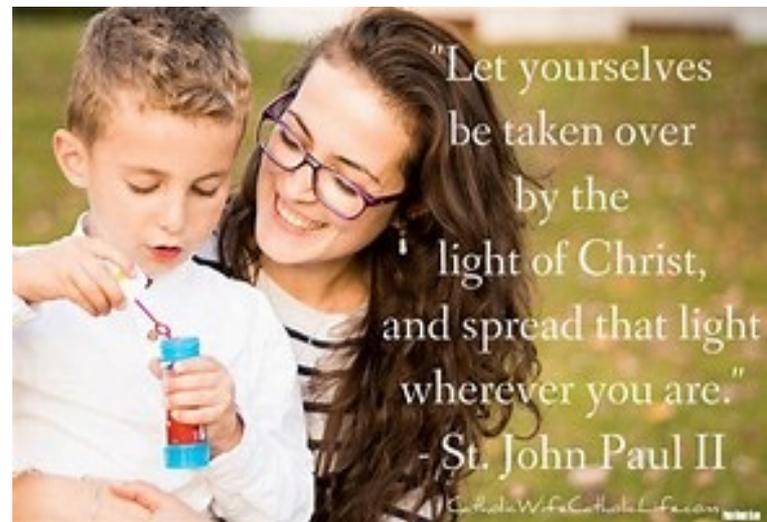


Activity: One Light, One Spark

- Make the room as dark as possible. Notice how dark the room is with little or no light.
- Turn on the flashlight.
- Explain to the students that although the room (world) seems dark sometimes, it only takes one person to add light. One spark can spark someone else and cause a ripple effect.
- In a short time, we are setting the world on fire with our passion for LIFE!

Discussion:

What are some things you can do to be a light in the world? Why are you called to be a light?



Activity: Young One Model or Precious Feet Pins

- Have students hold the Young One Model or Precious Feet pin. Have the students pay attention to the detail and size.

Discussion:

- What do you notice about the model or pin?
- How old do you think that baby would be inside his or her mother?

6th Grade-8th Grade Additional Discussion:

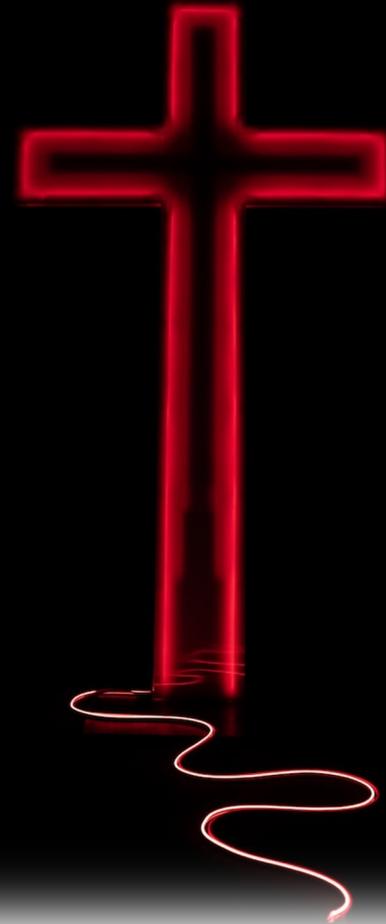
Millions of babies have been aborted at this age and can be aborted throughout the nine months of pregnancy in some states.



Closing Prayer:

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.

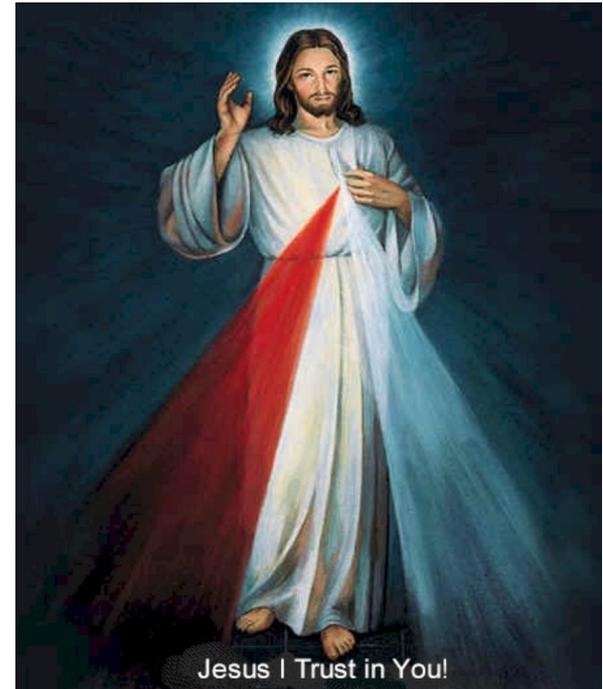
Amen.



Spiritual Works of Mercy Novena for October

Let us pray...

Dear Jesus, You have created people to start out as tiny babies. Every single one of us, no matter how young or tiny, is an important person who is loved by You and created by You to do something very special in this life. Even before we are born, You love us just as You always will. Help us to always remember to pray for unborn babies as Your special way for our lives to begin. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.





Virtue: RESPECT LIFE:

How can I respect life?