



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
 HOLY GHOST COUNCIL #4977



## ST. THERESA & ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA

### “NOVENA FOR LIFE”

Sat, Jan 18<sup>th</sup> to Sun, Jan 26<sup>th</sup>

#### Day 1 of 9: Saturday, January 18, 2020

#### Step 1. REFLECTION:

God has carefully, lovingly created every person—in His own image and likeness—to be in a loving relationship with Himself. From each tiny child knit within a mother’s womb, to every person approaching death, all are loved perfectly and completely by God. “It is therefore a service of love,” Pope Saint John Paul II explains, “which we are all committed to ensure to our neighbor, that his or her life may be always defended and promoted, *especially when it is weak or threatened* [emphasis added]” (*Evangelium vitae*, 77).

In a world in which the most vulnerable are so often overlooked and disregarded, Christ calls us to embrace and uphold the unconditional dignity of every human life. In doing so, we help to build “a new culture of life, the fruit of the culture of truth and of love” (*EV*, 77).

#### Step 2. ACTS OF REPARATION (Choose one):

- Do you love your cup of tea or coffee? Abstain from caffeine today, or try your coffee black.
- “Unplug” for some time, and reflect on how God may be asking you to help build a culture of life in your home, workplace or Church community.
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer or act of penance that you feel called to do for today’s intention.

**One Step Further:** Watching the news and reading headlines, we may often feel helpless in the face of a heartbreaking lack of respect for human life. When our efforts to make a difference feel small, it’s important to remember that changing the culture is a process of conversion that begins in our own hearts. It includes a willingness to be instructed and a desire to be close to Jesus—the source of joy and love.

#### Step 3. DAILY “PRAYER FOR LIFE”



#### PRAYER FOR LIFE

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life: Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen.

Pope John Paul II  
*Evangelium Vitae*, 1995