



**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 2 of 9: Sunday, January 19, 2020

#### Step 1. REFLECTION:

At every stage and in every circumstance, we are held in existence by God’s love. The presence of an illness, disability or other challenging circumstance never diminishes the value of a human life. For God does not call us to perfection of appearance or abilities, but to perfection in love. Christ invites us to embrace the lives we have been given, for as long as they are given, as true gifts.

Our relationships on this earth are meant to help us grow in God’s perfect love. Everyone we encounter is a gift, not because of what they can do or accomplish, but because of who they are — a beloved child of God. May each of us experience the power of God’s transforming love, that our eyes may be opened to the incredible beauty of the people the Lord places in our lives.

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

- Take a break from television, movies, and social media today. Consider spending some of that time reflecting on today’s message.
- Pray the short prayer “Every Life is Worth Living,” reflecting on how you can bring Christ’s love to others today. (The prayer is also available [www.usccb.org/worth-living](http://www.usccb.org/worth-living).)
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer or act of penance that you feel called to do for today’s intention.

**One Step Further:** Our culture is obsessed with perfection — a superficial perfection. Social media, magazines and television are staged and edited to depict seemingly perfect lives. When life doesn’t seem to measure up to these standards, we may doubt our worth or God’s love.

In “A Perfect Gift” ([www.usccb.org/perfect-gift](http://www.usccb.org/perfect-gift)) one parent shares about the experience of raising a child with Down syndrome, contrasting it with what onlookers might perceive: “It’s like looking at a stained-glass window from the outside: The colors look dark, and you can’t quite make out the figures. From the inside, however, with the sun shining through it, the effect can be brilliant. From inside our family, love illuminates our life with Charlie. What may seem dreary to others, perhaps even unbearable, is actually filled with beauty and color.” Every life is a gift.



#### 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

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#### Step 3. DAILY “PRAYER FOR LIFE”