

INTERCEDE



PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell her that she would conceive and bear a son, Mary responded with her fiat, “May it be done to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38). Mary conceives Christ in her womb, becoming the mother of God, the mother of Jesus. Jesus himself tells us that he is “the way and the truth and the life” (Jn 14:6). In becoming the mother of Jesus, Mary becomes the *mother of life*. Mary’s acceptance in this unforeseen moment demonstrates how each of us must welcome the gift of new human life, even when that gift is unexpected or calls us to make sacrifices.

At the Annunciation, when Mary learns that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is six months pregnant, she travels in haste to visit Elizabeth, spending the next three months at her side, even while pregnant herself. In her selfless service to Elizabeth, the Blessed Mother perfectly models how we are called to accompany expectant mothers as they prepare to welcome new life into the world.

Mary’s role as the Mother of Life extends from the Annunciation all the way to the Crucifixion. On

Calvary, Mary stands at the foot of the Cross with Saint John. The Gospel tells us: “When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, behold, your son.’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your mother.’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his home” (Jn 19:26-27). Mary, who taught us how to nurture human life, becomes the recipient of that same honor and care.

The life of the Blessed Mother teaches us to respect each human life in every stage and circumstance. Mary is our model for upholding the sanctity of all human life. O Mary, “Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life.”¹

Reflection adapted from “Mary, Mother of Life”
(respectlife.org/mary-mother-of-life).

ACT (choose one)

- Offer the “Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Life” for this month’s intention (bit.ly/litany-bvm).
- Visit a local Marian Shrine or Church and spend time seeking Our Lady’s intercession for the protection of human life.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for this month’s intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

October is Respect Life Month! Pray for the protection of human life from conception to natural death by joining the novena from October 22-30: bit.ly/respect-life-month-novena.

¹ Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, 105.

