

March for Life Rally

Wednesday, January 22, 2014
The National Mall, Washington, D.C.

OPENING PRAYER
OFFERED BY BISHOP DEMETRIOS OF MOKISSOS

Lord Jesus Christ our God, who in Your love for humanity came down for us and our salvation, being incarnate and conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the visitation of Your All-Holy Spirit; who lived among us, teaching us the precepts of Salvation; who was crucified for us, rising from the dead so that all humanity could be restored to our ancestral dignity in Paradise; extend Your loving kindness and mercy to those who know You, and reveal the same to those who know You not.

Lord of all, look upon us Your servants who have gathered here in the capital of our nation, to rally against the scourge of abortion. We gather in Your Name to witness to the sanctity of all life, for You are the Life of the World. Let all gathered here raise their voices and hearts to our fellow citizens and civil leaders, affirming that all life is precious in Your sight. Let them remember the dignity for which all persons are created in Your Image and Likeness. Do not let our zeal consume us, but let it shine forth as a standard of righteousness. Let us cast aside every anxiety and fear, and let us give good in return for evil. Let these Your faithful servants be exemplars of truth and justice, but also of forgiveness and love.

On this day, Lord of hosts, bless Your gathered servants and let their testimony reach those most in need: civil authorities who have legislated

against the rights of the preborn; jurists who have adjudicated against the sanctity of life; physicians who have not healed but have brought harm and death; parents who have made choices to end life in the womb—some callous and self-interested, others tragic and conflicted; young persons raised in a culture that espouses a right for some to kill. Bring about repentance, a change of mind and will, for all those who out of profound ignorance affirm a right to end the life of the preborn, who champion voluntary abortion, and who defend the indefensible. Forgive them Lord, for they know not what they do.

Preserve in Your Kingdom all the innocents who have been harmed through the scourge of voluntary abortion. Let the love, power and knowledge of Your Holy Spirit enter into the hearts and minds of those who ignore the great gift and holiness of life. Bless those who choose to do Your will, and forgive those who have ignored it. Send mercy and comfort to all those who grieve past abortions, and strengthen the will of those conflicted now by difficult choices and circumstances so that they will protect the sacred gift of life.

Let our voices and witness this day resound throughout the nation as a testimony before You, the Creator of all Life, who knows the names of each even from their mother's womb, and who has counted every hair on the heads of each and every person; so that before You every knee will bow, giving glory to Your eternal Father, together with Your All-Holy, Good and Life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.