



**BISHOP CALLS FOR  
MONTH-LONG  
PRAYER  
CAMPAIGN TO  
END ABORTION,  
INCLUDING A  
STATEWIDE DAY  
OF PRAYER AND  
FASTING**

Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., has set out a plan for "spiritual battle" throughout January in response to the anniversary of the legalization of abortion in the United States and the growing concern for the sanctity of the child in the womb. Through private prayer and virtual Masses, the faithful are asked to support the extensive prayer campaign aimed at ending the scourge of abortion.



As the New Year begins, there are many issues in society that challenge our Catholic moral and social teachings. Opposition to abortion remains our "pre-eminent priority". During the month of January when we acknowledge the 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fateful Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision, I invite the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of Trenton to join one another in a common prayerful response:

- (1) Pray the rosary daily for the rest of the month for an end to abortion in our country.
- (2) Pray the newly created "Novena to St. Joseph" to end abortion that will be published on our parish and diocesan websites each day, January 14 through 22;
- (3) Pray and fast to end abortion on the actual anniversary date, January 22, as parishes celebrate Masses for the legal protection of the unborn.

Since COVID precautions will restrict our usual participation in the annual March for Life in Washington on January 29, I will celebrate Mass online that day and many parishes will celebrate Masses in churches for all these intentions. As a Diocese, as parishes, let us pray for an end to abortion, for the legal protection of the unborn and in thanksgiving to God for the gift of human life.

***Thank you, Bishop O'Connell***

### **Novena Prayer to St. Joseph to End Abortion**

St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church and  
Guardian of the Blessed Virgin Mary and  
the Child Jesus, the Son of God

Whom she carried in her Immaculate womb:

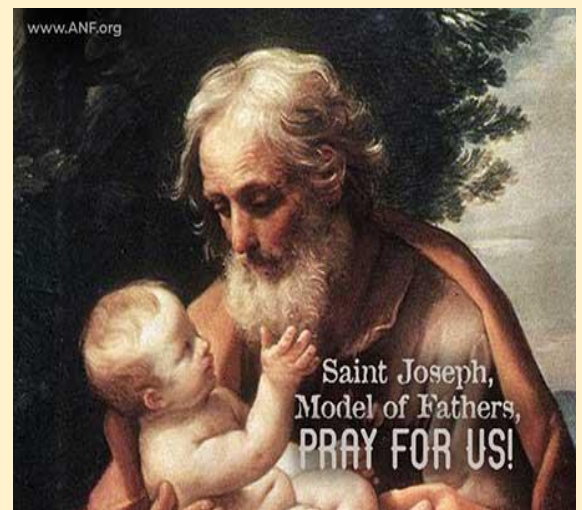
Intercede for us, we pray, that all recourse to abortion  
might cease in our nation and our world.

As you cared for Mother and Child,  
care for all women who bear the gift of life in their womb.

May no harm ever endanger them and  
may no choice ever threaten the blessing of human life  
that God has created within.

Guard them with your loving protection,  
at every moment, until His will has been fulfilled.

St. Joseph spouse of Mary and foster father of the Lord  
help us build a culture of life that yields a civilization of love among us.



**- Say the "Our Father," the "Hail Mary" and the "Glory be" after the novena prayer. -**