

“For respect for human life”

Pope Leo XIV’s July prayer intention

Vatican City, 2 July 2026. A few weeks ago, during his Apostolic Journey to Spain, Pope Leo addressed these [words in the Congress of Deputies](#): “Every human life must be recognized and safeguarded from conception to its natural end, in every circumstance of its existence.” In a world marked by what Pope Francis called a “throwaway culture,” Pope Leo XIV’s July prayer intention is **for respect for human life** in all its states. Through the [Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network’s “Pray with the Pope”](#) campaign, the Pope encourages the faithful and people of good will to join in praying for his intentions. In July, his invitation is to pray that every human being “from the first instant of existence to the final breath of their journey on earth”—as the Pope says in his prayer—might be welcomed, protected, and respected.

Pope Leo XIV addresses “the Lord of life” in his prayer, recognizing that every person is “a sacred gift that reflects your face.” The Pope asks for the grace to “**to recognize and protect the unique and unrepeatable value of every human being,**” learning how to “welcome life unconditionally, to tenderly care for fragility, to accompany each stage with respect, and to bravely defend those who have no voice.”

The Pope also takes a moment in his prayer to ask for **that the Lord pardon us “when we fall into indifference or the culture of discard,** when we fail to see in others a being worthy of love.” He then concludes his prayer imploring that the Church might be “an open home where life is celebrated, where no one feels unwanted,” and where “dignity is always honored and protected.”

Human life, threatened at various stages

The Pope’s intention echoes a reality confirmed by international statistics. According to the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#), around 73 million induced abortions are performed worldwide each year. Furthermore, the debate regarding euthanasia and assisted suicide is gaining momentum globally.

In addition, the death penalty continues to be applied. [Amnesty International](#) recorded at least 2,707 executions in 17 countries in 2025, an increase of 78% over the previous year, and the highest number since 1981. [WHO also recorded that in 2024](#), 1 of every 6 people over 60 suffered abuse.

These statistics paint a picture in which human life at its various stages and situations continues to be threatened in multiple circumstances. Thus, Pope Leo XIV’s prayer for the



month of July is an urgent appeal to transform our perspective and, that each and every one of us be committed when faced with this reality.

Furthermore, on June 8 in Madrid, during his meeting with members of Spain's Parliament, he stated: **"If life ceases to be recognized as a fundamental value, what future can our societies have? Can a community that casts into the shadows the unborn child, the elderly, the sick, those who suffer in silence, or those who depend entirely on the care of others be called fully just? The defense of human life is neither a partisan issue nor a confessional interest: it is a goal of civilization.** Every human life must be recognized and safeguarded from conception to its natural end, in every circumstance of its existence. When this certainty is obscured, the most vulnerable are the first victims, and the law loses its deepest meaning: to serve and protect every person. For this reason, the moral greatness of a nation is manifested, above all, in its capacity to accompany, protect and love those lives that are most fragile."

In fact, this is not the first time that a pope has dedicated a prayer intention for people who suffer or are experiencing a particular type of vulnerability. In April 2020, Pope Francis invited the Church and all people of good will to pray for "[Liberation from Addictions](#)." In July 2022, Pope Francis again asked for prayers "[For the Elderly](#)"—the "teachers of tenderness"—and in November, "[For Children who Suffer](#)," who are "human beings with names, with a face of their own, with an identity that God has given them."

"A change of heart that commits us to others"

The international director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, **Father Cristóbal Fones**, reflects on the profound meaning of this intention: "Human life is above all a gift from God, the author of life. Each one of us has an intrinsic value beyond our accomplishments or circumstances. **Respecting each other and protecting this gift is a mission that begins with a change of our own hearts**, which spurs us on to commit ourselves to others at every stage of life. **The Pope invites us to promote the dignity and development of every human life.** It is a call to participate in the mission of Jesus who had compassion on everyone, by championing a 'culture of life' in the face of the prevailing 'throwaway culture.'"

About the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

The [Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#) is a Pontifical Work entrusted to the Society of Jesus. It is present in over 92 countries, forming a spiritual community of more than 22 million people who seek to live each day with availability to God's mission. At the center of its mission are the monthly

prayer intentions of the Pope, inviting its members to focus on the pressing challenges facing humanity and the Church's mission.

It was founded in 1844 as the Apostleship of Prayer. In December 2020, Pope Francis established this Pontifical Work as a Vatican Foundation and approved its final statutes in July 2024.