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# *Suggested Intercessions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

*Please choose some of the following to be included among the intercessions in your parish Liturgy during National Natural Family Planning Awareness Week.*

## **The Pope, Bishops, Priests, Deacons and Lay Ecclesial Ministers**

For Pope (*name here*), that our Heavenly Father may gift him with deep wisdom and familial love as he calls the Church to reverence marriage and the family, we pray to the Lord,

For Pope (*name here*): that the Lord God will strengthen and protect him as he proclaims God's design for human sexuality, marriage, conjugal love and responsible parenthood, we pray to the Lord,

For the Pope: that all people may experience in his leadership and pastoral care the gentle fatherhood and charity of God, we pray to the Lord,

In thanksgiving for the Holy Father: that the Holy Spirit may fill him with His sevenfold gifts as he proclaims God's gifts of marriage and family to the world, we pray to the Lord,

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For our bishop (*name here*): that he may be encouraged by our prayers and support to lead God's people in building a culture of life, we pray to the Lord,

For our bishop (*name here*): that he may proclaim the beauty and freedom of God's design for married love to men and women, we pray to the Lord,

For our bishops: that they may continue to teach God's truth about human sexuality, the nature of marriage, conjugal love and responsible parenthood, we pray to the Lord,

For the bishops: that they may courageously lead the Church to promote and strengthen marriage and the family within a secular culture that has become confused, we pray to the Lord,

For the bishops: that the Lord will strengthen them to continue to teach that marriage is the permanent union between one man and one woman, we pray to the Lord,

For the bishops: that they may be emboldened in their teaching of Christ's liberating truth about marriage as designed by the Creator, we pray to the Lord,

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For priests and deacons: that the Holy Spirit may empower them to teach God's design for life and love, we pray to the Lord,

For priests and deacons: that in their service to the Church, they may raise awareness of Natural Family Planning and the importance of marriage and the family, we pray to the Lord,

For our priests and deacons: that they may boldly proclaim the beauty and freedom of the Church's teachings on marriage, conjugal love and responsible parenthood, we pray to the Lord,

For our priests and deacons: that the Holy Spirit may help them to lead men and women to marry within the Church, we pray to the Lord,

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For lay ecclesial ministers: that the Holy Spirit may encourage and strengthen them to share God's truth about marriage and family life with all to whom they minister, we pray to the Lord,

For lay ecclesial ministers: that the Holy Spirit will grace them with the gifts to inspire and to support married couples to live Church teachings on conjugal love and responsible parenthood, we pray to the Lord,

For lay ecclesial ministers: that the Lord God will empower them to speak His truth about the nature of marriage as the permanent union between one man and one woman, we pray to the Lord,

### **Government Officials**

For the President of the United States, and government leaders: that they might have the wisdom to protect human life from conception and the courage to defend it, we pray to the Lord,

For the President of the United States and government leaders: that Jesus, the Son of God, will help them understand the great dignity of marriage as between a man and a woman, and that they will enact laws protecting and supporting marriage, we pray to the Lord,

For the President of the United States and government leaders: that God the Father may gift them with a profound reverence for the sacred role of parents and help them enact laws which safeguard the bond between parents and their children, we pray to the Lord,

For policy makers in our nation: that their decisions may be guided by the Holy Spirit to always prioritize the role of the family, we pray to the Lord,

For policy makers: that they may do their best to promote a culture of life in all of their decisions, we pray to the Lord,

For policy makers: that they may create laws to protect the true nature of marriage as being between one man and one woman, we pray to the Lord,

For leaders in government: that the Holy Spirit may fill them with wisdom and zeal to protect the religious liberties of all people, we pray to the Lord,

### **Natural Family Planning Ministry**

For diocesan Natural Family Planning Ministry: that the Lord God will call people with a variety of talents and treasures to share in His work, we pray to the Lord,

For diocesan Natural Family Planning Ministry: that the Holy Spirit will especially inspire physicians, nurses, and educators to become trained in the teaching of the natural methods of NFP, we pray to the Lord,

For Natural Family Planning ministers: that they may be strengthened and renewed in their service to the Church, we pray to the Lord,

For diocesan Natural Family Planning staff: that their work may be blessed and strengthened as they help the People of God embrace God's gifts of human sexuality, marriage and family, we pray to the Lord,

For Natural Family Planning teachers: that they may be filled with renewed zeal as they teach couples about God's design for married love and the gift of life, we pray to the Lord,

For Natural Family Planning teachers: that the Holy Spirit will sustain them in their work and help them overcome all obstacles in sharing the good news of NFP, we pray to the Lord,

For Natural Family Planning teachers: that with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they may rightly convey a culture of life in all their educational programs, we pray to the Lord,

### **Couples Preparing for Marriage**

For couples considering marriage: that they may welcome the Lord God into their relationship to discern His will for them, we pray to the Lord,

For couples considering marriage: that the Holy Spirit may help them open their hearts and minds to God's design for life and love, we pray to the Lord,

For couples considering marriage: that the Holy Spirit will lead them to understand the value of marrying in the Church, we pray to the Lord,

For engaged couples: that they may provide a witness to the truth of committed married love in the world, we pray to the Lord,

For engaged couples: that they may grow in the virtues of faith, chastity, fidelity and charity, we pray to the Lord,

For engaged couples: that in business of planning for their wedding day, that they take time to prepare their hearts for the Sacrament of Marriage, we pray to the Lord,

For engaged couples: that they discern the Sacrament of Marriage with an openness of heart to God's will for their family, we pray to the Lord,

For couples preparing for marriage: that both man and woman may learn the methods of Natural Family Planning in order to live a deeper expression of love and communication in their marital relationship, we pray to the Lord,

## **Married Couples**

For married couples: that they might give witness to the truth and beauty of God's design for married love and in doing so, be an instrument for the conversion of others, we pray to the Lord,

For married men and women: that their "Communion of Persons" may act as a testament of God's love to their children and those they may encounter in their daily life, we pray to the Lord,

For married men and women: that their spousal union will reveal Christ's love to their family, friends and neighbors, we pray to the Lord,

For married couples: that Christ may lead them to understand the gifts of sacrifice and forgiveness as they grow in their love for each other, we pray to the Lord,

For married men and women: that God may give them the grace to welcome new life into their families, we pray to the Lord,

For married couples: that they may look to St. Joseph and the Blessed Mother as their patrons for establishing holy families filled with faith, hope and love, we pray to the Lord,

For married couples: that when they bring children into the world, they may grow in their understanding that their home is a "domestic church," and that the Catholic faith is born and nurtured in the home, we pray to the Lord,

For married men and women: that they may be open to accepting children from God, we pray to the Lord,

For husbands and wives who have recently experienced the birth of a child: that the Lord of Life may bless and supply them with all they need to nurture their child, we pray to the Lord,

For new mothers and fathers: that the Holy Spirit may inspire extended family, friends and neighbors to lend a helping hand, we pray to the Lord,

For married couples experiencing difficulties in their relationship: that they may persevere in love and faithfulness to each other, we pray to the Lord,

## **Infertile Married Couples**

For couples who are having difficulty in achieving pregnancy: that they may be assisted by physicians who honor God's laws, we pray to the Lord,

For married couples experiencing difficulty achieving pregnancy: that they will be given the graces to understand God's plan for their spousal love, we pray to the Lord,

For infertile married couples: that they may gain a renewed trust in the Lord, that He may reveal His will to them, we pray to the Lord,

For infertile married couples: that our Heavenly Father may comfort their hearts and help them discern how to share their spousal love in their community, we pray to the Lord,

For infertile married couples: that they may be consoled and guided to adopt children, we pray to the Lord,

For infertile married couples who have adopted children: that they may consider helping other infertile couples open their hearts to orphaned children, we pray to the Lord,

For the staff of diocesan marriage and family life offices: bless their pastoral programs that help and support infertile married couples, we pray to the Lord,

### **Families**

For all families: that they may provide witness to God's unconditional love, we pray to the Lord,

For families: that each member will be filled with hospitality and welcome the stranger into their homes, we pray to the Lord,

For families: that in model of the Holy Family, they may live in the example of Christ's love, we pray to the Lord,

For families: that they may always live in the love of the Holy Trinity, and by doing so, be a light of God to the world, we pray to the Lord,

For mothers, fathers and children: that they may love and support each other as St. Paul had directed in holy harmony with each other, we pray to the Lord,

For all family members: that through their love and generosity with each other, they may foster vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and lay ecclesial ministry, we pray to the Lord,

For families who suffer due to illness, poverty, violence or other hardships: that they may be given hope, support and relief by their parish community, we pray to the Lord,

For families who are grieving: that God the Father may comfort them and grant them joy in the knowledge of the continued life of their beloved in Him, we pray to the Lord,

### **Children**

For children: that they may be a source of blessings to their parents, we pray to the Lord,

For children: that the hearts of all people will cherish, value and protect them, we pray to the Lord,

For children: that they may maintain a childlike heart and joyfulness in order to further the kingdom of God, we pray to the Lord,

For children: that in the footsteps of Christ, we may treat them with love, kindness, and respect for their innocence, we pray to the Lord,

For children who are hungry: that they may be fed, we pray to the Lord,

For children who are homeless: that they may be housed, we pray to the Lord,

For children who are disabled: that they may be loved and cared for by their families and neighbors, we pray to the Lord,

For disabled children: that the Lord God may protect them and guide their parents in their care, we pray to the Lord,

For children who are sick: that the Holy Spirit will comfort them and strengthen their parents to help them, we pray to the Lord,

For children who are sick: that the Lord God will heal them and surround them with loving and competent physicians and nurses, we pray to the Lord,

For children who are suffering: that they may be helped by family and friends, we pray to the Lord,

For children who have been abandoned: that loving adoptive parents may welcome them into their homes, we pray to the Lord,

### **Singles/Youth**

For single people: that they may develop a deep understanding of self so that when God shows them their vocation, they may be able to give of themselves and follow Him, we pray to the Lord,

For youth: that Our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph will guide them to a deeper relationship with Jesus, we pray to the Lord,

For youth: that wise and faithful adults will help them learn and embrace Church teachings on chastity, marriage and family life, we pray to the Lord,

For single men and women: that they are granted the grace and strength to practice the virtues of chastity, temperance, and faithfulness in a time and culture that poses as a threat to a Christian lifestyle, we pray to the Lord,

For single men and women: that Jesus the teacher may lead them to study, reflect on, and accept God's plan for marriage and family life, we pray to the Lord,

For single people, that they might live chastely and "love with upright and undivided hearts," we pray to the Lord,

For single men and women: that the Holy Spirit may give them the power to resist all forms of temptation that deny God's design for marriage, life and love, we pray to the Lord,

### **Health Care Professionals**

For health care professionals: that they may be inspired to study and promote medical practices in accord with God's law, we pray to the Lord,

For health care professionals: that they use their knowledge of the human body to promote its dignity and further respect for human sexuality, we pray to the Lord,

For health care professionals: that they may have the courage to witness to ethical medical practices despite pressures from others in medicine and government, we pray to the Lord,

For physicians: that they may renew their commitment to “do no harm” to their patients and reverence human life from conception to natural death, we pray to the Lord,

For Catholic physicians: that they may learn and promote the natural methods of family planning and encourage their patients in being open to life, we pray to the Lord,

For nurses, especially those who work in obstetrics and gynecology: that they may learn the natural methods of family planning, we pray to the Lord,

For Catholic schools of medicine and nursing: that the Holy Spirit will move both faculty and students to study and embrace Church teachings on the human sexuality and the life issues, we pray to the Lord,

For staff in Catholic hospitals: that God may gift them with a renewed commitment to reverence human life and reject all immoral medical practices, we pray to the Lord,

#### **Additional intercessions**

For all people who work in the media: that God will move them to a conversion of heart which reverences human life and upholds the dignity of human sexuality, we pray to the Lord,

For people who work in the entertainment industry: that the Holy Spirit may lead them to reject all projects that attack God’s design for life and love, we pray to the Lord,

For Christians who work in the media and entertainment industry: that they may fill their environments with Gospel values and noble human ideals, we pray to the Lord,

For scientists who study the human body: that the Holy Spirit may lead them to a deeper understanding of human fertility so that they may better articulate “the conditions favorable to a lawful regulation of procreation” (*HV*, #24), we pray to the Lord,

For scientists who study human fertility: that they may reverence human life and reject any technology which does harm to God’s design, we pray to the Lord,

For our neighbors, coworkers, friends, fellow Christians, and all people, that they may increase their support for families and come to recognize that all human life is a gift from God and a reason for joy, we pray to the Lord,