

## *The March for Life Novena*

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world,  
Mother of the living,  
to you do we entrust the cause of life.

Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers  
of babies not allowed to be born,  
of the poor whose lives are made difficult,  
of men and women who are victims of brutal violence,  
of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference  
or out of misguided mercy.

Grant that all who believe in your Son  
may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time.

Obtain for them the grace to accept  
the Gospel as a gift ever new,  
the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives, and the courage to bear witness  
to it resolutely, in order to build,  
together with all people of good will,  
the civilization of truth and love,  
to the praise and glory of God,  
the Creator and lover of life. Amen.

-Pope John Paul the Great  
*Evangelium Vitae – The Gospel of Life*

**A reading from the Book of Psalms:**

O LORD, *you have searched me and known me!*

*You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.*

*You search out my path and my lying down  
and are acquainted with all my ways.*

*Even before a word is on my tongue,  
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.*

*You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is high; I cannot attain it.*

*For you formed my inward parts;  
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.*

*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
my soul knows it very well.*

*My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.*

*Your eyes saw my unformed substance;  
in your book were written, every one of them,  
the days that were formed for me,  
when as yet there was none of them.*

**The Word of the Lord**