



Prayers for Session Two - Protection of the Unborn

- **Opening Prayer**

- Dim the lights in the room and light a large candle in a central position.
- (Optional: place symbols around the candle and explain them simply e.g. We light this candle as a symbol of the light of your love which shines throughout the world, we place around it a stone as a symbol of the earth, water as a symbol of life and a plant as a symbol of all living things.)

Gathering moment (facilitator)

Each one of us comes here this today with lives full of projects and activities, worries and joys, responsibilities small or great. For a moment let us close our eyes and think of the things that are occupying our minds most as we gather here together, before we place them all before God and into his loving care.

Prayer: (alternate between two readers)

Father of tenderness and life,
we place our own lives into your loving care.
Be with us as we gather to reflect
on the infinite love you have for each one of us,
no matter how small or great,
no matter how sick or strong,
no matter how capable or dependent.

You have carved us on the palm of your hand,
you have counted each hair on our head,
and your love is greater even than that of a mother or father for their child.

In the great difficulties and crises that face us in life,
help us always to seek and find paths that reflect

the priceless value and dignity of every person,
for each of us is made in your image.

We ask this in the Spirit through Christ our Lord. Amen

Concluding Prayer

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 given a chance at life,
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, compassion and love
to the people of our time.

Obtain for us the grace
to accept that Gospel
as a gift ever new,
the joy of celebrating it with gratitude
throughout our lives
and the courage to bear witness to it
resolutely, in order to build,
together with all people of good will,
the gospel of life, and story of your love,
to the praise and glory of God,
the Creator and lover of life.

Amen.