

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON PROTECTION

OF THE CIVILIZATION OF LIFE – MEXICO 2016

From the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy in Tenango del Aire, Mexico on Divine Mercy Sunday, in the Jubilee Year of Mercy, and the eve of the Sanctity of Life Day united with the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord

We, the defenders of life gathered in the International Coalition "From Ocean to Ocean", leading a historic pilgrimage of Our Lady of Czestochowa through the world in defense of life:

Respond to the great call of Mary, Mother of Christ, to protect the civilization of life and love in the contemporary world;

Stand in the presence of the Theotokos before Her living Guadalupe image on Tepeyac Hill with Our Lady of Czestochowa on a peregrination passing through Mexico and Latin America with a copy of the Divine Mercy painting Saint Faustina commissioned;

Trust that Mary, the Great Patroness of the Defense of Life, as She revealed Herself in Mexico to free people from the shackles of the culture of death, will also today protect the endangered civilization of life and love; and

Thank God for the presence of Mary, who in Her Czestochowa Icon has traveled over 165,000 km through 27 countries on three continents, awakening consciences and pointing to the only Way to save the modern world, Jesus Christ.

We call upon all people of good will to listen to the call of the Mother of God and to join with great love and devotion the defense of the civilization of life and love, which is under serious threat globally.

With you Mary, we will protect our family, our children and our faith. We will stand for the Church of Christ, for peace in the world, and for our future!

Most Holy Mother, Mary,

We give thanks for your peregrination in defense of the civilization of life and love. In the Icon of Czestochowa, you have journeyed more than 4 times the distance around the world since 2012, spreading graces and life-giving love. You cause joy everywhere as you passed through 27 countries on three continents, showing the world that the faith in the hearts of people is still alive!

Now in Mexico, you have visited over 140 sites. We are living the mystery of the Visitation. We carry you into our homes, families and sanctuaries, but you carry us as true "Sentinels of life." "Do not give up!" as Saint John Paul II encouraged us in the new millennium: "*Duc in Altum!*" Cast out into the deep!

Sailing through dark waters and torrents is difficult. This is why we are so grateful to have the Blessed Virgin Mary by our side. You are the radiant dawn and sure guide for our steps.

As you said on Tepeyac Hill in your apparition to Saint Juan Diego as Our Lady of Guadalupe: "Am I not here who am your mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? (...) Do not fear (...)"

We also have the promise of your Son: "I am with you until the end of the world." (Mt 28,20)

In the midst of so much confusion, pain and sorrow, you give us strength. Teach us to live as loving families with the model of your Holy Family ever before us. Increase our trust and our union with your Divine Son. We desperately need God's abundant graces and mercy.

Mother of Mercy, we come to you for encouragement. The world needs beautiful witnesses to the sacredness and inviolability of every human life, especially the most precious and vulnerable children in their mother's wombs. In a time where the true nature of marriage and family is attacked globally, we must show ever more clearly the marvel of a sacramental marriage serving as the "Cradle of Life" and "Domestic Church."

With you, we can resist the despair and death that comes from the enemy of God. Inspire us to become a people of prayer, especially of the Most Holy Rosary. Help us to implore Divine Mercy continuously. May we proclaim with increasing fervor, "Jesus I Trust in You!" and invoke daily the beautiful words of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world!"

Thank you, Mother!