

DECLARING THE THIRD SUNDAY OF JANUARY OF EVERY YEAR AS "DAY OF SANCTITY AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN LIFE";

PROCLAMATION NO. 490, October 22, 2003

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WHEREAS, Section 5, Article II of the Philippine Constitution provides that: "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all people of the blessings of democracy";

WHEREAS, Section 12, Article II of the same Constitution provides that: "The State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. It shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception..";

WHEREAS, the Filipino people strongly believes that human life is a gift from Almighty God, whose aid we implore in the Preamble of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the sanctity of human life has been and still is being seriously threatened and there is urgent need to remind us of this very important value of respect for human life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare the third Sunday of January of every year as "Day of Sanctity and Protection of Human Life".

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 22nd day of October, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) ALBERTO G. ROMULO

Executive Secretary

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