

Podcast Prayer --- January 17, 2010:

Almighty God, Giver of life, I recently finished reading a book about World War II. During one specific battle at Iwo Jima in the Pacific, it noted that during the month-long engagement, 6800 American Marines were killed. As for the Japanese soldiers, they had nearly no survivors so I'm sure it was much higher than 6800 people. Many, as in the battle on D-Day, went to work that day, knowing that there was a high chance they would die a violent death that day or soon after. But for the rest of us who enjoy the freedoms they protected for us, we might so easily not think twice about the sacrifice of their very life. I couldn't imagine going to work on a certain day, realizing that there is a greater than 50% chance that I will not return home alive.

For one thing, our God of the small things, and of the big things like mass losses of life, please create in each of us a lingering, deep sense of gratitude toward others who literally have died so we can live free. May we never become indifferent. Cause in each of us, Holy Spirit our God, a profound sense of care about the life, and the loss of life, of people. Don't allow us to ever grow cold, or uncaring, especially when we read about large numbers of losses of life. Each number has a face behind it and a life and a grieving family behind it.

Father, as You tell us in Your Word, the Bible, each life is made in your special image, which makes every person very special.

Finally, don't allow us to ever forget, Jesus our God, the life You gave up, so each person, including myself, could live, free from the shackles of personal sin, and shame, and even eternal death.

Jesus, we pray this prayer in Your name, Amen.