



Word of Life

May 2013

Intercessions for Life May 2013

May 5th SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

For couples who are facing an unexpected pregnancy:
that their hearts will know the peace of Christ
as they prepare to welcome their child;
We pray to the Lord:

May 12th SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

For all mothers:
that God will bless them with grateful and affectionate children,
for the countless daily sacrifices they make for their families;
We pray to the Lord:

May 19th PENTECOST SUNDAY

For all who work to advance respect for human life:
that, attentive to the voice of the Holy Spirit,
they will always bear witness to the Lord's love and mercy;
We pray to the Lord:

May 26th THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

For all Catholics:
that during this Year of Faith,
we would be open to the love of God
and be given the courage to share his love with others;
We pray to the Lord:

Jesus didn't come to bring death, but rather, the death of hatred, the death of fighting, the death of calumny, that is, killing with the tongue. Jesus did not come to bring death, the death that He suffered for defending life. Jesus came to bring life and to bring abundant life, and he sends us out, carrying that life, but he tells us: "Care for it!" Because there are people who ... aren't involved in the Gospel: [who are part of] the culture of death... life interests them insofar as it is useful, insofar as it has some kind of utility and if not, it doesn't interest them. And throughout the world, this weed has been planted, of the culture of death.

~ Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, former Archbishop of Buenos Aires, now Pope Francis, homily at Mass on August 31, 2005

Made in the image of the Triune God, the human person is, by nature, a social being, made for loving relationship in a communion of persons. Tragically, we live in a society where some seek to condition people—girls and women especially—to denigrate motherhood and [the] spousal relationship, going so far as to insist with the HHS mandate that that which is unique to woman—the ability to conceive and bear a child—should be viewed as something like an unwelcome disease which needs to be suppressed. Far from being an advancement in freedom for women, such attitudes diminish women and detract from their fundamental, inherent dignity.

~ Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, "The Unique Genius of Woman in the Church and Society," *Seek First the Kingdom: A Blog by Cardinal Donald Wuerl*, March 4, 2013

Blessed John Paul II in his encyclical letter "The Gospel of Life" reminds us that 'when the sense of God is lost, there is also a tendency to lose the sense of man, of his dignity and his life' (no.21). If we wish to change the "culture of death" in our society we must restore God to the center of our lives. The power of the Gospel is to transform humanity from within and to make it new. Like the yeast which leavens the bread, the Gospel is meant to permeate all cultures and give them life from within so that they may express the full truth about the human person and about human life.

~ Most Rev. Kevin Farrell, Bishop of Dallas, homily at the Closing Mass for the 2013 National Prayer Vigil for Life, January 25, 2013

Each of us is a "creature," whose origin is the loving gaze of God, who looks upon us "within His very self" and draws us forth from this Love. This is the love that is the very being of God; the love of the Father for the Son, the love of the Son for the Father, the Holy Spirit that is love. This is what being created in the image and likeness of God means: to be drawn forth from love; created for love. Thus, every human life conceived in the womb is conceived with a spark of divinity! No wonder we cherish all life as sacred and worthy of the dignity of the children of God. No wonder we believe that all life conceived in the womb is worth all our effort to protect so that the child may come forth from the Light of God into the light of the world.

~ Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne, Bishop of Cheyenne, "Life: Origins in the Trinity," *Truth in Love: Reflecting the Good News of Christ*, January 19, 2013