



Word of Life

October 2011

Intercessions for Life

October 2011

October 2nd Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

For those who spread the Gospel of Life:
that they may reach all people with their uplifting message;
We pray to the Lord:

October 9th Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

For unborn children:
that they will have the opportunity to enjoy the life God has given them;
We pray to the Lord:

October 16th Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

For those in prison:
that they repent of their criminal acts and find hope and strength in God;
We pray to the Lord:

October 23rd Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

For the hungry and homeless in our midst:
that they may find food and shelter through the Church's ministries;
We pray to the Lord:

October 30th Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

For all medical practitioners:
that they recognize the Spirit of God which dwells in every human person;
We pray to the Lord:

As persons with disabilities share their gifts and needs, they bring out the best in our mutual humanity. They challenge us to live the Gospel precepts of charity in the real world, to sacrifice some of our comfort for others, to take the time to enable them to be full members of society. They need to feel our solidarity with them, and to know their true dignity and worth as fellow sisters and brothers in Christ. Our own future with Christ depends on it.

~“Life Matters: Persons with Disabilities,” Respect Life Program 2011, USCCB Pro-Life Secretariat

Today it is clear that the death penalty no longer serves a useful purpose in protecting the sanctity of human life. Perhaps once it was the only way society could protect itself from those who would destroy the life of others, but today in most modern nations, judicial and penal systems have improved so much that they effectively remove further danger to innocent people by incarcerating the perpetrators of criminal violence. Imprisonment is effective in removing the offender from society. Importantly, it allows time for repentance and rehabilitation. And the one sure result of executing prisoners is to make us as a people more vengeful-seeking retribution and satisfying our outrage at the violent crime by more violence.

~“Life Matters: The Death Penalty,” Respect Life Program 2011, USCCB Pro-Life Secretariat

The most profound reason why the campaign for assisted suicide is a threat, and not an aid, to human freedom has to do with the very reality of the human person. The founders of our country declared that each human being has certain inalienable rights that governments must PROTECT. The first right is the right to life. It is named before the right to liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is the condition for enjoying all other rights and all other goods. Other rights lose their foundation if life itself can be destroyed with impunity. Our Christian faith goes even further in its understanding in seeing life as the gift of God, the Creator. Each human life is sacred. One cannot uphold human freedom by undercutting its foundation, the sacredness of human life, of each person.

~Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, “A Shepherd’s Message: True Compassion Alleviates Suffering while Maintaining Solidarity with the One who Suffers. It Does Not Put Lethal Drugs in Their Hands,” July 19, 2011

The family on earth is meant to be a mirror of the Trinity, God’s divine “family” in heaven. God intends the family to be our first school of love, holiness and commitment. In the family, we learn who we are — and who God has created us to be. The family is vital in God’s plan for our personal lives.

~Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles, “We Need to Stand Up for Parents and Families,” July 8, 2011

A primary task for the pro-life movement is to draw society into deeper reflection about the mystery, wonder and value of human life. We need to promote an alternative to the technological outlook which seeks to control and manipulate birth and death, to reduce nature to "matter", to elevate having over being, to depersonalize the body and sexuality, and to replace the criterion of personal dignity with the criterion of efficiency, functionality and usefulness. Our task is to call our brothers and sisters' hearts and minds to wonder and awe.

~Cardinal George Pell, Archbishop of Sydney, “Ascent or Descent? Wonder or Horror? Mystery of Life Grand Prix Award Address,” January 17, 2008