



Word of Life

December 2011

December 4th Second Sunday of Advent

For women in crisis pregnancies:
that they trust in God's providence and lovingly embrace the gift of their child;
We pray to the Lord:

December 11th Third Sunday of Advent

For those who sacrifice to care for elderly relatives:
that God will reward their generosity and inspire others to assist them;
We pray to the Lord:

December 18th Fourth Sunday of Advent

For the needy and all who would be alone during the Christmas holidays:
may we will all find ways to reach out to those who need us;
We pray to the Lord:

December 25th Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

For families with young children:
that the love of God and family will be at the center of all celebrations
instead of worldly gifts;
We pray to the Lord:



The beginning of the Liturgical Year helps us live anew the expectation of God who took flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary, God who makes himself little, who becomes a child; it speaks to us of the coming of a God who is close, who chose to experience human life from the very beginning in order to save it totally, in its fullness. And so the mystery of Lord's Incarnation and the beginning of human life are closely and harmoniously connected and in tune with each other in the one saving plan of God, the Lord of the life of each and everyone.

~Pope Benedict XVI, Homily at Celebration of First Vespers of the First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27, 2010

With regard to the embryo in the womb, science itself highlights its autonomy capable of interaction with the mother, the coordination of biological processes, the continuity of development, the growing complexity of the organism. This is not an accumulation of biological material, but a new living being, dynamic and wonderfully ordered, a new unique human being. So was Jesus in Mary's womb, so it was for all of us in our mother's womb.

~Pope Benedict XVI, Homily at Celebration of First Vespers of the First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27, 2010

In the eyes of the world those who are in the last stages of life are somehow diminished in their humanity and should be eliminated. We must see them through God's eyes and recognize that each and every person is created in his image and likeness and that we are all connected to God and to each other. We are our brother's keeper and our sister's helper. Cain who forgot he was his brother's keeper ended up becoming his executioner. 'Thou shall not kill' is God's law and it is written in our hearts by our Creator.

~Cardinal Seán O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, Homily, Red Mass, Sept. 19, 2011

A culture of *life*, not death.... This *vision* our creator planted in the depth of every human person, as part of our normative law: that *life* is sacred; that, once God breathes it into us, it lasts forever; that to take innocent *life* is so inimical to a righteous society that its protection is mandated in the very middle of the ten commandments; that the more innocent and fragile the more it begs protection; that, indeed, to protect *life* is the most noble of vocations.

~Archbishop Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, Homily at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Oct. 3, 2010