



# *Word of Life*

*August 2012*

# Intercessions for Life August 2012

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## **August 5<sup>th</sup>      EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For the leaders of our nation:  
that they may remember that the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness  
apply to all people, from conception to natural death;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **August 12<sup>th</sup>      NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For couples struggling with infertility:  
that God may bless them with children through adoption  
or by curing their infertility through morally sound treatments;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **August 15<sup>th</sup>      SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

For those whose are nearing the end of their lives:  
that they may be surrounded by the love of family and compassion of care-givers;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **August 19<sup>th</sup>      TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For all priests and seminarians:  
that they may always deeply appreciate the gift of their vocation  
and be bold in proclaiming the Gospel of Life;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **August 26<sup>th</sup>      TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For the sick and suffering:  
may the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ  
give them strength and consolation through all their trials;  
We pray to the Lord:

The State is at the service of the person whose “well-being” it safeguards in its many aspects, starting with the right to life, whose deliberate suppression may never be permitted. Each one, therefore, can see that legislation and the work of State institutions must be in particular at the service of the family, founded on marriage and open to life. ...

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Meeting with Government Authorities, Milan, June 2, 2012

In only the last few years we’ve experienced rampant disregard for religious beliefs in this country with the approval of embryonic stem cell research; legal justification for the torture of prisoners; the provision of tax dollars to abortion providers; the HHS mandates; and, most recently, a redefinition of marriage by many of our leading political figures. We can see that there is a loss of a sense of truth here, and objective moral norms—rules of conduct that apply always, to everyone, everywhere—and an “eclipse of a sense of God and of man.”

...To this *culture of death* the Church boldly and joyfully promotes the *culture of life*.

We recognize that we humans are at our best when we give ourselves away in selfless love and live no longer for ourselves, but for another. This is what Pope John Paul the Great calls the “law of the gift,” echoing the words of Jesus that, “No one has greater love than this, than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

~ Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, Archbishop of New York and USCCB President, *True Freedom: On Protecting Human Dignity and Religious Liberty*, p. 30

By prayer, education and by exercising our rights as citizens, let us never cease defending the only notion of freedom worthy of our dignity as persons and sturdy enough to support our democratic way of life. And it’s this: “Freedom is not the power of doing what we like, but the right of being able to do what we ought.”

This is the flame of true freedom, which we should keep burning brightly, not only for our own sake, but also for the sake of many people in many countries who suffer terrible persecution and even death because of their religious beliefs.

~Most Rev. William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore, Opening Homily of Fortnight for Freedom, June 21, 2012

It should also be noted that in a society that respects natural law’s right of religious liberty, a conscience clause should be redundant. That is: with or without a stated “conscience clause,” the government cannot force religious institutions and churches to act against their beliefs. It should be understood, and has been understood that it is the natural right of man to follow his faith... until now.

~ Most Rev. W. Francis Malooly, Bishop of Wilmington, Homily, Fortnight for Freedom Mass, June 21, 2012