



# *Word of Life*

*June 2011*

**June 5<sup>th</sup> SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD  
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

For all young people:  
May God give them the wisdom and courage  
to stand up for human life wherever it is under attack;  
We pray to the Lord:

**June 12<sup>th</sup> PENTECOST SUNDAY**  
For all who have sinned against human life,  
and especially for those involved in an abortion decision;  
May they seek God's merciful forgiveness and healing  
in the sacrament of reconciliation;  
We pray to the Lord:

**June 19<sup>th</sup> SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**  
For all fathers:  
That God will bless them for their sacrifices  
and help them to be living witnesses of God's love  
to their spouse and children;  
We pray to the Lord:

**June 26<sup>th</sup> SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST**  
For the sick and suffering:  
May the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ  
worthily and lovingly received in Holy Communion  
give them strength and consolation through all their trials;  
We pray to the Lord:



It is indisputable that Planned Parenthood Federation of America is by far the largest provider and promoter of abortions nationwide, performing about a third of all abortions (332,278 abortions in Fiscal Year 2008-9). Abortions also account for over a third of Planned Parenthood's income. The organization has aborted over 5 million unborn children since 1970. ... Now the national organization insists that *all* affiliates provide abortions by 2013, a mandatory policy that has led at least one affiliate to leave the organization. ... Therefore the question at issue here is: When low-income women need ... legitimate health care services, should the federal government insist that they receive them from the local abortion provider?

~ Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston and Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, Letter to Members of Congress, April 13, 2011

As Pope Benedict has said, no one of us is "some casual, meaningless product of evolution . . . each of us is the result of a thought of God. . . each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary" (Benedict XVI, Inaugural Homily). This is the message of hope that we humbly offer to women considering an abortion, to those in need of healing in the aftermath of an abortion. And to those who find themselves deeply unhappy, because they have been deceived by a culture that relentlessly tells us that we are happy only when we live for ourselves and not for others, that we are free only when our autonomy is absolute. God made us, you and me, in this image and likeness. This means we are made to be with others and for others.

~Most Rev. William Lori, Bishop of Bridgeport, Homily, Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Jan. 24, 2011

Sarah ... [11 and a half years old] betrayed no trace of nervousness as she told a roomful of genetic counselors and obstetricians about herself one recent afternoon.

She likes to read, she said. Math used to be hard, but it is getting easier. She plays clarinet in her school band. She is a junior girl scout and an aunt, and she likes to organize, so her room is very clean. Last year she won three medals in the Special Olympics.

"I am so lucky I get to do so many things," she concluded. "I just want you to know, even though I have Down syndrome, it is O.K."

~Amy Harmon, "Prenatal Test Puts Down Syndrome in Hard Focus," *The New York Times*, May 9, 2007

While movies, television, and peers told them otherwise, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as of 2009, over 72% of girls and over 71% of boys age 15 to 17 have remained abstinent. Including all teenagers ages 15 to 19 in the 2006-2008 reporting period, nearly 58% have remained abstinent. If they can resist pressure from movies, television, and peers to become sexually active, why can't the others? Of the teens who are sexually active, great majority of sexually-active teens use contraception, but one in three sexually-active teen girls will become pregnant within two years, and half of the 20 million new cases of STDs each year are acquired by young people.