



# *Word of Life*

*September 2011*

# Intercessions for Life September 2011

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## **September 4<sup>th</sup>     Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For those who do not support the Gospel of Life:  
that by our example and prayers they may come to see the beauty of all life;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **September 11<sup>th</sup>     Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For the American people on the tenth anniversary of 9/11:  
that the memory of this act of terrorism will instill in us  
a deeper dedication to the cause of peace in the world  
and a greater respect for human life;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **September 18<sup>th</sup>     Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For children throughout the world:  
that their natural curiosity and joy will not be darkened by the burdens of the world;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **September 25<sup>th</sup>     Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For women who have had abortions:  
that the pain in their hearts will lead them to sacramental Reconciliation  
and healing through Project Rachel ministry;  
We pray to the Lord:



Yesterday was a dark day in the history of humanity, a terrible affront to human dignity. ... How is it possible to commit acts of such savage cruelty? The human heart has depths from which schemes of unheard-of ferocity sometimes emerge, capable of destroying in a moment the normal daily life of a people. But faith comes to our aid at these times when words seem to fail. Christ's word is the only one that can give a response to the questions which trouble our spirit. Even if the forces of darkness appear to prevail, those who believe in God know that evil and death do not have the final say. Christian hope is based on this truth; at this time our prayerful trust draws strength from it.

~Bl. Pope John Paul II, General Audience, September 12, 2001

In her concern for all human beings, in all their dimensions, the Church keeps watch over their fundamental rights in frank dialogue with all who help to make them effective and not to restrict them. She watches over the right to human life from its beginning to its natural end, because life is sacred and no one may arbitrarily dispose of it. She supervises protection and aid to the family, and supports financial, social and juridical measures, so that the man and woman who contract marriage and form a family may have the necessary support to fulfill their mission of being a shrine of love and life.

~Pope Benedict XVI, Address of His Holiness Benedict XVI to the New Ambassador of Spain to the Holy See, April 16, 2011

One need only consider the harm to our society and culture when science, technology and medicine proceed without respect for the innate and inalienable dignity of human life. A culture of death, sown by totalitarian regimes in the last century, is also sown in democratic societies when freedom's dependence on truth is denied.

~Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Message to Graduates, May 11, 2011

The founders of our country declared that each human being has certain inalienable rights that government must protect. It is no accident that they named life before liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Life itself is a basic human good, the condition for enjoying all other goods on this earth. Therefore the right to life is the most basic human right. Other valued rights—the right to vote, to freedom of speech, or to equal protection under law—lose their foundation if life itself can be destroyed with impunity.

~United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "To Live Each Day with Dignity: A Statement on Physician-Assisted Suicide," June 16, 2011

Assisted suicide also opens the door to putting more people into the category of those who "would be better off dead," e.g., the mentally ill and the severely handicapped. It plays into culture's biased judgment that a person's worth is based on his or her productivity and autonomy. It also further undermines the foundational truth that human life is the inalienable right upon which our other inalienable rights depend—the basic human good, the condition for enjoying all other goods. Each life is precious and unique. As Christians, this is not only confirmed, but enhanced by the fact that the Son of God, in sharing our human nature, made each human life sacred.

~Bishop James V. Johnston, Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, "Protecting Life in the Last Days," June 24, 2011