



WORD OF LIFE

December 2004

Intercessions for Life

DECEMBER 2004

December 5th SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

That we might be ready for the Lord's return in glory,
Repenting of the ways in which
We have given in to the culture of death
And failed to live the Gospel of Life;

We pray to the Lord:

December 12th THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

That like John the Baptist,
We might prepare the way of the Lord
By proclaiming the Gospel of life and working for justice
For all whom the world has forgotten;
We pray to the Lord:

December 19th FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

That in this holy season,
We might pray for every unborn child,
And for that child's mother and father:
That they might grow in love with every passing day;
We pray to the Lord:

December 26th HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

For all families:
That they might daily seek to be holy
And to live by the model of Jesus, Mary and Joseph;
We pray to the Lord:



“I am here with you, dear brothers and sisters, as a pilgrim to Our Lady. I make my own your prayers and your hopes. With you I share a time of life marked by physical suffering, yet not for that reason any less fruitful in God's wondrous plan. With you I pray for all those who trust in your prayers. In carrying out my apostolic ministry I have always trusted greatly in the offerings, prayers and sacrifices of the suffering. During this pilgrimage I ask you to join me in offering to God, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, all the intentions of the Church and the world.”

Pope John Paul II (Prayer at the Grotto of Massabielle, August 14, 2004)

“The call to honor the image of God places special duties on each of us, in every walk of life. But at its root this call is the same for all. It is by seeing Christ in others, and acting accordingly, that we will become like Him and share in His eternal destiny.

“Made in His Image,” Respect Life flyer, 2004

We have all heard the public service announcements that heart disease is the number one killer of both men and women in the United States. I agree. Only a disease of the heart would allow for over a million babies to be aborted in this country every year. Until the hearts of the nation are changed, abortion will continue.

Dr. William R. Lile, Jr., FACOG, “Surgical Advances for Unborn Patients,” 2004 Respect Life Program

“Like us, the shepherds need to come only a short way to meet Him, from the fields to the stable. But He came an infinite distance to meet them; from heaven to earth, from eternity to time, from infinite joy to squalor, suffering and death. He desired that meeting with all His heart. For that meeting the very stars that sang on that holy night were created as mere stage props. What the simple shepherds do is the highest and holiest thing any saint or mystic ever does, on earth or in heaven.”

Peter Kreeft, “The Meaning of Christmas: Look Deeper”

“Advent is a short season, yet it covers a long distance. It is the road of a soul from Nazareth to Bethlehem. It seems such a short distance as we are accustomed to thinking of distances. Yet it is a road into infinity, into eternity. It has a beginning, but no end. In truth, Advent is *the road of the spiritual life* which all of us must start if we do not want to miss the way.”

Catherine Doherty, “The Meaning of Advent,” *Donkey Bells*

What do we do when we diagnose fetal anomalies that we can’t correct? The same thing we do for adults or children who develop incurable conditions, or suffer severe injury – we treat them with love, compassion, and dignity. That is what makes us human. Unless there is another condition that poses a direct threat to the life of the mother, an abnormality is never an indication for terminating a pregnancy. Our duty as physicians and parents is to preserve life when we can, and provide compassion and comfort when we can’t.

Dr. William R. Lile, Jr., FACOG, “Surgical Advances for Unborn Patients,” 2004 Respect Life Program

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Peter Kreeft. “The Meaning of Christmas: Look Deeper”

O Child, who willed to have for your crib a manger; O Creator of the universe, who stripped yourself of divine glory: O Redeemer, who offered your vulnerable body in sacrifice for the salvation of Humanity! May the radiance of your birth *light up the night of the world*. May the power of your message of love thwart the proud snares of the evil one. May the gift of your life make us understand ever more clearly the worth of the life of each human being.

Pope John Paul II. Christmas Homily at Midnight Mass. 2003

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