



# *WORD OF LIFE*

*December 2005*

# Intercessions for Life

DECEMBER 2005

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## **Dec 4<sup>th</sup> SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

For those who have grown very old,  
and especially those abandoned by their families,  
that our parish might recommit ourselves  
to love and cherish them this Christmas;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **Dec 11<sup>th</sup> THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

For all mothers who are pregnant,  
that this season of expectant joy  
might deepen within them a sense of awe  
at the mystery of life stirring within them;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **Dec 18<sup>th</sup> FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

For those whose work  
contradicts the Gospel of Life,  
that we might love them enough to speak the truth  
in charity and love;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **Dec 25<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS**

That on this feast of newborn love,  
all men and women might recommit themselves  
to the defense of all human life  
from conception to natural death;  
We pray to the Lord:



“Human rights are not a privilege conferred by government. They are every human being's entitlement by virtue of his humanity. The right to life does not depend, and must not be declared to be contingent on the pleasure of anyone else, not even a parent or a sovereign.”

Blessed Teresa of Calcuta, February 25, 1994

**T**he Lord offers the gift of children, seen as a blessing and a grace, a sign of life that continues and of the history of salvation extending to new stages. ... Begetting is thus a gift that brings life and well-being to society. We are aware of this in our days in the face of nations that are deprived, by the demographic loss, of the freshness and energy of a future embodied by children.

Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience, Aug. 31, 2005

**I** would submit --- that defining “person” by using terms such as “embryo” or “fetus” is confusing, outdated and meaningless. Such terms cloud the issue of when human life begins. The better view would be for the Legislature to adopt a bright line point in time, and that point in time must be the moment of conception.

Florida Judge Robert J. Pleus, Jr., *In re Guardianship of J.D. S.*, 864 So. 2nd 534 (Fl. Dt. Ct. 2004) (dissenting)

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**I** have a new grandson. His is Nicholas. ... [We] were able to view a sonogram and determine that Nicholas was a boy. ... You could tell he was alive because he moved his arms and legs. ... If all the judges in the world and all the justices on the supreme court decided that Nicholas was not a person and merely a “fetus” until his birth, I would know them blind to reality. Before this birth, Nicholas was alive. Nicholas had an identity. Nicholas was a person. Nicholas has been a person since conception. Our rule of law can no longer remain blind to the realities of human life.

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The creation of a new creature, not ourselves, of a new conscious centre, of a new and independent focus of experience and enjoyment, is an immeasurably more grand and godlike act that even a real love affair; how much more superior to a momentary physical satisfaction. If creating another self is not noble, why is pure self-indulgence nobler?

G.K. Chesterton, “Blasphemy and the Baby,” reprinted in *Brave New Family* at 171

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