



WORD OF LIFE

October 2005

Intercessions for Life

OCTOBER 2005

Oct 2nd TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For the little child who lives in his mother's womb:
that our love might shepherd him to birth;
We pray to the Lord:

Oct 9th TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

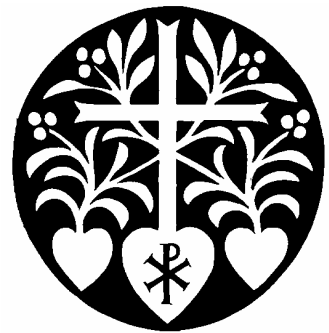
For young people in High School and College:
that they might learn to give thanks to God
for the gift of life he has given them;
We pray to the Lord:

Oct 16th TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those who have grown weak with age and sickness:
that we might cherish their presence in our midst,
as a sign of God's care for us;
We pray to the Lord:

Oct 23rd THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For the justices of the Supreme Court,
that as their term begins,
they may defend the right to life
of each and every person;
We pray to the Lord:



Oct 30th THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those who work for the Gospel of Life:
that God might grant them the grace of patient endurance;
We pray to the Lord:

“Life is precious and unique: it must always be respected and protected, also by proper and careful conduct on the roads.”

Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Message, June 26, 2005

The freedom to kill is not true freedom, but a tyranny that reduces the human being to slavery.

Pope Benedict XVI, homily, May 7, 2005

Man is this mysterious creature who comes entirely from the earth, but in whom has been placed the breath of God. ... the breath of his love, of his truth and of his goodness.

Pope Benedict XVI, homily, May 15, 2005

Embryonic stem cell research raises grave moral objections because it requires the destruction of human life, and its possible use in future treatments remains a speculation. By contrast, this bill [funding umbilical cord stem cell research] relates to an area of stem cell research and treatment that is indisputably acceptable on moral grounds and remarkably promising in terms of clinical benefits. Umbilical cord blood stem cells have successfully treated thousands of patients with dozens of diseases.

Cardinal William H. Keeler, letter to the Senate regarding S. 1317, "Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act," July 11, 2005

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Cardinal William H. Keeler, letter to the Senate regarding S. 1317, "Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act," July 11, 2005

[Every] human being is always deserving of the greatest respect and has the right fully to express his personal dignity. In such a perspective the family, state and Church, each within its own area of competence, is called to discover anew the greatness of the human person and the value of suffering, which is "present in the world in order to release love, ... in order to transform the whole of human civilization into a 'civilization of love.'"

Pope John Paul 11, November 21, 1993

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Pope Benedict XVI, homily, May 7, 2005

The proof of Roe[v. Wade]'s failings comes not from the writings of those unsympathetic to women's rights, but from the decision itself and the friends who have tried to sustain it. Justice Blackmun's opinion provides essentially no reasoning in support of its holding. And in the almost 30 years since Roe's announcement, no one has produced a convincing defense of Roe on its own terms.

Edward Lazarus, "The Lingering Problems with Roe v. Wade..." October 3, 2002

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Pope John Paul 11, Address to the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Health Care Workers, November 21, 1993

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Preaching for Life

Isaiah 5:1-7 *The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel.*
Philippians 4:6-9 *Do these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*
Matthew 21:33-43 *He will lease his vineyard to other tenants.*
(Lectionary for Mass, no.139)

Like a fine vintner, God plants the seed of life in the vineyard of our lives. In the secret of my mother's womb he made me to grow – a life conceived in the mystery of God's infinite love and the wonder of the love of man and wife, which strives to reflect it. God plants the seed. And then what happens? Does he reap a fruitful harvest?

So often, the opposite is true. The vineyards of our lives too often produce the wild grapes of selfishness, of fear, and of pleasure, which bloom in the morning and fade with the noonday sun. When we fail to realize that God is the creator and the owner of the vineyard our lives become empty of meaning and fruitless.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the same story about a vineyard, complete with a hedge! But in his story he does not plant grapes, but tenant farmers: farmers who also turn into wild grapes! Out of selfishness and greed they kill first his servants, and then his son. "Come on," they say, "let us kill and then we will get rich!"

Why do people have abortions? Is it because they want to kill a baby? No. People kill because they have turned into wild grapes: they are afraid, or blinded by selfishness, or confused by sin. And so they kill the child, the old man, and even the Son of God.

The only antidote to this sin is goodness, and love, and the truth. For, if we live the Gospel of life, we will cultivate God's vineyard and it will bear only the finest and truest of fruit unto eternal life.

Pope Benedict XVI has dedicated himself to doing everything possible to keep us from growing into wild grapes. He has begun his ministry by continuing the ministry of Pope John Paul II in declaring "in an unequivocal way the inviolability of the human being, the inviolability of human life from its conception until natural death." "The freedom to kill," he reminds us, "is not true freedom, but a tyranny that reduces the human being to slavery."¹

If we seek to tend the vineyard God has planted, if we nurture and cultivate the gift of life, Saint Paul reminds us today, we will cling to "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious...."

¹ Pope Benedict XVI, Homily at his installation as Bishop of Rome, May 7, 2005.

Intercessions for Life

For all homeless parents,
that God will teach us
how to love and support them;
with an ever-deepening love each day;
We pray to the Lord:

For young mothers tempted to abort their child,
that God's grace might give them
the wisdom and fortitude
to preserve the gift they carry within them;
We pray to the Lord:

For the parents of all teen mothers,
that God might grant them
a full portion of his merciful love;
We pray to the Lord:

For parents who have grown very old
that through their prayers and example
they might teach their grandchildren
the wonders of the Gospel of Life;
We pray to the Lord:

For every little child
and especially for those who
live in their mother's womb,
that they might grow
in the image and likeness of
the God who made them;
We pray to the Lord:

For orphaned children throughout the world,
and especially those
were are abused or neglected,
that we might work to save them;
We pray to the Lord:

For doctors who perform abortions,
and for those who assist them,
that by our love, patience,
and unswerving dedication to the truth,
they might be drawn closer to the Lord of life;
We pray to the Lord:

For our President,
our congressmen and senators,
the Justices of our Supreme Court,
and all who seek to foster
principles on which this country was founded;
We pray to the Lord:

For the men and women who sit on death row
awaiting the end of their life,
that we might pray for them
with compassion and care;
We pray to the Lord: