



WORD OF LIFE

September 2004

Intercessions for Life

SEPTEMBER 2004

September 5th TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For the littlest of children:
that through the example of their innocence,
we might be purified of arrogance, selfishness, and conceit;
We pray to the Lord:

September 12th TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all who have been condemned to die:
that by our prayers they might find God,
and by our work they might know mercy;
We pray to the Lord:

September 19th TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all who have been forgotten:
for the sick, the dying, the old, and the innocent victim,
that they may never be far from our hearts;
We pray to the Lord:

September 26th TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For our nation:
that through a quick end to the sin of abortion,
we might truly guarantee
life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness to all our citizens;
We pray to the Lord:



“The question of life and its promotion is not only a prerogative of Christians, but belongs to every human conscience that aspires to the truth and is concerned about humanity's future. Public authorities, as guarantors of the rights of all, are under the obligation to defend life, especially the lives of the weakest and most helpless.”

Pope John Paul II to the Ambassador of Spain, June, 2004

Catholic social teaching covers a broad range of important issues. But among these the teaching on abortion holds a unique place. Not all moral issues have the same moral weight as abortion and euthanasia. ...There may be a legitimate diversity of opinion even among Catholics about waging war and applying the death penalty, but not with regard to abortion and euthanasia.
 — Archbishop Levada, "Reflections on Catholics in Political Life and the Reception of Holy Communion"

[Human trafficking] constitutes a shocking offense against human dignity and a grave violation of fundamental human rights. In particular, the sexual exploitation of women and children is a particularly repugnant aspect of this trade, and must be recognized as an intrinsic violation of human dignity and human rights. — Pope John Paul II, "21st Century Slavery — the Human Rights Dimension to Trafficking in Human Beings"

Researchers now know that the apparent initial "promise" of [embryonic stem cells] was exaggerated. For example, because of their genetic instability and tendency to form potentially lethal tumors in host animals, these cells may not be ready for human clinical trials for many years, if ever. At the same time, adult stem cells and other avenues that pose no moral problem have advanced quickly toward human clinical trials to treat corneal damage, Parkinson's disease, spinal cord injury, sickle-cell anemia, cardiac damage and many other conditions. (For details see www.stemcellresearch.org)
 -- Cardinal William H. Keeler, letter to House and Senate Appropriations Committees, July 7, 2004

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We still have very little insight into how, in a span of forty weeks, a single cell can grow into a precious baby of many trillions of cells. Any surgical corrections that we attempt are primitive compared to the normal development that takes place every day. Do unborn babies qualify as human lives? We can give the unborn blood transfusions, excise tumors, and repair defects to the bladder, spine, and diaphragm in the womb. If they are not human lives, what are they?
 — Dr. William R. Lile, Jr., FACOG, Surgical Advances for Unborn Patients, Respect Life Program, 2004

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