



WORD OF LIFE

February 2008

Intercessions for Life

February 2008

February 3rd Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

For our Holy Father:

in thanksgiving for his devotion to the Gospel of life;

We pray to the Lord:

February 10th First Sunday of Lent

For those who are weighed down with the sickness and pain: that by their prayers
we might be delivered from selfishness;

We pray to the Lord:

February 17th Second Sunday of Lent

For all who await execution on death rows across this country:
that we might learn to love them;

We pray to the Lord:

February 24th Third Sunday of Lent

For all who have been wounded by the sin of abortion:
for repentance, mercy and peace;

We pray to the Lord:



Rates of three reported STDs rose again in 2006, part of an estimated 19 million new STD infections that occur each year, almost half of which are contracted by people under 24 years of age. Gary L. Rose, MD, president of the Medical Institute for Sexual Health, attributes the continuing rise in STDs to the failure of contraception-focused education to fully teach young people about the risks of disease.

- Cheryl Wetzstein, "STD Rates Rising for Nation's Young," *Washington Times*, Nov. 14, 2007, A9

Induced abortion increased the early preterm birth rate [from 24 weeks' to 31 weeks and 6 days' gestation] by 31.5%. Almost 23,000 children in the U.S. are born before 32 weeks as a result of the mother's prior induced abortion. Annually, over 4,000 of these infants will die and 1,000 will have or develop cerebral palsy.

- Calhoun, B. et al., "Cost Consequences of Induced Abortion as an Attributable Risk for Preterm Birth and Impact on Informed Consent," *Journal of Reproductive Medicine*, Oct. 2007, 929-937.

When all candidates hold a position in favor of an intrinsic evil, the conscientious voter faces a dilemma. The voter may decide to take the extraordinary step of not voting for any candidate or, after careful deliberation, may decide to vote for the candidate deemed less likely to advance such a morally flawed position and more likely to pursue other authentic human goods.

In making these decisions, it is essential for Catholics to be guided by a well-formed conscience that recognizes that all issues do not carry the same moral weight and that the moral obligation to oppose intrinsically evil acts has a special claim on our consciences and our actions.

- "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," (nos. 36-37), USCCB, Nov. 14, 2007

As Catholics we are not single-issue voters. A candidate's position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter's support. Yet a candidate's position on a single issue that involves an intrinsic evil, such as support for legal abortion or the promotion of racism, may legitimately lead a voter to disqualify a candidate from receiving support.

- "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," (no. 42), USCCB, Nov. 14, 2007