



WORD OF LIFE

January 2008

Intercessions for Life

January 2008

January 6th Epiphany of the Lord

For parents awaiting the birth of their first child:
that the gift of life might fill them with joy;
We pray to the Lord:

January 13th Baptism of the Lord

For parents who struggle to feed and clothe their children:
that we might seek to help and encourage them;
We pray to the Lord:

January 20th Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

For every child of this parish family who will be born in the coming months:
that God might keep them safe;
We pray to the Lord:

January 27th Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

For doctors and nurses who work to heal and protect:
that God might reward them for their dedication to the Gospel of life;
We pray to the Lord:



Studies published ... in the journals *Cell* and *Science* offer new hope for advancing stem cell research and therapies while fully respecting the dignity of human life.

Scientists in Japan and Wisconsin used four genes to “reprogram” ordinary adult human cells, creating “induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS cells). ...

Thus the goal sought for years through failed attempts at human cloning – the production of “pluripotent” stem cells that are an exact match to a patient – has been brought within reach by an ethical procedure. The technology avoids the ethical landmines associated with embryonic stem cell research: it does not clone or destroy human embryos, [and] does not harm or exploit women for their eggs. ...

This advance reminds us once again that medical progress and respect for human life are not in conflict....

- Cardinal Justin Rigali, Statement on Stem Cell Breakthrough, Nov. 20, 2007

The Church is not trying to impose Catholic doctrine on the world, but we are trying to invite our people to take seriously their obligation to vote in a way that respects the moral law, the natural law, and takes into account the common good, care for the poor, and particularly the Gospel of Life, which is always at the center of Catholic social teaching.

- Cardinal Sean O’Malley, commenting on “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” Nov. 15, 2007

Unfortunately, politics in our country often can be a contest of powerful interests, partisan attacks, sound bites, and media hype. The Church calls for a different kind of political engagement: one shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being, the pursuit of the common good, and the protection of the weak and the vulnerable. The Catholic call to faithful citizenship affirms the importance of political participation and insists that public service is a worthy vocation.

- “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” (no. 14), USCCB, Nov. 14, 2007

A Catholic cannot vote for a candidate who takes a position in favor of an intrinsic evil, such as abortion or racism, if the voter’s intent is to support that position. In such cases a Catholic would be guilty of formal cooperation in grave evil. At the same time, a voter should not use a candidate’s opposition to an intrinsic evil to justify indifference or inattentiveness to other important moral issues involving human life and dignity.

- “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” (no. 34), USCCB, Nov. 14, 2007

Preaching for Life

January 22, 2008

Day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. (See *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, no. 373)

1 Samuel 16:1-13/ Mark 2:23-28 (312)

- Today is the thirty-fifth anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion.
- For 35 years, Christians have worked to restore the basic right to life, which John Paul II said was the foundation for all other rights in society.
- Today, we perform acts of penance both in reparation for crimes against human dignity caused by abortion and in intercession to God to grant wisdom to our nation and civil leaders, that they might know and protect life from conception to natural death.
- Christians work without violence to proclaim human dignity. In his first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict insisted, “a pure and generous love is the best witness to the God in whom we believe and by whom we are driven to love” (no. 31).

As we continue to share God’s love with all men, women, and children, we will ask God at the end of this Mass: “Fill us with the spirit of love that we may work effectively to establish among men Christ’s farewell gift of peace” (*Prayer after Communion*, Mass for Peace and Justice).

Intercessions for Life

January 22, 2008

Day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life.

For our Holy Father, our Bishop _____,
Our Pastor, _____,
and all the priests of our diocese:
that Christ might make them courageous
witnesses
of the Gospel of Life;
We pray to the Lord:

For President Bush
and Senators _____ and _____:
that the Gospel of Life
might guide and inspire them;
We pray to the Lord:

For pregnant teens:
that they might receive the grace they need
to love and protect the child God has placed
in their care;
We pray to the Lord:

For the unborn child who is deformed or ill:
that we might treasure the delicate and
wonderful gift which God brings to us in
them;
We pray to the Lord:

That all husbands and wives
might see themselves as co-workers with God
in the act of creation;
We pray to the Lord:

For those tempted by abortion:
that God might teach us how to love them;
We pray to the Lord:

For those who are haunted by the memory of
an abortion;
that they might be given the grace
to seek healing in Christ;
We pray to the Lord:

For priests hearing a confession of abortion:
that they might be strong, loving, and wise;
We pray to the Lord:

