



WORD OF LIFE

June 2008

Intercessions for Life

June 2008

June 1st Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

For our Bishop:
in thanksgiving for his devotion to the Gospel of life;
We pray to the Lord:

June 8th Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

For those who lead us in government:
that they might work to protect the lives of all people,
especially those who live on death row;
We pray to the Lord:

June 15th Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

For little children and for their teachers:
that a love for life from conception to natural death
might fill our schools with Christian hope;
We pray to the Lord:



June 22nd Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

For all medical students,
that they might learn to rely on God and on his law
as the guiding principle of their careers;
We pray to the Lord:

June 29th Saints Peter and Paul

For expectant parents:
that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mother
they might wait in joyful hope
for the wonders God will bring them;
We pray to the Lord:

The Lord is the defender of my life, who will make me tremble?

My enemies who trouble me have lost their strength.

from the Roman Missal

Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbor is the holiest object presented to your senses. If he is your Christian neighbor, he is holy in almost the same way, for in him also Christ ... the glorifier and the glorified, Glory Himself, is truly hidden.

C.S. Lewis, "The Weight of Glory"

Divorce and abortion are, of course, different choices, at times made in difficult and dramatic circumstances. They often give rise to traumas and are a source of profound suffering for the people who make them. ... They leave wounds that mark life indelibly. The Church has the primary duty to approach [such] people with love and delicacy, with kindness and maternal concern, in order to announce the merciful closeness of God and Jesus Christ. ... Yes, the gospel of love and of life is also always the gospel of mercy.

Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the International Congress "Oil on the Wounds," April 5, 2008

Sexually-active teenage girls (aged 14 to 17) are over 3 times more likely to be depressed than girls who are not sexually active and almost 3 times more likely to attempt suicide than their sexually inactive counterparts. One survey found that 72% of sexually active teenage girls (aged 12 to 17) wish they had waited longer before beginning sexual activity.

Robert Rector et al., *Sexually Active Teenagers Are More Likely to Be Depressed and to Attempt Suicide* (June 3, 2003) Center for Data Analysis Report #03-04; available at heritage.org/Research/Abstinence/cda0304.cfm.

Fifty-nine studies "found that there is a significant increased risk of preterm birth or low birth weight of babies in women who had a previous induced abortion compared to women with no previous induced abortion."

Byron C. Calhoun, MD et al., "Preterm Birth and Abortion," *Assoc. for Interdisciplinary Research in Values and Social Change Research Bulletin* 20:2 (Fall 2007).

"In February 2005, Sara Scantlin of Kansas awoke from the 'persistent vegetative state' she had been in since a drunk driver hit her in 1984 when she was only 18. ... 'Since 22 September 1984, Sara Scantlin had never uttered a word, her brain so badly damaged... that experts said she would spend the rest of her life in her own silent world. ... [Since she awoke, her parents] have listened in astonishment as she reels off the names of relatives, former pets, friends from school and dates. ... Her doctor, Bradley Scheel, says critical pathways in Sarah's brain ... have regenerated and kicked back into life. ... A very important part of this case is the fact that throughout her 20-year coma, Sarah could see, hear, and understand what was going on around her.'"

"Is a Prognosis Always Infallible? Occasions When the Doctors Were Proved Wrong"; available at www.uklifeleague.com/proginfal.htm