



WORD OF LIFE

May 2008

Intercessions for Life

May 2008

May 4th Seventh Sunday of Easter/Ascension of the Lord

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

May 11th Pentecost Sunday

For doctors, nurses, and all health-care professionals:
that they might receive the grace
to resist all cooperation with the Culture of Death;
We pray to the Lord:

May 18th Most Holy Trinity

For those who care for the sick and the dying,
that God might reward them for their dedication
to the infinite value of every human life;
We pray to the Lord:



May 25th Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

For every mother who this week aborts her child,
and for her husband:
that God might bring them repentance, healing, and peace;
We pray to the Lord:

*God has sent his Only-begotten Son into the world,
that we may live through him.
from the Roman Missal*

The use society hopes to make of biomedical science must constantly be measured against robust and firm ethical standards. ... Foremost among these is the dignity of human life, for under no circumstances may a human being be manipulated or treated as a mere instrument for experimentation.

Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Holy See, Oct. 11, 2007

A society unable to accept its suffering members and incapable of helping to share their suffering and to bear it inwardly through "com-passion" is a cruel and inhuman society" (*Spe salvi*, 38). ... More and more lonely elderly people exist in big cities, even in situations of serious illness and close to death. In such situations, the pressure of euthanasia is felt, especially when a utilitarian vision of the person creeps in. In this regard, I take this opportunity to reaffirm once again the firm and constant ethical condemnation of every form of direct euthanasia, in accordance with the Church's centuries-old teaching.

Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Congress Organized by the Pontifical Academy for Life, Feb. 25, 2008

When God wants an important thing done in this world or a wrong righted, He goes about it in a very singular way. He doesn't release thunderbolts or stir up earthquakes. God simply has a tiny baby born, perhaps of a very humble home, perhaps of a very humble mother. And God puts the idea or purpose into the mother's heart. And she puts it in the baby's mind, and then – God waits. The great events of this world are not battles and elections and earthquakes, and thunderbolts. The great events are babies, for each child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged with humanity, but is still expecting goodwill to become incarnate in each human life.

Edmond McDonald

Compared with women with no history of abortion, women who had one abortion were 2.8 times more likely to have a low birth weight (LBW) baby. Those with two abortions were 4.6 times more likely to have a LBW baby, and those with three abortions were 9.5 times more likely to have a LBW baby. The risk for preterm birth was 1.7 times, 2 times and 3 times, respectively for women with one, two or three abortions.

J.S. Brown, Jr. et al., "Previous Abortion and the Risk of Low Birth Weight and Preterm Births," *J. Epidemiol Community Health* (2008) 62:16.