



# *WORD OF LIFE*

*August 2008*

# Intercessions for Life

August 2008

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**August 3<sup>rd</sup>                    Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For all who dwell in the darkness of sin,  
But especially those imprisoned by sins against life:  
That God might fill them with wonder  
At the miracle of life, from conception to natural death;  
We pray to the Lord:

**August 10<sup>th</sup>                    Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For children whose lives are at risk from abortion:  
that the hearts and minds of their parents  
may be opened to the wonders of human life;  
We pray to the Lord:

**August 17<sup>th</sup>                    Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For our pastor and all who work for life:  
in thanksgiving for their devotion to the Gospel of life;  
We pray to the Lord:



**August 24<sup>th</sup>                    Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For the very old weighed down by the burdens of age:  
that our love for them might bring hope and strength;  
We pray to the Lord:

**August 31<sup>st</sup>                    Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For the inmate who sits alone awaiting his death:  
for the grace of faith, repentance and peace;  
We pray to the Lord:

*Behold! The Lord will come down with splendor  
to visit his people in peace  
and confer on them everlasting life.  
from the Roman Missal*

It is precisely in caring for the poorest and most helpless of patients, those whose value and dignity are dismissed by others, that Catholic health care most clearly lives up to its mission and demonstrates the need for specifically Catholic health care providers in our secularized society. It is in meeting the moral challenge of caring for the most helpless that we live up to our own God-given dignity.

Cardinal Justin F. Rigali, JCD and Bishop William E. Lori, STD, "On Basic Care for Patients in the 'Vegetative' State," *Health Progress*, May-June 2008, 70-72

Scientists have been able to convert ordinary skin cells directly into stem cells that have all of the important properties of embryonic stem cells. Thus, scientists who claimed that embryonic stem cells offered the "best" or the "only" hope for patients have been proved wrong by science itself.

Maureen Condic, Ph.D., "Stem Cells and Hope for Patients," *Respect Life Program* 2008

The causes that lead to such painful decisions as abortion are of course many and complex. If, on the one hand, ... the Church never tires of reaffirming that the sacred value of every human being's life originates in the Creator's plan, on the other hand, she encourages the promotion of every initiative in support of women and families in order to create the favourable conditions in which to welcome life, and the protection of the family institution founded on the marriage between a man and a woman. Not only has permitting recourse to the termination of pregnancy not solved the problems that afflict many women and a fair number of families, but it has also made another wound in our society, unfortunately, already burdened by deep suffering.

Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Members of Italy's Pro-Life Movement, May 12, 2008

For Christians ... an indispensable field for the apostolate and for Gospel witness is always open: to protect life with courage and love in all its stages. ... It is necessary to witness concretely that respect for life is the first form of justice to apply. For those who have the gift of faith this becomes a mandatory imperative, because the disciple of Christ is called to be increasingly a "prophet" of a truth that can never be eliminated: God alone is the Lord of life. Every person is known and loved, wanted and guided by him. Here alone lies the deepest and greatest unity of humanity: in the fact that every human being puts into practice God's one plan, originates in God's same creative idea. One thus understands why the Bible says: whoever profanes man, profanes the property of God (cf. Gn 9: 5).

Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Members of Italy's Pro-Life Movement, May 12, 2008

No job, no plans, no possessions, no idea of "freedom" can take the place of love. So anything that destroys God's gift of motherhood destroys His most precious gift to women—the ability to love as a woman.

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta