



WORD OF LIFE

December 2008

Intercessions for Life

DECEMBER 2008

Dec 7th SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For the members of our Supreme Court:
that the principles upon which this nation was founded
might lead them to save the lives of all children from the moment of conception;
We pray to the Lord:

Dec 14th THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For every little child:
that we might value the infinite gift
of their life;
We pray to the Lord:

Dec 21st FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For theologians and scientists,
that through a growing and respectful dialogue
they might foster a growing appreciation
for the infinite value of every human life;
We pray to the Lord:

Dec 28th THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

For those who have been forgotten in this Christmas season:
that we might see in them the homeless holy family
and respond to their presence with abiding love;
We pray to the Lord:



The concerns for non-violence, sustainable development, justice and peace, and care for our environment are of vital importance for humanity. They cannot, however, be understood apart from a profound reflection upon the innate dignity of every human life from conception to natural death: a dignity conferred by God Himself and thus inviolable.

- Pope Benedict XVI, July 17, 2008

At Christmas we contemplate God made man, divine glory hidden beneath the poverty of a Child wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger; the Creator of the Universe reduced to the helplessness of an infant. Once we accept this paradox, we discover the Truth that sets us free and the Love that transforms our lives. On Bethlehem Night, the Redeemer becomes one of us, our companion along the precarious paths of history. Let us take the hand which he stretches out to us: it is a hand which seeks to take nothing from us, but only to give.

--Pope Benedict XVI, Urbi et Orbi Message, Christmas 2005

Today, this very day, Christ comes once more “unto his own,” and to those who receive him he gives “the power to become children of God”; in a word, he offers them the opportunity to see God’s glory and to share the joy of that Love which became incarnate for us in Bethlehem. Today “our Savior is born to the world,” for he knows that even today we need him. Despite humanity’s many advances, man has always been the same: a freedom poised between good and evil, between life and death. ... And, in this post-modern age, perhaps he needs a Savior all the more, since the society in which he lives has become more complex and the threats to his personal and moral integrity have become more insidious. Who can defend him, if not the One who loves him to the point of sacrificing on the Cross his only-begotten Son as the Savior of the world?

--Pope Benedict XVI, Urbi et Orbi Message, Christmas 2006

Our Savior is born for all. We must proclaim this not only in words, but by our entire life, giving the world a witness of united, open communities where fraternity and forgiveness reign, along with acceptance and mutual service, truth, justice and love.

--Pope Benedict XVI, Urbi et Orbi Message, Christmas 2006

Chastity is the joyous affirmation of someone who knows how to live self-giving, free from any form of self-centered slavery. This presupposes that the person has learnt how to accept other people, to relate with them, while respecting their dignity in diversity. The chaste person is not self-centered, not involved in selfish relationships with other people. Chastity makes the personality harmonious. It matures it and fills it with inner peace. This purity of mind and body helps develop true self-respect and at the same time makes one capable of respecting others, because it makes one see in them persons to reverence, insofar as they are created in the image of God and through grace are children of God, re-created by Christ. ...

--Pontifical Council for the Family, “The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality,” December 8, 1995