



WORD OF LIFE

July 2008

Intercessions for Life

July 2008

July 6th Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

July 13th Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

For every child who died this week by abortion:
that they might rest for eternity
in the gentle arms of God;
We pray to the Lord:

July 20th Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

For seminarians and novices and all who prepare for
religious life:
that they might be imbued with the vitality and joy
of the Gospel of Life;
We pray to the Lord:



July 27th Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

That governments sanctioning abortion,
destructive embryo research or the death penalty
may be led by courageous prophets
to embrace the Gospel of Life;
We pray to the Lord:

*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
has eternal life, says the Lord,
and I will raise them up on the last day.
from the Roman Missal*

The dreams and longings that young people pursue can so easily be shattered or destroyed. I am thinking of those affected by drug and substance abuse, homelessness and poverty, racism, violence, and degradation—especially of girls and women. While the causes of these problems are complex, all have in common a poisoned attitude of mind which results in people being treated as mere objects—a callousness of heart takes hold which first ignores, then ridicules, the God-given dignity of every human being.

Pope Benedict XVI, Meeting with Young People and Seminarians, St. Joseph's Seminary, April 19, 2008

America's brand of secularism poses a particular problem: it allows for professing belief in God, and respects the public role of religion and the Churches, but at the same time it can subtly reduce religious belief to a lowest common denominator. Faith becomes a passive acceptance that certain things "out there" are true, but without practical relevance for everyday life. The result is a growing separation of faith from life: living "as if God did not exist." This is aggravated by an individualistic and eclectic approach to faith and religion ... each person believes he or she has a right to pick and choose, maintaining external social bonds but without an integral, interior conversion to the law of Christ. Consequently, rather than being transformed and renewed in mind, Christians are easily tempted to conform themselves to the spirit of this age. ... We have seen this emerge in an acute way in the scandal given by Catholics who promote an alleged right to abortion.

Pope Benedict XVI, Responses to the Questions Posed by the Bishops, April 16, 2008

Children deserve to grow up with a healthy understanding of sexuality and its proper place in human relationships. They should be spared the degrading manifestations and the crude manipulation of sexuality so prevalent today. They have a right to be educated in authentic moral values rooted in the dignity of the human person. This brings us back to our consideration of the centrality of the family and the need to promote the Gospel of life. What does it mean to speak of child protection when pornography and violence can be viewed in so many homes through media widely available today? We need to reassess urgently the values underpinning society, so that a sound moral formation can be offered to young people and adults alike.

Pope Benedict XVI, Celebration of Vespers and Meeting with the Bishops of the United States of America, April 16, 2008

The Church ... is called to proclaim the gift of life, to serve life, and to promote a culture of life. ... The proclamation of life, life in abundance, must be the heart of the new evangelization. For true life – our salvation – can only be found in the reconciliation, freedom and love which are God's gracious gift.

Pope Benedict XVI, homily at Votive Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, April 19, 2008