



WORD OF LIFE

November 2008

Intercessions for Life

NOVEMBER 2008

Nov 2nd THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

For all who are about to die:
that we might learn from them
and cherish their presence
in every remaining moment given to them by God;
We pray to the Lord:

Nov 9th THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA IN ROME

For the Church throughout the world,
that God might teach us how to defend and protect
the weak, the poor, and the sick;
We pray to the Lord:

Nov 16th THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those who await their execution on death row:
that God might teach us how to love and protect them;
We pray to the Lord:

Nov 23rd OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING

That we might become each day more like Christ,
in our love for those whom everyone else has forgotten;
We pray to the Lord:

Nov 30th FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For mothers who have aborted their child:
for repentance, healing and peace;
We pray to the Lord:



Over and above all the compelling reasons that nature gives us to respect, protect, love and serve life -- every human life -- the Incarnation....confirms us in an even deeper certitude. The eternal Son of God who took flesh from the Virgin Mary, was born and lived and died for our salvation has uplifted all humanity to a further dignity and destiny: to share in His divine life forever -- in the communion of the Most Blessed Trinity.

—Cardinal Justin Rigali

A new generation of Christians is being called to help build a world in which God's gift of life is welcomed, respected and cherished—not rejected, feared as a threat and destroyed. A new age in which love is not greedy or self-seeking, but pure, faithful and genuinely free, open to others, respectful of their dignity, seeking their good, radiating joy and beauty. A new age in which hope liberates us from shallowness, apathy and self-absorption which deaden our souls and poison our relationships. . . . The Lord is asking you to be prophets of this new age, messengers of his love, drawing people to the Father and building a future of hope for all humanity.

Pope Benedict XVI, Homily at World Youth Day, July 20, 2008

Abortion kills an unborn, developing human life. It is always gravely evil, and so are the evasions employed to justify it. Catholics who make excuses for it—whether they're famous or not—fool only themselves and abuse the fidelity of those Catholics who do sincerely seek to follow the Gospel and live their Catholic faith.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M.Cap. and Bishop James D. Conley, *On the Separation of Sense and State*, Aug. 25, 2008

The . . . claim that the beginning of human life is a 'personal and private' matter of religious faith, one which cannot be 'imposed' on others, does not reflect Catholic teaching. The Church teaches that the obligation to protect unborn human life rests on the answer to two questions, neither of which is private or specifically religious.

The first is a *biological* question: When does a new human life begin? . . . While ancient thinkers had little verifiable knowledge to help them answer this question, today embryology textbooks confirm that a new human life begins at conception. . . .

The second is a *moral* question, with legal and political consequences: Which living members of the human species should be seen as having fundamental human rights, such as the right not to be killed? The Catholic Church's answer is: Everybody. No human being should be treated as lacking human rights, and we have no business dividing humanity into those who are valuable enough to warrant protection and those who are not.

Cardinal Justin Rigali and Bishop William E. Lori, *Statement Regarding Church Teaching on Abortion*, Sept. 9, 2008

This teaching [condemning abortion] has consequences for those charged with caring for the common good, those who hold public office. The unborn child, who is alive and is a member of the human family, cannot defend himself or herself. Good law defends the defenseless. Our present laws permit unborn children to be privately killed. Laws that place unborn children outside the protection of law destroy both the children killed and the common good, which is the controlling principle of Catholic social teaching. One cannot favor the legal status quo on abortion and also be working for the common good.

This explains why the abortion issue will not disappear and why it is central to the Church's teaching on a just social order.

Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., *Statement*, Sept. 2, 2008