



WORD OF LIFE

September 2008

Intercessions for Life

SEPTEMBER 2008

Sept 7th TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For a growing respect for the self-evident right to life
of every human being, from conception to natural death;
We pray to the Lord:

Sept 14th THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

For all who suffer from the culture of death:
for aborted children and their parents,
for elderly people forgotten or abused,
and for those who sit on death rows:
that our love for their lives might save them;
We pray to the Lord:

Sept 21st TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all medical researchers and ethicists:
that the lives of all human beings,
including those conceived as embryos
might be valued and safeguarded in their research;
We pray to the Lord:

Sept 28th TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all teenage parents:
that their love for the baby they are expecting
might strengthen their resolve to nurture and protect
the child whom they have conceived;
We pray to the Lord.



We are “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.”

Pope Benedict XVI, Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, 2008.

Some claim that scientists who kill embryos for their stem cells are not actually depriving anyone of life, because they are using “spare” or unwanted embryos who will die anyway. This argument is simply invalid. Ultimately each of us will die, but that gives no one a right to kill us. Our society does not permit lethal experiments on terminally ill patients or condemned prisoners on the pretext that they will soon die anyway.

USCCB, *On Embryonic Stem Cell Research* (June 13, 2008)

Human cloning is intrinsically evil because it reduces human procreation to a mere manufacturing process, producing new human beings in the laboratory to predetermined specifications as though they were commodities. It shows disrespect for human life in the very act of generating it. This is especially clear when human embryos are produced by cloning for research purposes, because new human lives are generated solely in order to be destroyed.

USCCB, *On Embryonic Stem Cell Research* (June 13, 2008)

It now seems undeniable that once we cross the fundamental moral line that prevents us from treating any fellow human being as a mere object of research, there is no stopping point. The only moral stance that affirms the human dignity of all of us is to reject the first step down this path. We therefore urge Catholics and all people of good will to join us in reaffirming, precisely in this context of embryonic stem cell research, that “the killing of innocent human creatures, even if carried out to help others, constitutes an absolutely unacceptable act” (Pope John Paul II, *The Gospel of Life [Evangelium Vitae]*, no. 63).

USCCB, *On Embryonic Stem Cell Research* (June 13, 2008)

Stem cells from adult tissues and umbilical cord blood are now known to be much more versatile than once thought. These cells are now in widespread use to treat many kinds of cancer and other illnesses, and in clinical trials they have already benefited patients suffering from heart disease, corneal damage, sickle-cell anemia, multiple sclerosis, and many other devastating conditions.

USCCB, *On Embryonic Stem Cell Research* (June 13, 2008)

