



Word of Life

July 2012

Intercessions for Life July 2012

July 1st THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For our elected officials:
that their first priority will be to defend the sanctity of human life
and the human rights and liberties endowed by God;
We pray to the Lord:

July 8th FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For the parents of unborn children diagnosed with serious medical conditions:
that their faith and trust in God will overcome their fears and free them to cherish their baby;
We pray to the Lord:

July 15th FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those whose days on earth are drawing to a close:
that they may be welcomed into the joys of eternal life in heaven;
We pray to the Lord:

July 22nd SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those in prison:
that with repentant hearts, they may fully
experience the forgiveness and peace of Divine Mercy;
We pray to the Lord:

July 29th SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those who care for the sick and suffering:
that their words and actions will always reflect
the dignity and worth of those they serve;
We pray to the Lord:

The American experience of personal freedom and civil peace would be inconceivable without a religious grounding and a predominantly Christian inspiration. The reason is simple. What we believe about God shapes what we believe about man. And what we believe about man shapes what we believe about the purpose and proper structure of human society. So it should surprise no one that at the heart of American life is a Christian-informed definition of what it means to be human.

~ *Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Archbishop of Philadelphia, "Some Thoughts on Our First, Most Cherished Liberty," April 13, 2012*

For her part, the Church in the United States is called, in season and out of season, to proclaim a Gospel which not only proposes unchanging moral truths but proposes them precisely as the key to human happiness and social prospering (cf. *Gaudium et Spes*, 10). To the extent that some current cultural trends contain elements that would curtail the proclamation of these truths, whether constricting it within the limits of a merely scientific rationality, or suppressing it in the name of political power or majority rule, they represent a threat not just to Christian faith, but also to humanity itself and to the deepest truth about our being and ultimate vocation, our relationship to God.

~ *Pope Benedict XVI, "To the Bishops of the United States of America on their 'ad limina' Visit", January 19, 2012*

Blessed Pope John Paul II discussed radical secularism almost two decades ago when he visited Baltimore and stated, "The challenge facing you, dear friends, is to increase people's awareness of the importance for society of religious freedom; to defend that freedom against those who would take religion out of the public domain and establish secularism as America's official faith... And it is vitally necessary, for the very survival of the American experience, to transmit to the next generation the precious legacy of religious freedom and the convictions which sustain it."

~ *Archbishop William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore, Address "Let Freedom Ring," given May 24, 2012*

In addition, it comes within the meaning of religious freedom that religious communities should not be prohibited from freely undertaking to show the special value of their doctrine in what concerns the organization of society and the inspiration of the whole of human activity. Finally, the social nature of man and the very nature of religion afford the foundation of the right of men freely to hold meetings and to establish educational, cultural, charitable and social organizations, under the impulse of their own religious sense.

~ *Dignitatis Humanae: On the Right of the Person and of Communities to Social and Civil Freedom in Matters Religious, Promulgated by Pope Paul VI, December 7, 1965*

Most importantly of all, we call upon the Catholic faithful, and all people of faith, throughout our country to join us in prayer and penance for our leaders and for the complete protection of our First Freedom—religious liberty—which is not only protected in the laws and customs of our great nation, but rooted in the teachings of our great Tradition. Prayer is the ultimate source of our strength—for without God, we can do nothing; but with God, all things are possible.

~ *United for Religious Freedom: A Statement of the Administrative Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, March 14, 2012*