



Word of Life

June 2012

Intercessions for Life

June 2012

June 3rd THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

For married couples:
that the eternal, creative and self-giving love of the Trinity
become their model, especially in their openness to new life;
We pray to the Lord:

June 10th THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

For those who have sinned against human life:
that they seek God's forgiveness and grace through Reconciliation;
We pray to the Lord:

June 17th ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For fathers:
that they remain faithful to the vocation they have received
to be living witnesses of God's love to their spouse and children;
We pray to the Lord:

June 24th SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

For the world:
that all people may know the dignity of the human person,
wonderfully made by God our Father and destined for eternal life with Him.
We pray to the Lord:

Wise men and women, saints and scholars, tell us that Jesus is teaching that, really, the only unforgiveable sin ... is to believe that there is any sin which cannot be forgiven, that God's mercy is limited. Nope! God's mercy, God's grace, God's power is unlimited! There is no evil, no horror, no sin that is exempt from the healing rays of His grace. Not even the horrors of the culture of death!

~ Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, Archbishop of New York and USCCB President, Homily, Closing Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life, January 23, 2012

Man is a being who bears within his heart a thirst for the infinite, a thirst for truth – a truth which is not partial but capable of explaining life's meaning – since he was created in the image and likeness of God. The grateful recognition that life is an inestimable gift, then, leads to the discovery of one's own profound dignity and the inviolability of every single person. Hence the first step in education is learning to recognize the Creator's image in man, and consequently learning to have a profound respect for every human being and helping others to live a life consonant with this supreme dignity.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace: "Educating Young People in Justice and Peace," January 1, 2012

It cannot be taken for granted that human life in itself is a gift. Can it really be a beautiful gift? Do we know what will befall man in the dark days ahead — or in the brighter days that could come? Can we foresee to what troubles, what terrible events he might be exposed? ... It is a problematic gift, if it is left to itself. Biological life is in itself a gift, but it is surrounded by a great question. It becomes a true gift only if, along with it, we are given a promise that is stronger than any evil that could threaten us, if it is immersed in a power that ensures that it is good to be human, that there will be good for this person no matter what the future brings. Thus, with birth is associated rebirth, the certitude that, truly, it is good to be alive, because the promise is stronger than evil.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, Mass on the Occasion of the Holy Father's 85th Birthday, April 16, 2012

The Second Vatican Council emphasized this truth of revelation by stating "By His incarnation, the Son of God has united himself in some fashion with every human being." An assault on human life is really an assault on God himself! In *The Gospel of Life*, Blessed John Paul II reminded us that "this saving event reveals to humanity not only the boundless love of God who 'so loved the world that He gave His only Son' (Jn 3:16), but also the incomparable value of every human person."

~ Archbishop Stefan Soroka, National Prayer Vigil for Life, Homily, Compline, January 22, 2012