

WORD OF LIFE

March 2014

Intercessions for Life

March 2nd Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time

For all families concerned with how to provide for their loved ones,
Especially expectant mothers:
May they turn to the Lord, trusting in His providence,
And experience the support of the Christian community;
We pray to the Lord:

March 9th First Sunday of Lent

For medical workers who have renounced their involvement in abortion:
May they obtain peace and consolation through the mercy of God,
And may their conversions inspire others to respect the gift of life;
We pray to the Lord:

March 16th Second Sunday of Lent

For expectant parents being pressured to end the life of their unborn child;
May they experience the encouragement of the Lord,
And practical and life-giving support from communities like ours;
We pray to the Lord:

March 23rd Third Sunday of Lent

For Christians who have become discouraged in their efforts to promote the dignity of human life:
May the Lord give them a hope that sustains them in their mission
And the grace to renew their spirits;
We pray to the Lord:

March 30th Fourth Sunday of Lent

For men and women experiencing shame after participating in an abortion:
May they have the courage to receive the Lord's forgiveness, healing, and freedom;
We pray to the Lord:

Bulletin Briefs

“Christians know that suffering cannot be eliminated, yet it can have meaning and become an act of love and entrustment into the hands of God who does not abandon us; in this way it can serve as a moment of growth in faith and love.”

— Pope Francis, *Lumen Fidei*, 56

“There is an urgent need to recover a correct perspective on life as a whole. The correct perspective is that of eternity, for which life at every phase is a meaningful preparation. Old age too has a proper role to play in this process of gradual maturing along the path to eternity. And this process of maturing cannot but benefit the larger society of which the elderly person is a part.”

— Blessed John Paul II, *Letter to the Elderly*, 1999

“In one way or another, everyone in society works in the service of humanity. Physicians have opportunities that a priest does not have, for our mission does not end when medicine is no longer of help. There still remains the soul that must be brought to God. Jesus says, ‘Whoever visits the sick is helping me.’ This is a priestly mission. Just as the priests can touch Jesus, so we doctors touch Jesus in the bodies of our patients: in the poor, the young, the old, and children.”

— St. Gianna Molla

“Be kind, especially with the infirm. Love them well ... Oh yes! Be kind. It is a great grace God is giving you. In serving the aged, it is he himself whom you are serving.”

— St. Jeanne Jugan, Founder of the Little Sisters of the Poor

“Every human life is precious in God’s sight and no effort should be spared in the attempt to promote throughout the world a genuine respect for the inalienable rights and dignity of individuals and peoples everywhere.”

— Pope Benedict XVI, Letter to Cardinal Dolan on the Occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Somber Events of September 11, 2001

Life Facts:

By Week 10, the child’s nails and fingerprints are developing, and his or her vital organs are functioning. The child starts to move and kick, even though the mother may not feel the child’s movement.

By week 16, the child’s nervous system is developing rapidly and designating areas in the brain for smell, taste, sight, hearing, and touch. The child may be sucking his or her thumb at this stage of development.

Join the Bishops’ Call to Prayer and Fasting for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty.

Visit www.usccb.org/pray or text “fast” to 99000. Join the Movement!

Copyright © 2013, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.