



# *WORD OF LIFE*

*July 2009*

# Intercessions for Life

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## **July 5th Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For our nation:

That the right to life of every human being

From conception to natural death

Will again be protected in our laws;

We pray to the Lord:

## **July 12<sup>th</sup> Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For those who have a terminal illness:

That families and caretakers will affirm their God-given dignity

By their gentleness and compassion;

We pray to the Lord:

## **July 19<sup>th</sup> Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For couples struggling with infertility:

That God may bless them with children through adoption

Or by curing their infertility through morally sound treatments;

We pray to the Lord:

## **July 26<sup>th</sup> Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For teenagers:

That their parents will live up to their responsibility

to educate and encourage them to follow the moral

teachings of the Church concerning human sexuality;

We pray to the Lord:



St. Maria Goretti (July 6)

In our own trials, and standing alongside others in their struggles, we glimpse the essence of our humanity, we become, as it were, more human.

--Pope Benedict XVI, Address in Amman, Jordan, May 8, 2009

In the present situation of our nation, a serious question has arisen about the moral obligation of Catholics to work for the overturning of the Supreme Court decisions in *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*. There are those who would tell us that such work is futile and, therefore, to be abandoned, so that we can devote ourselves to help prevent individuals from choosing abortion. As Catholics, we can never cease to work for the correction of gravely unjust laws. Law is the fundamental expression of our culture and implicitly teaches citizens what is morally acceptable. Our efforts to assist those who are tempted to do what is always and everywhere wrong or are suffering from the effects of having committed a gravely immoral act ... ultimately make little sense, if we remain idle regarding unjust laws and decisions of courts regarding the same intrinsic evils. We are never justified in abandoning the work of changing legislation and of reversing decisions of the courts which are anti-life and anti-family.

--Most Rev. Raymond L. Burke, Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, Address to the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast, May 8, 2009

The Church is a loving mother who has a zest for life and serves life everywhere, but she can become a protective "mamma bear" when the life of her innocent, helpless cubs is threatened. Everyone in this mega-community is a somebody with an extraordinary destiny. Everyone is a somebody in whom God has invested an infinite love. That is why the Church reaches out to the unborn, the suffering, the poor, our elders, the physically and emotionally challenged, those caught in the web of addictions.

--Most Rev. Timothy M. Dolan, Archbishop of New York, Installation Mass homily, April 15, 2009

It is not enough for us even to defend innocent human life. Of course, if we fail to do this, we fail in our most urgent task. But by good deeds of love and charity, we must build this active culture of life that is ready and capable of turning back hell itself. If we won't put the abortionist out of business we are pitiable souls. If we don't enact laws and work tirelessly to change human hearts so that life is forever revered and protected, we have not fought the good fight which is our charge as the Church Militant. As warriors we must first beat back the enemy. But then let us not forget that we are warriors for the victory of life!

--Most Rev. Robert W. Finn, Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Address to Gospel of Life Convention, April 18, 2009