



WORD OF LIFE

February 2010

Intercessions for Life February 2010

February 7th FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For persons coping with mental illness:
That they will have access to excellent healthcare and counseling,
And be treated by all with the respect due every human being;
We pray to the Lord:

February 14th SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For members of our armed forces serving overseas and their families:
That God will keep them safe
And console them in the loneliness of separation from loved ones;
We pray to the Lord:

February 21st FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

For all who've helped a family member or friend obtain an abortion:
That the grace of repentance will lead them to Confession
And the great gift of Divine Mercy;
We pray to the Lord:

February 28th SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

For all Christians:
That we may learn to see each other as persons with whom
We will one day share God's joy in heaven;
We pray to the Lord:



Image courtesy of Our Lady of Lourdes, Gibson City, Illinois

Human persons are not to be understood merely from the perspective of their past histories or from ... the present. ... We must always see in other human beings persons with whom we shall one day share God's joy. We must look upon them as persons who are called, together with us, to be members of the body of Christ, with whom we shall one day sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and with Christ himself, as their brothers and sisters, as the brothers and sisters of Christ, and as children of God.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, *"In the Beginning ...": A Catholic Understanding of the Story of Creation and the Fall*, p. 49.

Mary Immaculate helps us to rediscover and defend what lies within people. ... Our Lady teaches us to be open to God's action and to see others as he sees them: starting with the heart. And to look at them with compassion, with love, with infinite tenderness, especially those who are lonely, despised, or exploited.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Address on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8, 2009)

[In vitro fertilization] further depersonalizes the act of generating a child, turning it into a technical process in a laboratory. This procedure is so far from a loving act of the spouses that it can even be used to conceive a child if neither of them is alive, for the body of neither one is involved in the act of generating this life once sperm and egg are obtained and stored. Because these embryos are deliberately created not in the nurturing environment of the mother's body but in the poor substitute of a culture in a glass dish, the great majority of them die.

~ United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Life-Giving Love in an Age of Technology* (Nov. 2009)

Often embryos not used in a first attempt at pregnancy are frozen and stored for future attempts. This also poses a serious risk to their lives. When their parents have as many live-born children as they want, or abandon their efforts to have a child through IVF, the remaining embryos are considered "excess" or "spare." Some are thrown away as laboratory waste, while others are abandoned indefinitely in a frozen state or slated for experimental purposes. The current debate about killing embryonic human beings on a large scale to "harvest" their embryonic stem cells arose partly because IVF clinics produced so many "spare" embryos, creating a terrible temptation for researchers to find a "use" for these human beings no longer wanted by their parents.

~ United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Life-Giving Love in an Age of Technology* (Nov. 2009)

