



WORD OF LIFE

May 2010

May 2nd FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

For all the victims of violence and natural disasters:
That the Lord will give them comfort and aid
Through the Church's humanitarian efforts;
We pray to the Lord:

May 9th SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

For all mothers:
That God will bless them, and their children will be grateful
For their countless daily sacrifices for their families;
We pray to the Lord:

May 16th SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

For our political leaders:
That they have the courage and wisdom to lead our country
In a manner that respects the dignity of all human life;
We pray to the Lord:



May 23rd PENTECOST SUNDAY

For all who work to advance respect for human life:
That they remain humble instruments in God's hands
And always bear witness to the Lord's love and mercy;
We pray to the Lord:

May 30th MOST HOLY TRINITY

For all who suffer with depression, grief or anguish
following an abortion:
That they will turn to the Lord
Who will wipe away all their tears
Through an outpouring of his merciful love;
We pray to the Lord:

Life in its fullness is only lived in self-giving, and that is the fruit of the grace of Christ.

~ Pope John Paul II, Message to the Youth of the World (February 14, 2001)

God loves each human being uniquely and profoundly.

~Pope Benedict XVI, Message to the Pontifical Academy for Life (February 13, 2010)

When it is a matter of contexts that concern the human being, scientists can never think that they are merely dealing with inanimate and manipulable matter. In fact, [...] the very first instant of the human being's life is characterized by the fact that it is *human life* and for this reason possesses its own dignity everywhere and in spite of all.

~Pope Benedict XVI, Message to the Pontifical Academy for Life (February 13, 2010)

Today the prevalent efficiency-based mentality often tends to marginalize people, considering them a burden and a problem for society. Those who have a sense of human dignity know instead that they must be respected and supported while they face the difficulties and suffering associated with the condition of their health. ... As well as the indispensable clinical treatment, it is necessary to offer the sick practical gestures of love, closeness and Christian solidarity in response to their need for understanding, comfort and constant encouragement.

~Pope Benedict XVI, Address at Sacro Cuore Hospice, December 13, 2009

Christianity is not *mainly* – or even significantly -- about politics. It's about living and sharing the love of God. And Christian political engagement, when it happens, is never *mainly* the task of the clergy. That work belongs to lay believers who live most intensely in the world. Christian faith is not a set of ethics or doctrines. It's not a group of theories about social and economic justice. All these things have their place. All of them can be important. But a Christian life begins in a relationship with Jesus Christ; and it bears fruit in the justice, mercy and love we show to others because of that relationship.

~ Most Rev. Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap., "The Vocation of Christians in American Public Life," Address at Houston Baptist University, March 1, 2010