



WORD OF LIFE

September 2009

Intercessions for Life

September 2009

September 6

For all health care providers:

That their work in service to the blind, the lame, and all the sick may be animated by a spirit of charity in truth so as to bring God's healing to both body and soul and promote a culture of life;
We pray to the Lord:

September 13

For the persecuted Church:

That those who face oppression and suffering because of their Catholic faith may not be put to shame, but may be supported through our prayers and consoled by their following in the example of Christ, who suffered greatly for the truth;
We pray to the Lord:

September 20

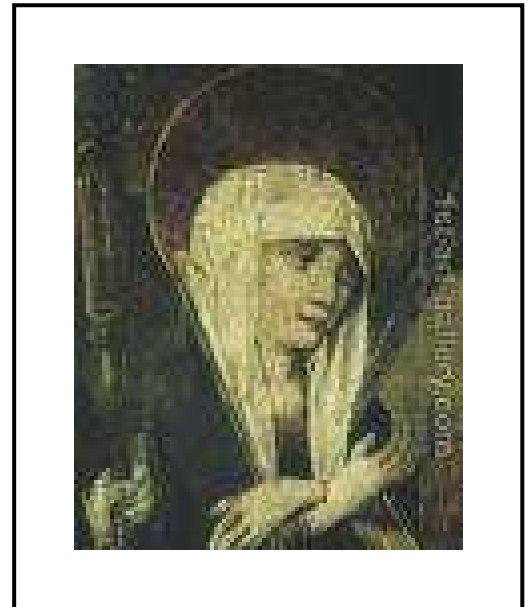
For all children:

That all children, especially the unborn and those vulnerable to abuse,
that God may protect them from all forms of harm,
and that we too may learn from the example of children and receive Christ with humility, trust and without fear;
We pray to the Lord:

September 27

For all who struggle with pornography:

That God may purify the hearts of those who sin with their eyes,
that He may heal marriages and relationships harmed by this terrible plague,
and that He may give priests the grace and wisdom to lead those ensnared in sins of the flesh to the freedom of Christ-centered love;
We pray to the Lord.



In order to protect nature, it is not enough to intervene with economic incentives or deterrents. *The decisive issue is the overall moral tenor of society.* If there is a lack of respect for the right to life and to a natural death, if human conception, gestation and birth are made artificial, if human embryos are sacrificed to research, the conscience of society ends up losing the concept of human ecology and, along with it, that of environmental ecology. It is contradictory to insist that future generations respect the natural environment when our educational systems and laws do not help them to respect themselves.

—Pope Benedict XVI. *Charity in Truth (Caritas in Veritate)*, 51. June 29, 2009.

A particularly crucial battleground in today's cultural struggle between the supremacy of technology and human moral responsibility is the field of *bioethics*. In this most delicate and critical area, the fundamental question asserts itself force-fully: is man the product of his own labours or does he depend on God? We are presented with a clear *either/ or*. Yet the rationality of a self-centered use of technology proves to be irrational because it implies a decisive rejection of meaning and value.

—Pope Benedict XVI. *Charity in Truth (Caritas in Veritate)*, 74. June 29, 2009.

The social question has become a radically anthropological question, in the sense that it concerns not just how life is conceived but also how it is manipulated, as bio-technology places it increasingly under man's control. *In vitro* fertilization, embryo research, the possibility of manufacturing clones and human hybrids: all this is now emerging and being promoted in today's highly disillusioned culture, which believes it has mastered every mystery, because the origin of life is now within our grasp. We must not underestimate the disturbing scenarios that threaten our future, or the powerful new instruments that the “culture of death” has at its disposal.

—Pope Benedict XVI. *Charity in Truth (Caritas in Veritate)*, 75. June 29, 2009.

To the tragic and widespread scourge of abortion we may well have to add in the future the systematic eugenic programming of births. At the other end of the spectrum, a pro-euthanasia mindset is making inroads as an equally damaging assertion of control over life that under certain circumstances is deemed no longer worth living. Underlying these scenarios are cultural viewpoints that deny human dignity.

—Pope Benedict XVI. *Charity in Truth (Caritas in Veritate)*, 75. June 29, 2009.