

WORD OF LIFE

February 2014

Intercessions for Life

February 2nd FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

For every newborn child:
That their lives may be seen as a gift,
and that parents may be given the grace to
raise their children to know and love the Lord;
We pray to the Lord:

February 9th FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

For those afraid to love:
May the Lord take away their fear
and give them the courage
to give of themselves generously to the most vulnerable and needy;
We pray to the Lord:

Or:

For all those enslaved to sexual sin:
May Christ set them free by the power of his grace
And help them to grow in the virtue of chastity;
We pray to the Lord:

February 16th SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

That the Lord would give each of us the grace
to choose what is good and pleasing to God,
especially in difficult situations when human life is threatened;
We pray to the Lord:

February 23rd SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

For teenagers facing an unexpected pregnancy:
May they know and understand the depths of the
God's love and mercy and come to see their child as a gift;
We pray to the Lord:

Bulletin Briefs

“Human life must always be defended from its beginning in the womb and must be recognized as a gift of God that guarantees the future of humanity.”

~Pope Francis, Letter to Brazilian families for National Family Week, August 6, 2013

“Give us the grace - When the sacredness of life before birth is attacked, to stand up and proclaim that no one ever has the authority to destroy unborn life.”

~Pope John Paul II, Homily, October 7, 1979

“The future of humanity passes by way of the family.”

~Pope John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio*, 86.

“Society as a whole must defend the conceived child's right to life and the true good of the woman who can never, in any circumstances, find fulfillment in the decision to abort.”

~ Pope Benedict XVI, address to the Pontifical Academy for Life, February 26, 2011

“Likewise, if we really believe that abortion is an intimate act of violence – and of course, it is – then we can't aim at anything less than ending abortion. It doesn't matter that some abortions have always occurred, or that some will always occur. If we really believe that abortion kills a developing, unborn human life, then we can never be satisfied with mere ‘reductions’ in the body count.”

~ Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Why This Work Matters: Human Dignity and the Road Ahead
March 9, 2010

“Let not your heart be disturbed... Am I not here, who is your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything.”

~Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego

“This life in us; however low it flickers or fiercely burns, is still a divine flame which no man dare presume to put out, be his motives ever so humane and enlightened; To suppose otherwise is to countenance a death-wish; either life is always and in all circumstances sacred, or intrinsically of no account; it is inconceivable that it should be in some cases the one, and in some the other.”

~Malcolm Muggeridge, *Something Beautiful for God*, 1971

Life Development Facts:

~ By 16 weeks of life, a baby in the womb is the size of an avocado, weighing around 4 ounces and is about 4 ½ inches long. He or she has begun to grow toenails.

~ By 21 weeks, the baby in the womb is around 10 inches long and has developed eyebrows and eye lids.

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!