



Word of Life

April 2012

APRIL 1ST PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

For all children who suffer from family violence, abuse or abandonment:
that their pain may be joined to Our Lord's suffering on the cross
for the forgiveness and salvation of their parents;
We pray to the Lord:

APRIL 8TH THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD THE MASS OF EASTER SUNDAY

That the bodily Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ
will renew in all Christians a deep gratitude for the gift of life
and the promise of salvation for those who believe in him;
We pray to the Lord:

APRIL 15TH SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

For mothers and fathers who have lost a child through abortion:
That the Lord's Divine Mercy may fill their souls, bringing them healing and new life;
We pray to the Lord:

APRIL 22ND THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

For all those who work to build a culture of life,
that in the spirit of the Resurrection,
they will remain joyful and hope-filled witnesses to the sanctity of life;
We pray to the Lord:

APRIL 29TH FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

For those nearing the end of their lives,
that they may know the gentle voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd,
and entrust themselves to him in their final days;
We pray to the Lord:

At the heart of every culture ... is a consensus about the nature of reality and the moral good, and thus about the conditions for human flourishing. In America, that consensus, as enshrined in your nation's founding documents, was grounded in a worldview shaped not only by faith but a commitment to certain ethical principles deriving from nature and nature's God. Today that consensus has eroded significantly in the face of powerful new cultural currents which are not only directly opposed to core moral teachings of the Judeo-Christian tradition, but increasingly hostile to Christianity as such.

~Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Bishops of the United States on their Ad Limina Visit, Jan. 19, 2012

We can take heart from the growing awareness of the need to preserve a civil order clearly rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition, as well as from the promise offered by a new generation of Catholics whose experience and convictions will have a decisive role in renewing the Church's presence and witness in American society. ... [This] is itself a reason to renew our efforts to mobilize the intellectual and moral resources of the entire Catholic community in the service of the evangelization of American culture and the building of the civilization of love.

~Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Bishops of the United States on their Ad Limina Visit, Jan. 19, 2012

A mandate to act against our teachings. The [HHS contraceptive mandate] exemption is not merely a government foray into internal Church governance, where government has no legal competence or authority—disturbing though that may be. This error in theory has grave consequences in principle and practice. Those deemed by HHS not to be "religious employers" will be forced by government to violate their own teachings within their very own institutions. This is not only an injustice in itself, but it also undermines the effective proclamation of those teachings to the faithful and to the world. For decades, the Bishops have led the fight against such government incursions on conscience, particularly in the area of health care. ... The unprecedented magnitude of this latest threat has only strengthened our resolve to maintain that consistent view.

~Administrative Committee of the USCCB, "United for Religious Freedom," March 14, 2012

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, 2012

A violation of personal civil rights. The HHS mandate creates still a third class, those with no conscience protection at all: individuals who, in their daily lives, strive constantly to act in accordance with their faith and moral values. They, too, face a government mandate to aid in providing "services" contrary to those values—whether in their sponsoring of, and payment for, insurance as employers; their payment of insurance premiums as employees; or as insurers themselves—without even the semblance of an exemption. This, too, is unprecedented in federal law, which has long been generous in protecting the rights of individuals not to act against their religious beliefs or moral convictions.

~Administrative Committee of the USCCB, "United for Religious Freedom," March 14, 2012

A nationwide call to prayer:

Most importantly of all, we call upon the Catholic faithful, and all people of faith, throughout our country to join us in prayer and penance for our leaders and for the restoration of our First Freedom—religious liberty—which is not only protected in the laws and customs of our great Nation, but rooted in the teachings of our great Tradition. Prayer is the ultimate source of our strength—for without God, we can do nothing; but with God, all things are possible.

~Administrative Committee of the USCCB, "United for Religious Freedom," March 14, 2012