Word of Life

March 2013

Intercessions for Life   March 2013

3RD   THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
That all may understand how short are our lives on earth
and devote more time to cultivating fruit that lasts
by loving and serving others;
We pray to the Lord:

10TH   FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
That children whose parents are growing old
will honor their love and sacrifices
by seeing that their needs are lovingly met for as long as they live;
We pray to the Lord:

17TH   FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
That those who feel too ashamed to go to Confession
will put aside their fears and recall Jesus' words—
"There will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents
than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance."
We pray to the Lord:

24TH   PALM SUNDAY OF OUR LORD'S PASSION
For those whose faith is wavering
That they may discover in Christ crucified the depth of God's love
and the priceless value of every human life;
We pray to the Lord:

31ST   EASTER SUNDAY –RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD
For the sick and dying, for persons with disabilities and for their families:
that the Lord's Resurrection will fill their hearts with joy and hope;
We pray to the Lord:

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Christians are people who have been conquered by Christ's love and, accordingly, under the influence of that love… they are profoundly open to loving their neighbor in concrete ways. This attitude arises primarily from the consciousness of being loved, forgiven, and even served by the Lord, who bends down to wash the feet of the Apostles and offers himself on the Cross to draw humanity into God's love.

> ~ Pope Benedict XVI, Message for Lent 2013, October 15, 2012

It is this [merciful] love which must inspire humanity today, if it is to face the crisis of the meaning of life … and, especially, the duty to defend the dignity of every human person. Thus the message of divine mercy is also implicitly a message about the value of every human being. Each person is precious in God's eyes; Christ gave his life for each one.

> ~ Bl. Pope John Paul II, homily at canonization of St. Faustina, April 30, 2000

As a gift to humanity, which sometimes seems bewildered and overwhelmed by the power of evil, selfishness, and fear, the Risen Lord offers His love that pardons, reconciles, and reopens hearts to love. It is a love that converts hearts and gives peace. How much the world needs to understand and accept Divine Mercy!

> ~ Bl. Pope John Paul II, *Regina Caeli* message, written to be delivered April 3, 2005 (Divine Mercy Sunday, the day following his death)

I do not want to punish mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to my Merciful Heart.

> ~ Jesus' words to St. Faustina as recorded in her *Diary* (1588)

Let the greatest sinners place their trust in My mercy. They have the right before others to trust in the abyss of My mercy. …Souls that make an appeal to My mercy delight Me. To such souls I grant even more graces than they ask.

> ~ Jesus' words to St. Faustina as recorded in her *Diary* (1146)

I remember during those dark years … the grief was all-consuming. But, like so many other women, I kept it locked inside. … I was unforgiveable. … I cried alone almost daily. … And then one fateful Sunday morning during Mass, my husband handed me a church bulletin, pointing out the words on the back: "Project Rachel — a program for post-abortion healing." ... When I finally called, … the voice on the other end was warm and full of hope for me. My journey of healing began on that day that I made that phone call. Thanks to Project Rachel, I am me again. … Little did I know that God was there, all along, offering me his love. … The power of forgiveness is life altering. I am happy again, and the people whom I love sense that. I will always regret my decision, and I will continue to carry my quiet secret with me. It has become a part of who I am, but it no longer defines who I am.

> ~ A mother who lost a child in an abortion