



Word of Life

May 2012

Intercessions for Life

May 2012

MAY 6TH FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

For those who are terminally ill:
that on their journey to eternal life,
they will be strengthened by the presence of loved ones;
We pray to the Lord:

MAY 13TH SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

For all mothers:
that their children will honor their many sacrifices
by lives of service and virtue;
We pray to the Lord:

MAY 17TH ASCENSION OF THE LORD

That all Catholics will take up the urgent task
of proclaiming the Gospel of Life to all the world;
We pray to the Lord:

MAY 20TH SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER OR ASCENSION OF THE LORD

That all who are struggling to overcome addictions—
whether to alcohol, drugs, pornography or gambling—
may find healing, forgiveness, and the strength to break free;
We pray to the Lord:

MAY 27TH PENTECOST SUNDAY

That the Holy Spirit may come down upon the leaders of our nation
and upon all whose consciences are clouded by secularism,
and inspire a new era of faith, liberty, and justice for all;
We pray to the Lord:

I strongly urge ... Catholics, and all men and women of good will, not to yield to a utilitarian mentality which always leads to the sacrifice of the weakest and most defenseless. I invite you to a common effort so that society can be renewed from the ground up, in order to attain a life of dignity, justice and peace for everyone. For Catholics, this contribution to the common good is also a requirement of that essential dimension of the Gospel which is human promotion and a supreme expression of charity. For this reason, the Church exhorts all her faithful to be good citizens, conscious of their responsibility to be concerned for the good of all, both in their personal lives and throughout society.

~Pope Benedict XVI, Address at Departure Ceremony at International Airport of El Bajío, Mexico (March 26, 2012)

[With regard to the] HHS mandate for contraception, sterilization, and abortion-inducing drugs. ... the federal government will both force religious institutions to facilitate and fund a product contrary to their own moral teaching and purport to define which religious institutions are “religious enough” to merit protection of their religious liberty. These features of the “preventive services” mandate amount to an unjust law. As Archbishop-designate William Lori of Baltimore, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, testified to Congress: “This is not a matter of whether contraception may be prohibited by the government. This is not even a matter of whether contraception may be supported by the government. Instead, it is a matter of whether religious people and institutions may be forced by the government to provide coverage for contraception or sterilization, even if that violates their religious beliefs.”

~ Our First, Most Cherished Liberty, USCCB Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty (April 12, 2012)

Religious liberty is not only about our ability to go to Mass on Sunday or pray the Rosary at home. It is about whether we can make our contribution to the common good of all Americans. Can we do the good works our faith calls us to do, without having to compromise that very same faith? Without religious liberty properly understood, all Americans suffer, deprived of the essential contribution in education, health care, feeding the hungry, civil rights, and social services that religious Americans make every day.

~ Our First, Most Cherished Liberty, USCCB Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty (April 12, 2012)

Every great religious revival in America has led to an advance in civil rights—from the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights to the end of slavery and the pursuit of racial equality. But all this has been achieved in the face of established power structures strongly and often violently opposed to these rights. So this is a time for choosing—choosing whether as Catholics we will stand together to keep open the doors of religious liberty. If we do so, then we will make possible the next great awakening in America that will bring us closer to building that culture of life and civilization of love about which John Paul II so often spoke.

~ Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, Address to the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast (April 19, 2012)