



Word of Life

September 2012

Intercessions for Life September 2012

September 2nd TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all those who labor:
that their work may be at the service of human dignity
and bear witness to the sanctity of life;
We pray to the Lord:

September 9th TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those who are blind to the inherent dignity of every human being:
that the Lord may enlighten their minds and hearts
to recognize the God-given worth of every person;
We pray to the Lord:

September 16th TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those who are ridiculed or persecuted for defending life:
that the Lord will give them grace to remain resolute
in speaking the truth in courage and love;
We pray to the Lord:

September 23rd TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all children:
that their beauty, joy and innocence may serve as reminders
that they are a precious gift from God;
We pray to the Lord:

September 30th TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For our nation:
that our elected officials will be firmly committed to defending all human life,
the sanctity of marriage, rights of conscience, and the common good;
We pray to the Lord:

Most of us assume that we have basic rights that come with special dignity of being human. These rights are inherent to human nature. They're part of who we are. Nobody can take them away. But if there is no Creator, and nothing fundamental and unchangeable about human nature, and if "nature's God" is kicked out of the public conversation, then our rights become the product of social convention. But social conventions can change. That means the definition of who is and who isn't "human" can change.

American public life needs a framework that is friendly to religious belief because society can't support its moral claims about freedom and rights with rational and secular arguments alone. In fact, to the degree that our society encourages a culture of unbelief, it undermines its own grounding. It causes its own decline by destroying the moral coherence of a public square in which all are respected and treated as equals.

~ *Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Philadelphia, "Life Matters: Religious Liberty and the American Soul,"* Respect Life Program 2012

Using seductive euphemisms for situational killing ... [promoters of assisted suicide] deliberately distort end-of-life care and options while fanning the flames of fear of intractable suffering at death. ... In reality, the assisted suicide laws in Oregon and Washington are severely flawed and really don't provide protections for patients. For example, patients accessing assisted suicide are supposed to be of sound mind. Yet fully 25% of patients given prescriptions for lethal overdoses were found to be depressed. Many others had anxiety. The practice is supposed to be reviewed by state officials, yet the only data reported in the States of Oregon and Washington comes from second- or even third-hand reports from the doctors who wrote the prescription. Most of the doctors (about 90%) weren't even present at the time their patients took the drug overdose, thus, they really don't know what happened.

~ *William L. Toffler, MD, "Life Matters: Doctor-Assisted Death by Suicide,"* Respect Life Program 2012

Hormonal contraceptives significantly increase women's risk of developing the following: blood clots that can lead to fatal heart attacks, strokes and pulmonary embolisms; breast cancer, cervical cancer and liver tumors; loss of bone density; and changes in metabolism causing loss of libido, weight gain, moodiness and migraines. Women using the contraceptive patch, for example, are almost 8 times more likely to develop blood clots than women not using hormonal contraceptives; more than 360 young women using the patch, contraceptive ring or Yaz/Yasmin pills have died in recent years due to heart attacks, strokes or pulmonary embolisms seen as associated with these drugs and devices.

~ *Susan E. Wills, JD, LLM, "Life Matters: Contraceptives and Women's Well-Being,"* Respect Life Program 2012

Every Christian is called to work for the common good and against the evils and injustices of their day. We all are called to witness to life in whatever job and setting God places us. While the struggle to defend human life in America and worldwide is far from over, pro-life youth today are showing us that the pro-life movement is in promising hands. These young people have chosen to live for greatness and great things. They will undoubtedly succeed.

~ *Ashley Brashear, "Life Matters: The Call to Greatness,"* Respect Life Program 2012

As a doctor the freedom to practice based not only on scientific knowledge but also on my faith and conscience allows me and all physicians and healthcare providers to offer the best quality of medicine possible. As a patient, I want my doctors, nurses and other healthcare providers to offer the same type of care. The moment we allow our conscience to be replaced by a government "conscience," we begin to lose our freedom.

~ *Joxel García, MD, MBA, with Terry Michael Rauch II, "Life Matters: The Call to Greatness,"* Respect Life Program 2012