



# *Word of Life*

*January 2012*

# Intercessions for Life

January 2012

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**January 1, 2012**

**The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord  
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

For children who are orphaned, abandoned, or whose mothers cannot care for them:  
that they will be strengthened and comforted  
by the knowledge of the Blessed Mother's tender love for them;  
We pray to the Lord:

**January 8, 2012**

**The Epiphany of the Lord**

For all who support abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia,  
the death penalty or other destruction of human life:  
that the light of our Christian witness will guide them to the Lord of Life and Truth;  
We pray to the Lord:

**January 15, 2012**

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For victims of prejudice due to their race, national origin or religious belief:  
that they be respected and valued for their equal and inherent dignity;  
We pray to the Lord:

**January 22, 2012**

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For our federal and state leaders in the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of government:  
that they will enact, uphold, and enforce laws to defend and promote the right to life  
of all human beings, especially those not yet born;  
We pray to the Lord:

**January 29, 2012**

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For those who have committed sins against the sanctity of human life,  
especially those near death:  
that they may be reconciled with God;  
We pray to the Lord:

The Church considers it her duty to defend in our society as a whole the truths and values in which the very dignity of man is at stake. Accordingly, to mention one particularly important point, we have no right to judge whether an individual is “already a person” or “still a person,” and even less is it up to us to manipulate the human being or even to wish to do so.

~Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Hon. Reinhard Schweppe, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Holy See, November 7, 2011

A society is truly human when without reservations it protects and respects the dignity of every person from conception until the moment of his or her natural death. However, should it decide to “get rid” of its members in the greatest need of protection, ... it would be behaving in a profoundly inhuman and also distorted manner with regard to the equality — obvious to every person of good will — of the dignity of all people, in all the stages of life.

~Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Hon. Reinhard Schweppe, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Holy See, November 7, 2011

Scientific research provides a unique opportunity to explore the wonder of the universe, the complexity of nature and the distinctive beauty of life, including human life. But since human beings are endowed with immortal souls and are created in the image and likeness of God, there are dimensions of human existence that lie beyond the limits of what the natural sciences are competent to determine. If these limits are transgressed, there is a serious risk that the unique dignity and inviolability of human life could be subordinated to purely utilitarian considerations.

~Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Participants in the “International Conference on Adult Stem Cells: Science and the Future of Man and Culture,” November 12, 2011

The potential benefits of adult stem cell research are very considerable, since it opens up possibilities for healing chronic degenerative illnesses by repairing damaged tissue and restoring its capacity for regeneration. The improvement that such therapies promise would constitute a significant step forward in medical science, bringing fresh hope to sufferers and their families alike. For this reason, the Church naturally offers her encouragement to those who are engaged in conducting and supporting research of this kind, always with the proviso that it be carried out with due regard for the integral good of the human person and the common good of society.

~Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Participants in the “International Conference on Adult Stem Cells: Science and the Future of Man and Culture,” November 12, 2011

HHS’s new mandate for contraception/sterilization coverage ... includes an incredibly narrow exemption for “religious employers” that protects almost no one. For example, a Catholic institution serving the poor and needy would have to fire its non-Catholic staff, refuse life-affirming care to non-Catholic people in need, and devote itself instead to “the inculcation of religious values” to qualify for the exemption. Individuals, insurers, and the sponsors of non-employee health plans (e.g., student health plans in Catholic schools) would have no exemption at all. This effort to corral religion exclusively into the sanctuaries of houses of worship betrays a complete ignorance of the role of religion in American life, and of Congress’s long tradition of far more helpful laws on religious freedom.

~Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston and Chair of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, Letter to Congress, September 7, 2011, in support of the “Respect for Rights of Conscience Act”

[In the Dioceses of the United States]  
**48/1. FOR GIVING THANKS TO GOD  
FOR THE GIFT OF HUMAN LIFE**

**A**

**Entrance Antiphon**

Cf. Ps 143 (142): 11

For the sake of your name, O Lord, give me life.

**Collect**

God our Creator,  
we give thanks to you,  
who alone have the power to impart the breath of life  
as you form each of us in our mother's womb;  
grant, we pray,  
that we, whom you have made stewards of creation,  
may remain faithful to this sacred trust  
and constant in safeguarding the dignity of every human life.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Accept our humble offerings,  
O Lord of the living,  
and unite us to the perfect sacrifice of your Son,  
through whom you have made all creation new.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**Communion Antiphon**

Cf. Ps 36 (35): 10

With you, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in your light, we see light.

**Prayer after Communion**

Increase your love within us, Lord God,  
by the saving mysteries we have celebrated,  
and bring people everywhere  
to respect your gift of human life.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**B****Entrance Antiphon**

Cf. Ps 31 (30): 15-16

I trust in you, O Lord; I say, you are my God. My life is in your hands.

**Collect**

O God, who adorn creation with splendor and beauty  
and fashion human lives in your image and likeness,  
awaken in every heart  
reverence for the work of your hands,  
and renew among your people  
a readiness to nurture and sustain  
your precious gift of human life.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**Prayer over the Offerings**

O God, who bring forth bread from the earth  
to sustain our lives  
and wine to gladden the heart,  
be pleased to accept these gifts  
and make them the Sacrament of our salvation.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Communion Antiphon**

Cf. Ps 36 (35): 10

With you, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in your light, we see light.

**Prayer after Communion**

Confirm our resolve, O God,  
by the life-giving Body and Blood of your Son,  
that we may live always for others  
and cherish your sacred gift of human life.  
Through Christ our Lord.