



Word of Life

December 2012

Intercessions for Life December 2012

December 2nd FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For all Christians:

that we remain vigilant to threats against our vulnerable sisters and brothers
and steadfast in upholding their human dignity;

We pray to the Lord:

December 9th SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For expectant mothers:

That the Lord will provide for all of their needs
And prepare them to welcome their children with joy;

We pray to the Lord:

December 16th THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For our civil leaders:

that faith, love and honesty may permeate every dimension of their public service;

We pray to the Lord:

December 23rd FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For those who struggle with infertility:

that faith will open their hearts to ever greater trust in God's will;

We pray to the Lord:

December 25th NATIVITY OF THE LORD

For the elderly who are lonely, grieving or forgotten:

that the coming of the Christ Child
will fill them with joy,
and remind them that they are precious in God's eyes;

We pray to the Lord:

December 30th FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

For families:

that through the love of Christ,
all family members will be able to appreciate each other
as gifts from God for their mutual love and support.



[Jesus] was sent by God the Father to save us above all from the evil deeply rooted in man and in history: the evil of separation from God, the prideful presumption of being self-sufficient, of trying to compete with God and to take his place, to decide what is good and evil, to be the master of life and death (cf. Gen 3:1-7). This is the great evil, the great sin, from which we human beings cannot save ourselves unless we rely on God's help, unless we cry out to him: "*Veni ad salvandum nos!* – Come to save us!"

~Pope Benedict XVI, *Urbi et Orbi* Christmas Message, 2011

God is the Savior; we are those who are in peril. He is the physician; we are the infirm. To realize this is the first step towards salvation, towards emerging from the maze in which we have been locked by our pride. To lift our eyes to heaven, to stretch out our hands and call for help is our means of escape, provided that there is Someone who hears us and can come to our assistance. Jesus Christ is the proof that God has heard our cry. And not only this! God's love for us is so strong that he cannot remain aloof; he comes out of himself to enter into our midst and to share fully in our human condition (cf. Ex 3:7-12). ... Only the God who is love, and the love which is God, could choose to save us in this way, which is certainly the lengthiest way, yet the way which respects the truth about him and about us: the way of reconciliation, dialogue and cooperation.

~Pope Benedict XVI, *Urbi et Orbi* Christmas Message, 2011

Dear friends, may no adversity paralyze you. Be afraid neither of the world, nor of the future, nor of your weakness. The Lord has allowed you to live in this moment of history so that, by your faith, his name will continue to resound throughout the world.

~Pope Benedict XVI, "Prayer Vigil with Young People," August 2011

We are recognizing that a culture of life is also a culture of freedom and that a culture of death is a culture of oppression, indeed a dictatorship of relativism. ... Through [Mary's] intercession, may we be given the wisdom, courage and strength we need to employ our God-given liberty to protect life, to strengthen the family and to continue contributing mightily to the common good of society for the good of our nation, for the up-building of the Church and for the salvation of souls.

~Most Reverend William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore, homily at "Mass for Life and Liberty," October 14, 2012

The days in which we live now require heroic Catholicism, not casual Catholicism. We can no longer be Catholics by accident, but instead be Catholics by conviction.

~Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, Bishop of Peoria, homily at Mass for "A Call to Catholic Men of Faith" event, April 14, 2012