



Word of Life

February 2013

Intercessions for Life

February 2013

February 3rd Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

For each of us who are called to evangelize our culture during this Year of Faith:
may we freely share the good news of God's love for every human being,
and his special concern for the unborn, the outcast and the dying
without fear of embarrassment or rejection;
We pray to the Lord:

February 10th Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

For teens and young adults:
that in prayerful silence they can discover God's plan for their lives
and pursue their vocation with trust in God's goodness;
We pray to the Lord:

February 17th First Sunday of Lent

For our parish family:
that during this holy season of Lent,
may each of us examine our flaws with honesty
and humbly seek God's mercy and healing grace in Confession;
We pray to the Lord:

February 24th Second Sunday of Lent

For all who have sinned against human life or the bond of marriage:
may they trust in God's merciful love and
seek his forgiveness and peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation;
We pray to the Lord:



Peace in society is also put at risk by certain threats to religious liberty: it is a question sometimes of the marginalization of religion in social life; sometimes of intolerance or even of violence towards individuals, symbols of religious identity and religious institutions. It even happens that believers, and Christians in particular, are prevented from contributing to the common good by their educational and charitable institutions. In order effectively to safeguard the exercise of religious liberty it is essential to respect the right of conscientious objection. This “frontier” of liberty touches upon principles of great importance ... rooted in the very dignity of the human person. They are, as it were, the “[load-]bearing walls” of any society that wishes to be truly free and democratic.”

~Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Diplomatic Corps, January 7, 2013

I was 18 years old when I found out I was pregnant. With the dreadful advice of my family I had an abortion. It has been 14 years and I never realized how much pain was buried deep within me. The denial was so great that I didn't know that I hated myself so much. I treated myself horrible because of what I had done so long ago. I allowed people to treat me bad and I felt I didn't deserve God's love or forgiveness. Most of all, I didn't deserve to live a happy life. My wonderful friend told me about Project Rachel. ... My journey towards a better life has begun. I finally feel I deserve better things and I know that God wants me to live a happy life. I have asked and received forgiveness from the Lord for what I did and I have made peace with my beautiful baby.

~ Message to www.hopeafterabortion.org from a post-abortive woman

I want you to know I went to Confession tonight [as you suggested in answering my letter to HopeAfterAbortion]. I was terrified. Needlessly. The priest who heard my confession was not disgusted by me, or angry with me. ... He was gentle, kind, and loving. Of course, this made me cry. Hard. He was patient. He absolved me of my sins. Told me I was worthy of all God's kingdom. So not what I expected. This website planted a seed of hope in my heart that I could really be forgiven. God took it from there.

~ Message to www.hopeafterabortion.org from a post-abortive woman

I had 2 abortions; one when I was 17 and the other when I was 22. I lived with the pain and depression caused by those mistakes for over 27 years. I spent most of that time trying to deny that I had any lasting problems from those procedures. During this time I suffered a major depression and suicidal thoughts. I felt like I wasn't worthy to be anyone's friend or even to be alive. It wasn't until I heard someone from Project Rachel tell her story. My husband and I were in our car coming home and I began crying along with the lady on the radio and I knew right then that I needed to grieve and mourn the death of my two children. I contacted Project Rachel and went to a retreat to heal. It was the most extraordinary experience I have ever experienced and I now feel forgiven by both God and myself.

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