



Word of Life

April 2013

Intercessions for Life

April 2013

7TH SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)

For mothers, fathers and grandparents who grieve the loss of a child from abortion:
that they may discover the depths of God's merciful love for them
and seek his forgiveness, healing and peace;
We pray to the Lord:

14TH THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

For Catholic clergy and religious throughout the world:
that their witness of God's love for every human being
in their preaching, counseling and service to others
will be rewarded a hundredfold in heaven;
We pray to the Lord:

21ST FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

For the poor, the suffering, the downtrodden and forgotten peoples of the world:
that by our prayers, generosity and service,
all their earthly and spiritual needs will be met;
We pray to the Lord:

28TH FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

For the courage and grace to love as Christ loves,
and by bearing witness to the Truth,
that others may come to know and see Christ in our world;
We pray to the Lord:

The Year of Faith will be a good opportunity to intensify the witness of charity. ... Indeed, it is the witness of God's love for each one of our brothers and sisters in humanity which gives true meaning to Christian charity.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Address to Members of the "Pro Petri Sede" Association (February 15, 2013)

The profound truth of our existence is thus contained in this surprising mystery: every creature, and in particular every human person, is the fruit of God's thought and an act of his love, a love that is boundless, faithful and everlasting.

~Pope Benedict XVI, World Day of Prayer for Vocations (April 29, 2012)

It is ... the vocation to love that makes the human person an authentic image of God: man and woman come to resemble God to the extent that they become loving people.

~Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Ecclesial Diocesan Convention in Rome (June 6, 2005)

[In *United for Religious Freedom*] the bishops explained that the "HHS mandate creates still a third class, those with no conscience protection at all: individuals who, in their daily lives, strive constantly to act in accordance with their faith and moral values." This includes employers sponsoring and subsidizing the coverage, insurers writing it, and beneficiaries paying individual premiums for it. Friday's action [HHS's issuing a new Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning the "contraceptive mandate"] confirms that HHS has no intention to provide any exemption or accommodation at all to this "third class." In obedience to our Judeo-Christian heritage, we have consistently taught our people to live their lives during the week to reflect the same beliefs that they proclaim on the Sabbath. We cannot now abandon them to be forced to violate their morally well-informed consciences.

~His Eminence Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Statement Responding to Feb. 1 Proposal from HHS (February 7, 2013)

I fear that the federal government's respect for believers and people of conscience no longer measures up to the treatment Americans have a right to expect from their elected representatives. The new approach [in the Notice of Proposed Rule-Making regarding the HHS "contraceptive mandate"] even threatens to undermine access to quality health care, by telling providers as well as those who offer or purchase insurance that they need to drop their participation in the health care system if they want to preserve their religious and moral integrity. A restoration of full respect for one of our Nation's founding values is urgently needed.

~Most Rev. William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore, Chairman of the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty, Letter to Members of Congress (February 15, 2013)