



Word of Life

September 2013

Intercessions for Life September 2013

September 1st TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all who have homes and jobs and good health:
that the presence of so many families lacking these basic needs
will remind us of our own dependency on God,
and prompt us to serve them with great compassion;
Let us pray:

September 8th TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

That the Holy Spirit will inspire all Catholics
to renounce the security of human esteem for the sake of the Gospel of life;
Let us pray:

September 15th TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all women and men who are grieving from an abortion:
that through the intercession of Our Lady of Sorrows
they will know the depths of God's mercy
and allow him to heal their pain;
Let us pray:



September 22nd TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For expectant parents who feel unprepared to provide for their child:
that they will find peace in God's Providence
and trust that their needs will be met as they faithfully follow his will;
Let us pray:

September 29th TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all political leaders:
that they will take seriously the call to defend life
and never compromise the lives of the unborn for the sake of political gain;
Let us pray:

Dear brothers and sisters, let us look to God as the God of Life, let us look to his law, to the Gospel message, as the way to freedom and life. The Living God sets us free! Let us say “Yes” to love and not selfishness. Let us say “Yes” to life and not death. Let us say “Yes” to freedom and not enslavement to the many idols of our time. In a word, let us say “Yes” to the God who is love, life and freedom, and who never disappoints ...; let us say “Yes” to the God who is the Living One and the Merciful One.

~ Pope Francis, homily for “*Evangelium Vitae* Day,” June 16, 2013

The gradual erosion of the place of religious liberty in our common life and the belittling of mediating institutions that buffer us from too much encroachment by the State are very much in force. Recent decisions by the Supreme Court have a cumulative effect, for instance, of bleaching out the distinctiveness and uniqueness of the meaning of marriage. ... As part of our journey of discipleship we must continue to stand for the truth of marriage and the good of children. This issue is urgent. The freedom of conscience and religious liberty is not a private hobby but also enters into the public square with other points of view and must make its voice heard. Clearly.

~ Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, “Letter from Cardinal DiNardo – Fortnight for Freedom,” June 28, 2013

Today ... our country seems to worship false gods. We’ve created false gods of “tolerance” and “equality” and “choice.” Instead of worshipping the Lord, we’ve found ways to worship pleasure and vanity—we’ve found ways to worship ourselves. And, like the people of Israel did in Elijah’s time, we’re suffering the effects. Worship of choice leads to abortion and contraception, and the Health and Human Services contraceptive mandate, which threatens our freedom of religion. Worship of money leads to poverty. Worship of “equality” leads to a fundamental rejection of marriage and family. We’re worshipping false gods, and we’re in trouble. ... But, like Elijah, the Lord calls us to pray. And to pray in a special way for our country. If we give ourselves to quiet, humble prayer, like Elijah, God’s glory and mercy will be revealed.

~ Most Rev. Samuel Aquila, Archbishop of Denver, “America needs our prayers and our sacrifice,” June 19, 2013

As Catholic Christians, one of the implications of our belief in the Incarnation is that it matters how we treat people in the here and now, and a respect for the dignity of each human being is at the core of our beliefs about abortion and other life issues. Whether the individual in question is a pre-born child, a senior at the end of life, a convicted killer, or a person with disabilities, how we treat each person reflects our own humanity. There can be no compromise with the standard Jesus set.

~ Most Rev. Joseph E. Kurtz, Archbishop of Louisville, “Promoting the Sanctity of Life with Courage, Compassion, and Civility,” January 27, 2013

The threat to religious freedom is larger than any single case or issue. It has its roots in the growing secularism of our culture, a secularism that seeks to marginalize the Church from culture and society. ... The right to religious freedom is founded upon the intrinsic dignity of the human person. This is an issue of justice since the human person has a right to religious freedom. As Catholics, we must not waver in our defense of this sacred right.

~ Most Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, “The Right to Religious Freedom,” *Today’s Catholic News*, June 26, 2013

**Join the Bishops’ Call to Prayer and Fasting for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty.
Visit www.usccb.org/pray or text “fast” to 99000.” Join the Movement!**