



Word of Life

August 2013

Intercessions for Life August 2013

August 4th EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those who are indifferent to the needs of the poor and vulnerable:
may God fill their hearts with generous love for others;
Let us pray:

August 11th NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For married couples unable to conceive and bear children:
that God will console them in their sorrow and direct their hearts to help needy children
through adoption, foster care, mentoring or spiritual parenthood;
Let us pray:

August 15th FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

For those who are gravely ill or dying:
that our Blessed Mother ease their pain and fears,
and by her glorious Assumption, console them with the sure hope of eternal life;
Let us pray:

August 18th TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For world leaders:
that their actions may promote the dignity of the human person
through respect for all human life, the sanctity of marriage and
religious liberty;
Let us pray:

August 25th TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For clergy and religious throughout the world:
that through their powerful witness
they may spread the Gospel of Life
in preaching, counseling and service to others;
Let us pray:



It is God who gives life. Let us respect and love human life, especially vulnerable life in a mother's womb.

~ Pope Francis, Tweet from @Pontifex, May 15, 2013

[We must] promote religious freedom for everyone, everyone! Every man and every woman must be free in his or her profession of religion, whatever it may be. Why? Because that man and that woman are children of God.

~ Pope Francis, Address on the Vigil of the Feast of Pentecost, May 18, 2013

Jesus is the incarnation of the Living God, the one who brings life amid so many deeds of death, amid sin, selfishness and self-absorption. Jesus accepts, loves, uplifts, encourages, forgives, restores the ability to walk, gives back life. Throughout the Gospels we see how Jesus by his words and actions brings the transforming life of God. This was the experience of the woman who anointed the feet of the Lord with ointment: she felt understood, loved, and she responded by a gesture of love: she let herself be touched by God's mercy, she obtained forgiveness and she started a new life.

~ Pope Francis, Homily, June 16, 2013 (Day celebrating *The Gospel of Life*)

Our role in any given culture or any given country is to be what the Gospel says. We are to be salt, we are to be light, we are to be a leaven, and we are to be working from within our culture to create what successive popes have called a civilization of justice and love and truth. And it just seems to me that defending religious liberty is one of the very, very important ways we defend and uphold human dignity, the first pillar of the Church's social teaching.

~ Most Rev. William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore, Interview with Vatican Radio, May 27, 2013

Deep in our hearts, there are truths that cannot be erased, that cannot be completely clouded by ideology, or utilitarian calculations, or by our own weaknesses and self-delusions. Our lives are an awesome gift, they are precious and must be safeguarded and nurtured. But not just our own — every human life is just as important, and must be preserved and protected as well. We are all called to be a gift of self, a loving servant, to our brothers and sisters, particularly those in need. And we know, at the core of our being, that abortion contradicts these truths.

~ Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "The Gift of Life," *The Gospel in the Digital Age: A Blog by Cardinal Timothy Dolan*, May 21, 2013