



# *Word of Life*

*May 2011*

# Intercessions for Life

May 2011

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**May 1<sup>st</sup> SOLEMNITY OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER  
(DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)**

For all mothers and fathers who have lost a child in an abortion:  
that through the intercession of Blessed Pope John Paul II,  
Divine Mercy may fill their souls, bringing them healing and new life;  
We pray to the Lord:

**May 8<sup>th</sup> THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

For mothers:  
that their many sacrifices will be rewarded  
by the gratitude of their husbands and children in this life,  
and by God in the life to come;  
We pray to the Lord:

**May 15<sup>th</sup> FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

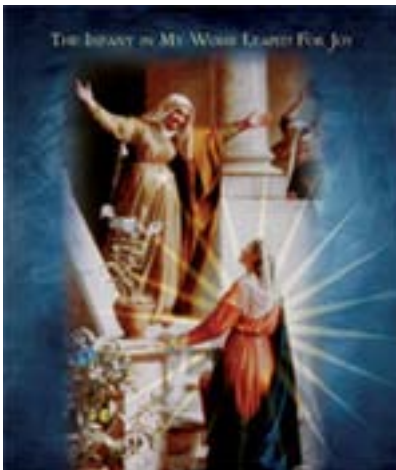
For all who are tempted to sin against human life:  
that they will heed the voice of the Divine Shepherd  
and have the courage to follow him on the path of life;  
We pray to the Lord:

**May 22<sup>nd</sup> FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

For those who are homeless, poor, or at the margins of society:  
that we will recognize in them the face of Christ  
and generously provide for their needs;  
We pray to the Lord:

**May 29<sup>th</sup> SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

For those who are struggling with disabilities of mind or body:  
that others never lose sight of their dignity and worth  
as persons loved by God,  
We pray to the Lord:



How much the world is in need of the mercy of God today! In every continent, from the depths of human suffering, a cry for mercy seems to rise. ... In those places where there is less respect for life and human dignity, one needs the merciful love of God, in whose light we see the ineffable value of every single human being. Mercy is needed to ensure that every injustice may find its solution in the splendour of truth. So today, in this Sanctuary, I solemnly wish to entrust the world to Divine Mercy. I do so with the burning desire that the message of God's merciful love, proclaimed here through Saint Faustina, may reach all the inhabitants of the earth and fill their hearts with hope. ... May the binding promise of the Lord Jesus be fulfilled: from here has to come out "the spark that will prepare the world for his final coming."

~ Blessed Pope John Paul II, Homily in Lagiewniki, Poland, August 17, 2002

Against a cultural background characterized by the eclipse of the sense of life, in which the common perception of the moral gravity of abortion and of other kinds of attacks on human life, special fortitude is demanded of doctors so that they may continue to assert that abortion resolves nothing but kills the child, destroys the woman and blinds the conscience of the child's father, all too often ruining family life. This duty, however, does not only concern the medical profession and health-care workers. The whole of society must defend the right to life of the child conceived and the true good of the woman who will never, in any circumstance, be able to find fulfillment in the decision of abortion.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Address to Participants in the General Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life, February 28, 2011

It will likewise be necessary, as your work has shown, to provide women who having unfortunately already had an abortion are now experiencing the full moral and existential tragedy of it. Many dioceses and volunteer organizations offer psychological and spiritual support for full human recovery. The solidarity of the Christian community cannot dispense with this type of co-responsibility.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Address to Participants in the General Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life, February 28, 2011

[The value of scientific and medical research] and the need for solidarity are very clearly highlighted in the case of the use of umbilical cord stem cells. These are important clinical applications and promising research at the scientific level, but their implementation relies heavily on generosity in donating umbilical cord blood at the moment of birth, and on updating structures to enable women giving birth to donate this blood if they so wish.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Address to Participants in the General Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life, February 28, 2011

Today, chastity is often mistakenly associated with being old fashioned, with a fear of passion or with sexual inhibition. But in reality it is much more than simply the absence of sexual relations. Chastity calls for purity of mind as well as body.

If we are not working to develop a pure heart or a pure mind, then our bodily actions will reflect this. If we have no control over our desires or passions, then we cannot be trusted in either the big or the small things. We will remain slaves of our own passions and weak in spirit. If we cannot say "no," then our "yes" will mean nothing.

~ Episcopal Commission for Doctrine, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Pastoral Letter to Young People on Chastity* (January 2011)