



Word of Life

October 2010

October 3rd TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For mothers considering abortion:
That they will find the courage and support
To parent or to make an adoption plan for their child;
We pray to the Lord:

October 10th TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For the poor:
that through the generous love of their brothers and sisters in Christ,
their material and spiritual needs will be met;
We pray to the Lord:

October 17th TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For the sick and dying and their loved ones:
that when they are tempted to lose hope,
the Blessed Mother will help restore their joy
in the promise of eternal life;
We pray to the Lord:

October 24th THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all young parents and families, especially those struggling financially:
that they will have hope and faith in God's goodness
and be given the strength to persevere;
We pray to the Lord:

October 31st THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all who suffer from the evils of slavery, human trafficking,
and other abuses of human dignity:
that they will know justice and freedom in this life;
We pray to the Lord:



The absence of a government-wide law against federal funding of abortion has led most recently to the passage of major health care reform legislation that contains at least *three* different policies on federal funding of abortion – *none* of which is consistent with the Hyde amendment ... or with similar longstanding provisions that govern all other health programs. For example, one provision ... violates Hyde’s second sentence (against funding health plans that cover abortions) – and then violates the spirit of the entire amendment, by directly forcing conscientiously opposed citizens in many plans to fund other people’s abortions through their health premiums (sec. 1303). Another provision ... allows funds to be used for abortions or not, depending on a decision by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (sec. 1101). Yet another provision ... allows its new funding for community health centers to be governed by the underlying mandates in the authorizing legislation for these centers – mandates that in other health programs have been interpreted by the federal courts to *require* federal funding of abortion (Sec. 10503). These disparate policies are not compatible with the Hyde amendment, or even with one another. This is one reason why passage of a bill like H.R. 5939 [“No Taxpayer Funding For Abortion Act”] is overdue.

~ Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, Letter to Congress in Support of H.R. 5939, August 20, 2010

Today active interventions or omissions of basic care are proposed for ending the lives not only of the dying, but also patients suffering from a long-term cognitive disability, such as advanced dementia Some argue that patients who cannot consciously respond have lost their “human dignity.” This view is dangerously wrong: Human beings never lose their dignity, that is, their inherent and inestimable worth as unique persons loved by God and created in His image. People can be denied respect affirming that dignity, but they never lose their God-given dignity.

~ Marie T. Hilliard, RN, PhD, “Caring for Each Other, Even Unto Death,” *Respect Life Program* (2010)

Catholics should involve themselves in the public square – and do so coherently and unapologetically. This is not to “impose our views” but to “make our proposal” about what is necessary for human flourishing in society. Thus, we bring to public policy debates on issues of human life, dignity, justice and peace, immigration reform, and marriage and the family an understanding of the human person that, while founded on the Christian Scriptures, is also accessible to human reason. While this understanding expressed in the Church’s social teachings can seem to be quite complex, I believe it can be summarized in one simple phrase: no man is a problem. ... no human being – no matter how poor or how weak - can be reduced to just a problem. When we allow ourselves to think of a human being as a mere problem, we offend his or her dignity.

~ Most Rev. Thomas Wenski, Archbishop of Miami, homily at Mass of Installation, June 1, 2010

I want you to know I went to Confession tonight. I was terrified. Needlessly.

The priest who heard my confession was not disgusted by me, or angry with me. He never stopped smiling at me even as I revealed my ugliest sins. 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 [hopeafterabortion.org] planted a seed of hope in my heart that I could really be forgiven. God took it from there.

Thank you so much for being there in a way that didn’t make me feel dirty or contemptible. For making me feel human again.”

~ Message to www.hopeafterabortion.org (Project Rachel website)

