



# *Word of Life*

*January 2011*

**January 2<sup>nd</sup> SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

For the families of unborn and newly born children:

That their families will always see them

As the greatest gift of our loving God;

We pray to the Lord:

**January 9<sup>th</sup> THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

For all who have sinned against human life:

That having once been washed clean in the waters of baptism,

They may now be washed clean through the sacrament of mercy in Confession;

We pray to the Lord:

**January 16<sup>th</sup> SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For all the children of the world:

That they may be protected from hunger, abuse, disease, neglect, and violence,

And they may be allowed to enjoy childhoods gently molded by God's laws and loving care;

We pray to the Lord:

**January 23<sup>rd</sup> THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For our elected leaders:

May God give them the wisdom and will to overturn unjust laws

That permit the destruction of innocent lives by abortion;

We pray to the Lord:

**January 30<sup>th</sup> FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For those suffering from disease, depression, addiction, and despair,

And for those who love and suffer with them:

May they be comforted by God's love and promise of deliverance;

We pray to the Lord:



Men and women were created for something great, for infinity. ... the desire for a more meaningful life is a sign that God created us and that we bear His "imprint." God is life, and that is why every creature reaches out towards life. Because human beings are made in the image of God, we do this in a unique and special way. We reach out for love, joy and peace.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, "Message for World Youth Day" (2011)

The affirmation of God brings with it the supreme affirmation and protection of the dignity of each and every man and woman: "Do you not know that you are God's temple? ... God's temple is holy, and you are that temple" (1 Cor 3:16-17). Here we find joined together the truth and dignity of God and the truth and dignity of man.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, homily at Mass at the Church of Sagrada Familia, Nov. 7, 2010

It is indispensable that new technological developments in the field of medicine never be to the detriment of respect for human life and dignity, so that those who suffer physical illnesses or handicaps can always receive that love and attention required to make them feel valued as persons in their concrete needs.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Address during Visit to the Obra Benéfico-Social Nen Déu, Nov. 7, 2010

Once political leaders and health care experts decided to use government subsidized insurance as the vehicle, the means, for providing more universal health care, it was our moral obligation as teachers of the faith to judge whether the means pass moral muster, whether or not the proposed legislation uses public funds to kill those living in their mother's womb. Consistently, and ever more insistently since the sin and crime of abortion was legalized in the United States, our voice has been that of the bishops of the Catholic Church ever since the first Christians condemned the abortion practices of the ancient Romans. The act is immoral; and the laws that have permitted now fifty million children of our country to be killed in their mother's womb are also immoral and unjust; the laws are destroying our society.

~Cardinal Francis George, OMI, Archbishop of Chicago and outgoing President of the USCCB, Presidential Address, Nov. 15, 2010

Under the constant influence of a rationalist and secularist philosophy which makes man, instead of God, the measure of what is right and good, many have become confused about the most basic truths, for example, the inviolable dignity of innocent human life, from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death, and the integrity of marriage between one man and one woman as the first and irreplaceable cell of the life of society. If Christians fail to articulate and uphold natural moral law, then they fail in the fundamental duty of patriotism, of loving their country by serving the common good.

~Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, Address to the World Prayer Congress for Life V, Oct. 9, 2010