



WORD OF LIFE

April 2009

Intercessions for Life

April 2009

April 5th Palm Sunday

For all who are tempted to sin against life,
that they might turn from darkness
and embrace the infinite love and light of God;
We pray to the Lord:

April 12th Easter Sunday

For all who are dying in poverty, loneliness and pain,
That we might help bear their cross,
and that in death, God might reward them
with new life in his heavenly kingdom;
We pray to the Lord:

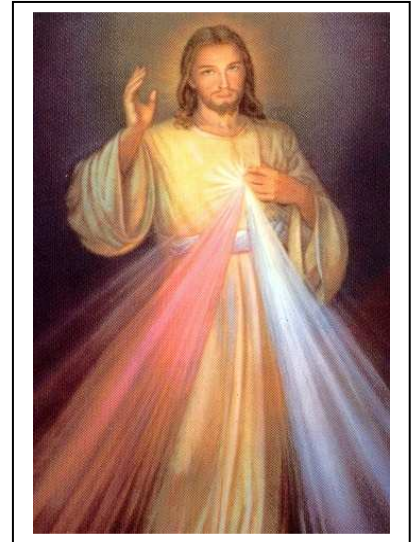
April 19th Second Sunday of Easter

(Divine Mercy Sunday)

For mothers broken by the memory of a child lost to abortion,
that the gentle and merciful love of God
may heal their innermost being;
We pray to the Lord:

April 26th Third Sunday of Easter

For those who prepare to receive
the Sacrament of Marriage:
that they might embrace their role
as sharers in God's creative love;
We pray to the Lord:



Poverty is fought if humanity becomes more fraternal as a result of shared values founded on the dignity of the person, on freedom joined to responsibility, on the effective recognition of the place of God in the life of man. In this perspective, let us fix our gaze on Jesus. ... May the light of his love illumine all government leaders and all humanity!
--Pope Benedict XVI, Address to Diplomatic Corps, Jan. 8, 2009

It is from God that men and women receive their essential dignity and the capacity to seek truth and goodness. ... When humanity's spiritual dimension is brought to light, individual's hearts and minds are drawn to God and to the marvels of human life: being itself, truth, beauty, moral values, and other persons.

--Pope Benedict XVI, Address to Ambassador of Australia to the Holy See, Feb. 2, 2009

Through his radical love for us, in which the heart of God and the heart of man touched, Jesus Christ truly took light from heaven and brought it to the earth – the light of truth and the fire of love that transform man's being. He brought the light, and now we know who God is and what God is like. Thus we also know what our human situation is: what we are, and for what purpose we exist. ... Yes, I believe that the world and my life are not the product of chance, but of eternal Reason and eternal Love, they are created by Almighty God. Yes, I believe that in Jesus Christ ... the face of God has been revealed; that in him, God is present in our midst, he unites us and leads us towards our goal, towards eternal Love.

--Pope Benedict XVI, Homily at Easter Vigil Mass, March 22, 2008

We have great hope in *the Lord's power to heal our land* of the painful wound of legalized abortion. Every abortion is a personal tragedy. Its dread impact falls not only on a little boy or a little girl, but on the child's parents, grandparents, siblings and everyone involved. Knowing that God's mercy is greater than all of our sins, tonight we pray for all these people. We pray for the conversion of all those who promote death as a solution to social ills or to an unplanned pregnancy. We pray for legislators, educators, counselors and all health care professionals who put their skills and training at the service of life. We lift up Project Rachel and other post-abortion counseling ministries, pro-life pregnancy centers, and organizations that work every day to usher in a culture of life.

--Homily of Cardinal Justin Rigali, Vigil Mass for Life, Jan. 21, 2009

Approximately a third of women who have recourse to artificial procreation succeed in having a baby. It should be recognized, however, that given the proportion between the total number of embryos produced and those eventually born, *the number of embryos sacrificed is extremely high*. These losses are accepted by the practitioners of *in vitro* fertilization as the price to be paid for positive results. In reality, it is deeply disturbing that research in this area aims principally at obtaining better results in terms of the percentage of babies born to women who begin the process, but does not manifest a concrete interest in the right to life of each individual embryo.

--Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Dignitas Personae*, no. 14