



# *Word of Life*

*February 2011*

# Intercessions for Life

February 2011

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## **February 6<sup>th</sup> FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For those who are hungry, oppressed, or homeless:

Teach us to care for them so they may experience the warmth of God's love;

We pray to the Lord:

## **February 13<sup>th</sup> SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For scientists and doctors:

May God guide their work, so that it always contributes to the well-being of the person

And never involves the manipulation or destruction of human lives;

We pray to the Lord:

## **February 20<sup>th</sup> SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For the youth and young adults of this parish:

That they be strengthened in their commitment to chastity

By the knowledge that God's Holy Spirit dwells within them;

We pray to the Lord:

## **February 27<sup>th</sup> EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For expectant mothers:

May they await the birth of their child with serenity and trust

That God will help them through any financial or medical difficulties;

We pray to the Lord:



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The Incarnation reveals to us, with intense light and in a surprising way, that every human life has a very lofty and incomparable dignity.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, Vigil for All Nascent Human Life, Nov. 27, 2010

In comparison with all the other living beings that populate the earth man has an unmistakable originality. He is presented as the one unique being, endowed with intelligence and free will, as well as consisting of material reality. He lives simultaneously and inseparably in both the spiritual and the corporal dimension. We are therefore spirit, soul and body. We are part of this world, tied to the possibilities and limitations of our material condition, while at the same time we are open to an infinite horizon, able to converse with God and to welcome him within us. We are active in earthly realities and through them we are able to perceive God's presence and to reach out to him, Truth, Goodness and absolute Beauty. We savor fragments of life and happiness and yearn for complete fulfillment.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, Vigil for All Nascent Human Life, Nov. 27, 2010

Cultural trends exist that seek to anaesthetize consciences with spurious arguments. With regard to the embryo in the mother's womb, science itself highlights its autonomy, its capacity for interaction with the mother, the coordination of biological processes, the continuity of development, the growing complexity of the organism. It is not an accumulation of biological material but rather of a new living being, dynamic and marvelously ordered, a new individual of the human species. This is what Jesus was in Mary's womb; this is what we all were in our mother's womb. We may say with Tertullian, an ancient Christian writer: "the one who will be a man is one already" (*Apologeticum IX, 8*), there is no reason not to consider him a person from conception.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, Vigil for All Nascent Human Life, Nov. 27, 2010

Experience itself and right reason testify that the human being is capable of understanding and of wanting, conscious of himself and free, unrepeatable and irreplaceable, the summit of all earthly realities, and who demands to be recognized as a value in himself and deserves always to be accepted with respect and love. He is entitled not to be treated as an object to be possessed or a thing to be manipulated at will, and not to be exploited as a means for the benefit of others and their interests.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, Vigil for All Nascent Human Life, Nov. 27, 2010