



Word of Life

March 2011

March 6th NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all who have had, or been responsible for, an abortion:
That through the penitential grace of the Lenten season
They will find the courage to seek God's forgiveness and healing;
We pray to the Lord:

March 13th FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

For those caring for elderly family members:
That God will help them persevere in love
And reward them for their sacrifices;
We pray to the Lord:

March 20th SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

For all expectant mothers:
That the announcement of their pregnancy
Will be greeted with joy and thanksgiving by their families;
We pray to the Lord:

March 27th THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

For families with young children:
That parents provide loving witness to the sanctity of every life
By their words and actions;
We pray to the Lord:



Religious freedom expresses what is unique about the human person, for it allows us to direct our personal and social life to God, in whose light the identity, meaning and purpose of the person are fully understood. To deny or arbitrarily restrict this freedom is to foster a reductive vision of the human person; to eclipse the public role of religion is to create a society which is unjust, inasmuch as it fails to take account of the true nature of the human person; *it is to stifle the growth of the authentic and lasting peace of the whole human family.*

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Message for the Word Day of Peace, January 1, 2011

The right to religious freedom is rooted in the very dignity of the human person, whose transcendent nature must not be ignored or overlooked. God created man and woman in his own image and likeness (cf. *Gen 1:27*). For this reason each person is endowed with the *sacred right* to a full life, also from a spiritual standpoint. Without the acknowledgement of his spiritual being, without openness to the transcendent, the human person withdraws within himself, fails to find answers to the heart's deepest questions about life's meaning, fails to appropriate lasting ethical values and principles, and fails even to experience authentic freedom and to build a just society.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Message for the Word Day of Peace, January 1, 2011

In taking on human flesh in the virginal womb of Mary of Nazareth, the Word of God made flesh has restored humanity to friendship with God and through his paschal mystery, has given the gift of human life an inestimable value that no one, no government, no legislature, no judicial court can rightfully and justly take away.

~ Most Rev. Robert McManus, Bishop of Worcester, homily, Vespers Vigil for All Unborn Human Life, Nov. 28, 2010

The faith of the Church teaches us that the human person is the only creature that God has created so as to spend an eternity with him. At the moment of conception, God infuses into every human being the gift of an immortal soul within which resides the image of the Triune God who creates, redeems and sanctifies us. Is it any wonder that from her earliest days, the Church has been the champion of the gift of human life? From the time of the Roman Empire in which abortion and infanticide were common practices until this very day when unjust laws and morally flawed judicial decisions have robbed millions of unborn babies of the right to life, is it any wonder that the Church who is our Mother and Teacher raises her voice, and with clarity and insistence calls for a revolution of conscience that would make an end to abortion and to all those technological interventions that usurp the God-given right of a child to be born from the intimate and loving embrace of a husband and a wife?

~ Most Rev. Robert McManus, Bishop of Worcester, homily, Vespers Vigil for All Unborn Human Life, Nov. 28, 2010