



Word of Life

April 2011

April 3rd FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

For all persons with serious disabilities and for their families:
that our parish and all Christians throughout the world
will be generous in helping to care for their needs;
We pray to the Lord:

April 10th FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

For those mourning the death of a loved one:
that God's promise of eternal life for those who believe in him
will ease the pain of their loss;
We pray to the Lord:

April 17th PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

For the innocent children tortured and killed in abortion clinics:
that their suffering may be joined to that of Our Lord's on the cross
for the forgiveness and salvation of their parents;
We pray to the Lord:

**April 24th EASTER SUNDAY:
THE SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

For the elderly members of our parish family:
that the joy of the Resurrection
will fill their sunset years with hope and peace;
We pray to the Lord:

We know from science that the moment of conception is a moment unlike any other. An amazing event takes place at the moment of conception. The union at the moment of conception constitutes an absolutely new and utterly exceptional moment of creation, the moment when a new, unrepeatable and irreplaceable human being comes to exist. This new human being has emerged, a vulnerable and unique self-directing self that never before was. It needs nothing but a safe place—the mother’s womb—to grow and develop. After the moment of conception, this new human life will go through many stages and phases, none of which are as monumental as the one it has just emerged from: the moment of conception, the moment in which it began to exist. The science speaks for itself. The light of reason is clear.

~Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia, Homily, National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Jan. 24, 2011

A couple of weeks ago I went for my physical, and was in the X-ray room. There, as clear as day, was the dramatic warning: “*X-rays can be dangerous to your unborn baby. Let the technician know if you are pregnant.*”

We all know it, don’t we? We’re not talking about a “fetus,” “a mass of cells,” but a baby. The X-ray technicians know it; the obstetricians who show the sonogram to a mom know it; even the teenage mom on a recent MTV program sympathetic to abortion knew it when she pointed to a little baby and whispered, “Don’t tell me that little baby is just an ‘it.’”

~ Most Rev. Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York and USCCB President, Speech at the Fourth Annual Respect Life Week, Yonkers, NY, Jan. 9, 2011

This is not a church issue; this is a civil rights issue, the premier civil rights issue of our day!

All we are asking is that the equal protection of the law promised by our beloved constitution be applied to the pre-born baby. All we’re promoting is the noble right to life assured in our nation’s foundational documents, which list the right to life first among those inalienable rights no one has the power to take away.

~ Most Rev. Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York and USCCB President, Speech at the Fourth Annual Respect Life Week, Yonkers, NY, Jan. 9, 2011

I was watching a show about seals. It was a very well done show that followed a group of scientists on the West Coast who were doing a study on a particular group of seals. During their work they discovered that one of the seals was badly injured, and when they examined her more closely, they realized that she was also pregnant, and not only was she pregnant, but she was very far along in her pregnancy, so far along that the scientists were almost certain that the baby seals would be able to survive outside their mother’s womb, but after further tests they all agreed that there was no way to save the life of the mother, and that if she were to die, her babies would die with her. So they did an emergency operation and saved the lives of all the baby seals. None of the scientists questioned what the mother seal’s “choice” was, they didn’t ask if the unborn baby seals had a “right” to live. No, they just used their common sense and did the right thing. They protected life. Human beings instinctively want to save life, but how then in our country could there be so many who are not pro-life?

~Rev. Mark Ivany, Homily, Mass in Washington, DC on the morning of the March for Life, Jan. 24, 2011