



# *WORD OF LIFE*

*January 2010*

# Intercessions for Life

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## **January 3<sup>rd</sup>      Epiphany of the Lord**

For the leaders of our country:  
That they will govern with wisdom  
And respect for the dignity of all human beings,  
Including the unborn and those nearing the end of life;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **January 10th      Baptism of the Lord**

For all baptized Christians:  
That we live out our baptismal call  
To be witnesses to the truth of the Gospel  
And God's love for human life;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **January 17th      Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For all mothers experiencing difficult circumstances:  
That through the spiritual and practical resources of the Catholic community  
They will experience Christ's compassionate love for them;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **January 24th      Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For those suffering with terminal illness and for their families:  
That in their time of trial they will know Christ's presence in a special way  
And be encouraged by his promise of eternal life;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **January 31st      Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For all prisoners on death row:  
That our Lord's promise of his Divine Mercy will transform their hearts  
and lead them to repentance,  
And that, by following the example of Divine Mercy, their lives may be spared;  
We pray to the Lord:

“There are international campaigns afoot to reduce birth-rates, sometimes using methods that respect neither the dignity of the woman, nor the right of parents to choose responsibly how many children to have; graver still, these methods often fail to respect even the right to life. The extermination of millions of unborn children, in the name of the fight against poverty, actually constitutes the destruction of the poorest of all human beings.”

~ Pope Benedict XVI, “Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace,” Jan. 1, 2009

“When the family is weakened, it is inevitably children who suffer. If the dignity of women and mothers is not protected, it is the children who are affected most.”

~ Pope Benedict XVI, “Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace,” Jan. 1, 2009

“Those who are active in the production and dissemination of new media content, therefore, should strive to *respect* the dignity and worth of the human person. If the new technologies are to serve the good of individuals and of society, all users will avoid the sharing of words and images that are degrading of human beings, that promote hatred and intolerance, that debase the goodness and intimacy of human sexuality or that exploit the weak and vulnerable.”

~ Pope Benedict XVI, “Message of the Holy Father for the 43<sup>rd</sup> World Communications Day, May 24, 2009

Women who have had one abortion have a 36% increased risk of giving birth prematurely in a subsequent pregnancy. Women who have had more than one abortion have a 93% increased risk of premature birth.

~ Prakesh Shah et al., “Induced termination of pregnancy and low birthweight and preterm birth: a systematic review and meta-analyses,” *BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* 116:11 (2009) 1425 – 1442.

“I thank God for my handicaps for, through them, I have found myself, my work, and my God.”

~ Helen Keller