



WORD OF LIFE

April 2010

Intercessions for Life

April 2010

April 4th EASTER SUNDAY

For all who have been received into the Church this Easter:
May their lives bear witness
To the great dignity and value of every human life;
We pray to the Lord:

April 11th SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)

For all who despair of God's forgiveness,
Especially those who have been involved in an abortion:
May they trust in God's mercy
And find peace again through the Sacrament of Reconciliation;
We pray to the Lord:

April 18th THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

For the people of Haiti:
That Catholics will not forget
Jesus' admonition to Peter –
"Feed my lambs" and "Tend my sheep";
We pray to the Lord:

April 25th FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

For all those responsible for the medical care of elderly relatives:
That they may be guided in all their medical decisions
By the voice of the Eternal Shepherd;
We pray to the Lord:

The human goal is not wellbeing but God himself, and ... human life must be defended at every stage. Indeed, no one is master of his own life. Rather we are all called to treasure life and to respect it from the moment of conception to its natural end. ... I express my appreciation of those who work more directly at the service of children, the sick and the elderly. ...

~ Pope Benedict XVI, remarks after Angelus message (February 7, 2010)

The Church offers the world a positive and inspiring vision of human life, the beauty of marriage and the joy of parenthood. It is rooted in God's infinite, transforming and ennobling love for all of us, which opens our eyes to recognize and love his image in our neighbour. ... Be sure to present this teaching in such a way that it is recognized for the message of hope that it is. All too often the Church's doctrine is perceived as a series of prohibitions and retrograde positions, whereas the reality, as we know, is that it is creative and life-giving, and it is directed towards the fullest possible realization of the great potential for good and for happiness that God has implanted within every one of us.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Ad Limina Address to the Bishops of Scotland (February 5, 2010)

The bishops of the United States remain committed to health care reform that will help everyone to be cared for and assure that no one will be deliberately killed. ...

...

A health care reform bill without adequate protection of personal conscience would be an earthquake in our legal and political life. The laws of the United States have protected conscientious objectors in many areas of life. To remove that protection in health care now would bring us closer to despotism. It seems strange that some legislators who most protest against the church's "imposing" her ideas on others are the very ones who are willing to impose their own private morality on everyone else.

~ Cardinal Francis George, "Cardinal's Column," *Catholic New World* (January 31, 2010)

A single human soul is of more worth than the whole universe of bodies and material goods. There is nothing above the human soul except God. In the light of the eternal value and absolute dignity of the soul, society exists for each person and is subordinate thereto.

~ Jacques Maritain, *The Rights of Man and Natural Law* (1943)