



# *WORD OF LIFE*

*August 2010*

# Intercessions for Life

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## **August 1<sup>st</sup>      EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For mothers considering abortion:  
That they will find the courage and support  
To make an adoption plan for their child;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **August 8<sup>th</sup>      NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For the poor:  
that through the generous love of their brothers and sisters in Christ,  
their material and spiritual needs will be met;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **August 15<sup>th</sup>      ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

For the sick and dying and their loved ones:  
that when they are tempted to lose hope,  
the Blessed Mother will help restore their joy  
in the promise of eternal life;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **August 22<sup>nd</sup>      TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For all young parents and families, especially those struggling financially:  
that they will have hope and faith in God's goodness  
and be given the strength to persevere;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **August 29<sup>th</sup>      TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For all who suffer from the evils of slavery, human trafficking,  
and other abuses of human dignity:  
that they will know justice and freedom in this life;  
We pray to the Lord:

As Catholics, called to reflect the light of Jesus in places of great darkness, we must speak out and work tirelessly on behalf of our brothers and sisters in captivity. We must educate others on what we can do to eradicate the deplorable trade of women and children for profit. And we must pray for the rescue and restoration of victims, for the redemption of traffickers, and for the protection of all human life.

~ Diane Bayly, "Sex Trafficking: The New Slavery" USCCB *Respect Life Program* (2010-2011)

Pope Benedict's first message to young people, he taught with great conviction that if "we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great. Only in this friendship is the great potential of human existence truly revealed."

~ Megan Breen & Samuel Vasquez, "The Promise of Pro-Life Youth," USCCB *Respect Life Program* (2010-2011)

Mercy brings healing that is impossible on a merely human level. Divine Mercy can restore hope, because it flows from the heart of the Risen Christ who, once and for all, has vanquished the finality of death. The deep truth that faith teaches is that only in the context of mercy—God's Mercy and our own forgiveness and mercy—can we, as wounded human men and women, find healing and hope.

~ Bishop Robert Finn, "Divine Mercy and the Death Penalty," USCCB *Respect Life Program* (2010-2011)

The true measure of humanity is essentially determined in relationship to suffering and to the sufferer... A society unable to accept its suffering members and incapable of helping to share their suffering and to bear it inwardly through 'com-compassion' is a cruel and inhuman society.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, *In Hope We Are Saved*, no. 38

His death is the ultimate sign of his mercy and of his willingness to suffer with and for us. Neither we nor our children have done anything to deserve his unconditional love and compassion, but we who mourn can entrust ourselves to his mercy. His death gives us hope that there is meaning in suffering. His resurrection also teaches us that there is life after tragedy, even the death of a child by suicide.

~ Gladys Sweeney, Ph.D., "Losing a Child to Suicide: Trusting in God's Mercy," USCCB *Respect Life Program* (2010-2011)