



WORD OF LIFE

May 2009

May 3rd Fourth Sunday of Easter

For medical researchers,
That God might implant within their hearts
a reverence for all human lives,
including human embryos in their first days of life;
We pray to the Lord:

May 10th Fifth Sunday of Easter

For young mothers everywhere,
and especially those who are tempted to despair,
that through their children
they might know hope and joy;
We pray to the Lord:

May 17th Sixth Sunday of Easter

For all who dwell in the shadow of death,
and especially for those who languish on death rows:
that they might turn from their sin,
and trust in the justice and mercy of God;
We pray to the Lord:



May 24th Seventh Sunday of Easter

For those for whom age has become a burden,
that we might cherish them, learn from them,
and protect and nurture them every day;
We pray to the Lord:

May 31st Pentecost Sunday

For all whose lives are in danger,
and especially those for whom
hunger and disease are constant threats:
that we might value their lives
and help to save them;
We pray to the Lord:

President Obama's new executive order on embryonic stem cell research is a sad victory of politics over science and ethics. This action is morally wrong because it encourages the destruction of innocent human life, treating vulnerable human beings as mere products to be harvested. It also disregards the values of millions of American taxpayers who oppose research that requires taking human life. Finally, it ignores the fact that ethically sound means for advancing stem cell science and medical treatments are readily available and in need of increased support.

--Cardinal Justin Rigali, March 9, 2009 Statement concerning President Obama's order to provide taxpayer funding for destructive embryo research

[Recent] startling advances in reprogramming adult cells into embryonic-like cells – hailed by the journal *Science* as the scientific breakthrough of the year – are said by many scientists to be making embryonic stem cells irrelevant to medical progress. [Also], adult and cord blood stem cells are now known to have great versatility, and are increasingly being used to reverse serious illnesses and even help rebuild damaged organs.

--Cardinal Francis George, OMI, Letter to President Barack Obama, January 16, 2009

The daily devotion and continuous commitment to serving sick children is an eloquent testimony of love for human life, particularly for the life of those who are weak and dependent on others in all things and for all things.

--Pope Benedict XVI, Message for the World Day of the Sick, February 11, 2009

The teaching that the Church ceaselessly proclaims does not change with the passing of time: human life is beautiful and should be lived to the full, even when it is weak and enveloped in the mystery of suffering.

--Pope Benedict XVI, Message for the World Day of the Sick, February 11, 2009

[The new Washington State law legalizing assisted suicide] represents a dangerous new assault on the culture of life. Of special concern is the threat that legalizing assisted suicide poses for vulnerable persons, who are already at risk of marginalization by an individualistic and utilitarian perspective of life. Those most at risk from this dangerous change in public policy are elderly persons, those without adequate health care, people with disabilities and those with no family support system.

--Bishops of Washington State, "Respecting Life at the End of Life"