



For Life

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First Quarter
2010

Papal Message for Migrant and Refugee Day

"Jesus Himself Experienced Migration"

VATICAN CITY, NOV. 27, 2009 (Zenit.org) - Here is the message Benedict XVI wrote for the 96th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, which will be celebrated January 17, 2010.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The celebration of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees once again gives me the opportunity to express the Church's constant concern for those who, in different ways, experience a life of emigration. This is a phenomenon which, as I wrote in the Encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*, upsets us due to the number of people involved and the social, economic, political, cultural and religious problems it raises on account of the dramatic challenges it poses to both national and international communities. The migrant is a human person who possesses fundamental, inalienable rights that must be respected by everyone and in every circumstance (cf. n. 62).

This year's theme -- "Minor migrants and refugees" -- touches an aspect that Christians view with great attention, remembering the warning of Christ who at the Last Judgment will consider as directed to himself everything that has been done or denied "to one of the least of these" (cf. Mt 25:40, 45). And how can one fail to consider migrant and refugee minors as also being among the "least"? As a child, Jesus himself experienced migration for, as the Gospel recounts, in order to flee the threats of Herod, he had to seek refuge in Egypt together with Joseph and Mary (cf. Mt 2:14).

—From the Vatican, 16 October 2009
BENEDICTUS PP. XVI

We are called to be members of a new covenant of love. Love implies concern for all—especially the poor—and a continued search for those social and economic structures that permit everyone to share in a community that is part of a redeemed creation.

—*Economic Justice For All*
(The U.S. Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Letter on the U.S. Economy)



Highlights of 40 Days for Life

—submitted by Mary LeQuyea and Anna Peric, co-coordinators for 40 Days Cleveland

The kickoff event on September 22 at St. Gregory the Great was wonderful. One hundred twenty people attended the worship service. Fr. David Baugh gave an inspirational talk. We concluded with an overview of 40 Days and began sign ups.

One day during the campaign, a worker from maintenance at Preterm (one of our witness sites) came out and began praying with us. Previously he told a group of people praying that he prays for the unborn and their parents who will never see them grow up. This time he just walked out of the facility and began to pray with us. He expressed his gratitude for our presence. Another time, a woman came out of Preterm saying she was there for an abortion but changed her mind. We told her that we were praying and fasting over these 40 days for her, and she smiled.

Our midpoint Praise and Worship event was October 10 in front of Preterm. Two individuals gave testimonials. Fr. Baugh offered another reflection and a participant offered a beautiful talk on answered prayer. We also provided an update on the campaign for the 40 people who gathered.

We covered both Preterm and Rocky River Planned Parenthood with prayer over the 40 days. Lake County joined us in the campaign also by praying outside Family Planning Services in Painesville. In Akron there was group dedicated to the campaign at a clinic.



We are thankful for being able to participate in the campaign. Hundreds of people prayed in their churches, chapels, nursing homes and private homes to end abortion in our world. Our Lady of Peace provided prayerful support as well as indoor facilities for those who needed a respite from the outdoors.

40 Days for Life concluded on November 1, 2009 with a Victory Celebration at St. Paul Shrine with approximately 120 participants.

Please copy and distribute freely.

From the Director

“Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All”

This past Advent, in my own prayer, I listened to a powerful message about God’s love poured into the person of Jesus in his incarnation. I also reflected on God’s love given to each and every person every moment of their own existence. Sometimes it is difficult for me, and I would bet for you, too, to understand God’s love and God’s call for us to love someone who has wronged another.

It is difficult to love the perpetrators in the world. They too were loved into being by God the Creator of all. It doesn’t take us long to name all sorts of people that some find difficult to love. We can even spend our time and energy directed toward the wrongs they have done. The murderer, the abortion practitioner, the human trafficker, the euthanizer, and so many others can zap our energy and zeal for the Gospel if we spend ourselves in hate and actively bemoaning theirs and others’ wrongs.

I was strongly reminded in prayer that there are people today on the road to becoming perpetrators. They haven’t yet reached the point of harming a person, but their life is headed in that direction. My petition is that they might experience the light of Jesus the Christ and live in God’s love through the people in their lives so that they might choose a different path. May they change their course and become lovers of God’s people and not perpetrators of hate and death and violence. And my call to be a conduit of God’s love always and with everyone to be God’s very light for all.

After praying several weeks with this Christian challenge to love the difficult, I saw this quote from Jean Vanier, Founder of L’Arche, and “The fundamental principal of peace is a belief that each person is important.” So often I think of this related to the forgotten, but it also challenges me about people I might think are unlovable. This year when I hear “Peace on Earth Goodwill to all,” the **all** part of that yearning indicates to me a whole new picture. When peace on earth is lived in every human heart, goodwill will reign. My own expressions of goodwill to all are an integral part of bringing peace on earth and the full reign of the Kingdom of God.

—by Peggy Gerovac



“The environment is God’s gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole” (#48).

—excerpt from Catholic Update, October 2009

Caritas Calls for Urgent Action on Climate Change, Warns of Coming Hunger Crises

—*excerpts from* VATICAN CITY, NOV. 4, 2009
(Zenit.org)

Caritas is sending a message to the United Nations, along with several humanitarian organizations, that "urgent action" is needed in order to prevent global hunger due to climate change.

A statement titled "Climate Change, Food Insecurity and Hunger" was directed toward participants in an upcoming U.N. meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark.

This summit, which will last two weeks, "must be a start to improving food production, scaling up social protection systems, and preparing for disasters," Caritas stated.

The aid agency reported that "climate change is undermining current efforts to end the suffering of over one billion people already affected by hunger."

The lack of access to food is "the single largest contributor to the global burden of disease, killing 3.5 million people every year, almost all of them children in poor countries," it affirmed.

Furthermore, Caritas warned, the risk of hunger "could increase by an unprecedented scale within the next decades." It stated, "By 2050, hunger could increase by 10 to 20 percent and child malnutrition is anticipated to be a fifth higher compared to a no-climate change scenario."

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Prayer Corner

O Divine One,
Fill our hearts with gratitude,
that we may see your gifts.
Make generosity our second nature.
Fill our spirit with the solidarity
that we may be the voice of the unheard.
Give us the courage to walk into danger.
Liberate us from fear,
replacing our darkest thoughts with hope.

Amen.

—prayer by Jeanne Hunt



Pontiff Warns Against Getting Used to War Fatalities

Laments World's Numerous Deadly Conflicts

—excerpts from CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy, Sept. 20, 2009 (Zenit.org)

The world must be careful not to get used to receiving news of fatalities that result from the various armed conflicts currently taking place around the globe, warned Benedict XVI. "From the numerous conflicts going on in the world," the Pontiff said, "almost daily tragic news reaches us of both military and civilian victims. These are facts that we must never get used to, and they arouse a profound outcry and perplex societies that have the good of peace and civil coexistence at heart."

The Holy Father mentioned in particular the deaths of six Italian soldiers who were killed in a car bomb attack Thursday in Afghanistan. The fatalities mark the biggest loss for the country since it sent troops to the war there.

"In prayer I share in the sufferings of relatives and the civil and military communities," Benedict XVI continued. "At the same time, with the same sentiments of participation, I think about the other international contingents, which have also recently had victims and that work to promote peace and the development of the institutions so necessary for human coexistence."

"I assure all of a remembrance before the Lord, with a special thought for the dear civilian populations, and I invite all to lift up our prayer to God," the Pope said. "I would also like here to renew my encouragement for the promotion of solidarity among the nations to fight the logic of violence and death, favor justice, reconciliation, peace and sustain the development of peoples beginning with love and mutual understanding, as I recently wrote in my encyclical 'Caritas in Veritate.' "

Pornography's Threat to Children

New Report Urges Action

—by Father John Flynn, LC

ROME, OCT. 18, 2009 (Zenit.org) - Morality in Media, a non-profit organization based in New York City, published a study in September titled, "How Adult Pornography Contributes To Sexual Exploitation of Children." It argues that government agencies and private groups are ignoring the consequences of what they term an "explosion" of hardcore adult pornography on the Internet and elsewhere.

Adult porn is a menace for children in a number of ways, the report contends:

- Perpetrators use adult pornography to groom their victims;
- For many perpetrators there is a progression from viewing adult pornography to viewing child pornography;
- Men act out with child prostitutes what they view in adult pornography, and pimps use adult pornography to instruct child prostitutes;



- Children imitate behavior they view in adult pornography with other children;
- Addiction to adult pornography destroys marriages, and children raised in one-parent households are more likely to be sexually exploited.

A timely reminder of the dangers of turning a blind eye to a problem that too often is ignored.

Volume 16

Issue 1

For Life is a quarterly publication of the Pro Life Office, Catholic Charities Parish and Community Ministries, Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, as an educational service for the people of this diocese.

The mission of the Pro Life Office is to proclaim the sanctity and value of human life as a gift from God and the foundation of human dignity, and work to ensure the quality of life at all stages of existence. This office encourages a Consistent Ethic of Life approach in promoting reverence for life, which is rooted in the Gospel and teachings of the Church.

Pro Life Office, 7911 Detroit Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44102 • (216) 334-2965
www.clevelandcatholiccharities.org/prolife

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Upcoming Events

Thurs., Jan. 21, 2010—Vigil of Prayer—sponsored by Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (West) and St. Stephen’s parishes on the eve of the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. Held at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (6928 Detroit Ave., Cleve.). Mass at 6 p.m., followed by Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament until 9 pm. Call Rectory at 216-651-5043 for more info. Handicapped parking available.

Fri., Jan. 22, 2010—37th Annual March for Life, Washington, D.C.—St. Ladislav, Westlake, has organized a bus trip to bring our prayers and witness to Washington D.C. Cost is \$60 per person. Contact Bob at 440-250-0514 for info and registration. Bus departs from St. Ladislav on Jan. 21 in late p.m.; arrives in Washington early a.m. on Jan. 22; attend 7:30 a.m. Mass at Basilica Shrine; attend noon rally and the March for Life. Leave Jan. 22 from St. Peter’s; arrive back at St. Ladislav early a.m. on Jan. 23.

Access to healthcare is a fundamental social good, because health is essential to human flourishing and the preservation of human dignity.

—“A Time to Reform,” by Michael D. Place
America, Aug. 17-24, 2009

Sat., March 13, 2010—Theology of the Body for Teens Training—sponsored by St. Adalbert, Berea & St. Raphael, Bay Village; 9 a.m.-4 p.m., with 8:30 am check-in. Held at St. Raphael Parish Activity Center, 525 Dover Center Rd., Bay Village 44140.

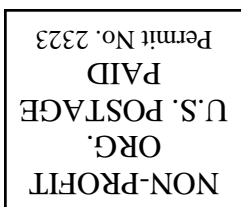
Theology of the Body for Teens presents the two hottest topics on the planet—God and sex—and “marries” them through Pope John Paul II’s compelling vision for love and life. Using a great mix of stories, real-life examples, activities, prayers, and references to the culture that teens understand, *Theology of the Body for Teens* answers the questions teens have about their own bodies, issues on sexual morality, and how they were uniquely created for greatness.

This one-day training is available to religion teachers, directors/coordinators of religious education, clergy, catechists, youth ministers, campus ministers, parents, and anyone who works with teens.

The presenter is Damon Owens, certified speaker for the *Theology of the Body* Institute. Damon has been featured on radio and television programs such as EWTN, ABC World News Tonight, CBS Evening News.

Registration cost is \$50 (by Feb. 27); standard/outside the Diocese is \$65. Workbook/materials/Continental breakfast and lunch included.

Contact: Pat Counselman at (440) 234-6830 or at stadalbertym@gmail.com or Amy Lashutka at (440) 871-1100 or at alashutka@saintraphaelparish.com.



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Pope: Access to Food Included in Right to Life

Sends Letter to FAO Director on World Food Day

—*excerpts from* VATICAN CITY, OCT. 16, 2009 (Zenit.org) Ensuring that people have access to food is protecting their right to life, Benedict XVI wrote in a message on the occasion of World Food Day.

The Pontiff began his message by noting "the urgency and need to intervene in favor of all those who are deprived of daily bread in so many countries, due to the lack of adequate conditions of food security." He called the present global economic crisis, which affects the food security of the poorest nations, a situation that is "dramatic."

"To guarantee persons and nations the possibility of overcoming the plague of hunger means to ensure their concrete access to healthy and adequate nourishment," the Holy Father affirmed. "It is, in fact, a concrete manifestation of the right to life, which, though solemnly proclaimed, often continues to be far from full realization."

"If punishment is supposed to correct someone, you can't correct them by killing them."

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss, a member of the peace and justice group at St. Pius X Parish in Portland, Ore. where the drive to repeal the death penalty in the state has gained vigor.



A Teen Mom

*Growing together you and me,
they yelp about how hard it'll be.
I know the risk I took
and my now responsibility,
but I think you'll bring out the best in me.
I know you'll change the way I see,
and how much affect you'll have
on my family.*

*I knew when it happened that you were mine to keep.
God chose you to come and better me.
They may look at me and say, "Oh, she's too young"
but they have no idea the blessings of a son.
They do not know the bond between you and me,
the first ever child on my family tree.
No matter what they say I'm proud of me.
The teenage mom of God's child is what I'll always be.*

*Julysa Benford, participant of Catholic Charities
Young Parent Program at St Philip Neri Family Center*

Abortion clinic director becomes a pro-life advocate

—*excerpts from Our Sunday Visitor*, Nov. 29, 2009
by Valerie Schmalz

After years as a volunteer and employee, Abby Johnson walked away from her job as director of a Planned Parenthood clinic in Bryan/College Station, Texas, Oct. 6, during a prayer vigil by 40 Days for Life. Johnson, 29, first began working as a clinic escort as a student at Texas A & M University, after a Planned Parenthood employee recruited her at a college volunteer fair. But assisting with an ultrasound during an abortion in September radically changed her heart and turned her into an abortion opponent.

The Catholic Church in the United States has long been opposed to capital punishment. As early as 1980, the U.S. bishops voted to declare their opposition. Pope John Paul II emphasized the universal church's opposition in his 1995 encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*. And in a speech at Emory University in Atlanta on October 7, Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory noted that one longstanding argument—that capital punishment serves a deterrent purpose—has been largely discredited by recent studies. It is time for the Nation to conclude once and for all that in our civilized society there is no place for capital punishment.

—*"The Price of Death," an editorial
America*, October 26, 2009

Jesuit: Church's AIDS work promotes dignity

The work of the Church in Africa to stem the spread of HIV and to care for people living with AIDS is designed to respect the dignity and life of each person and to show solidarity with everyone in need, said the moderator of the Jesuit superiors in Africa and Madagascar. In a statement marking the Dec. 1 commemoration of World AIDS Day, Jesuit Father Fratern Masawe said: "It is very important for the Church to get her life-affirming message across today to everyone. Abstinence and fidelity are not only the best ways to avoid HIV and tackle AIDS, but are the path to real, personal fulfillment."

—*Our Sunday Visitor*, December 6, 2009

Holy See on Population and Development

"Human Persons Are the World's Greatest Resource"

—*excerpts from* NEW YORK, OCT. 14, 2009 (Zenit.org) - Here is the statement Archbishop Celestino Migliore, permanent observer of the Holy See at the United Nations, on population and development before the 64th session of the U.N. General Assembly.

In many developed countries, population demographics have declined to the point where some national legislators are now encouraging an increase in birth rates to assure continued economic growth. Similarly, in many parts of the developing world, development has been occurring at previously unachieved rates and the greatest threat to development results not from a population explosion but from irresponsible world and local economic management.

For nearly a century, attempts have been made to link global population with the food, energy, natural resources and environmental crises. Yet, on the contrary, it has been consistently demonstrated by human ingenuity and the ability of people to work together that human persons are the world's greatest resource.

Demographic policies must also take into account the needs of migrants as part of an overall responsibility to place the human person at the center of all development policies. Too often migration is seen by governments and individuals as an unwitting consequence of globalization and negative stereotypes of migrants are used to promote policies which have a dehumanizing effect and create unconscionable divisions within families.

The International Conference on Population and Development's (ICPD) call for universal access to quality education continues to serve as the most effective means for promoting sustainable economic, social and political development. It also goes without saying that access to education for women and girls at all levels is at the heart of empowering women within society and promoting equality between men and women.

Too often in addressing the role of the ICPD on maternal health, attempts are made to promote a notion of sexual and reproductive health which is detrimental to unborn human life and the integral needs of women and men within society. Efforts to address maternal mortality, obstetric fistula, child mortality, prenatal and antenatal care, sexually transmitted diseases and other health matters are hampered by sanitary policies which fail to take into account the right to life of the unborn child and promote birth control as a development policy and disguised health service. Suggesting that reproductive health includes a right to abortion explicitly violates the language of the ICPD, defies moral and legal standards within local communities and divides efforts to address the real needs of mothers and children.

For its part, the Catholic Church remains committed to providing access to health care for everyone. Through its over 5,000 hospitals, 18,000 health clinics, and 15,000 homes for the elderly and disabled, as well as other health care programs throughout the world, Catholic based institutions are committed to providing the right to quality and effective and morally responsible health care for all.

"We think that the right to have basic health care is corollary to the right to life."

—Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities at the bishops conference quoted in a U.S. News Weekly article Sept. 4 titled, "Abortion Can Make or Break Healthcare."



Makes you go hmmm....

(A Column of Quotes)

"Many of us have a favorite picture of Jesus or a particular way that we visualize Jesus in our minds. Maybe we should set those aside. Every person we encounter is a suitable model for a painting of Christ."

—Jerry Bleem, OFM
US Catholic, November 2009

♦♦♦

Opulence and waste are no longer acceptable when the tragedy of hunger is assuming every greater proportion.

—Pope Benedict XVI
speaking at the opening session of the United Nations World Summit on Food,
Nov. 16, 2009

♦♦♦

Human persons are the world's greatest resource.

—Archbishop Celestino Migliore
The Vatican's UN nuncio

♦♦♦

I would say there was a definite conversion of my heart ... A spiritual conversion.

—Abby Johnson, former director of Planned Parenthood, Bryan, Texas, who resigned after watching an abortion on ultrasound

♦♦♦

"Human nature, in its most profound essence, consists in loving. In a word, only one task is entrusted to every human being: to learn to will the good, to love, sincerely, authentically, freely."

—Pope Benedict XVI, Dec. 2, 2009

♦♦♦

Adult stem cells have provided benefit for over seventy medical conditions in either animal or human studies. And there are currently more than twenty-four hundred U.S.-funded clinical trials using adult stem cells.

—*Ethics & Medicine*, August 2009

♦♦♦

"The fundamental principle of peace is a belief that each person is important."

—Jean Vanier

AN INVITATION TO A DAY OF RETREAT

for all volunteers, board members
and employees who help pregnant
women at a center or agency
and for people who help others
in a post-abortion healing process



sponsored by
The Pro Life Office
Catholic Charities/Diocese of Cleveland

Monday, February 1, 2010

9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

(Lunch included)

Jesuit Retreat House
5629 State Road, Parma, Ohio

***The day begins with liturgy celebrated by
Most Rev. Richard G. Lennon***

Retreat Master: Sr. Jeannette Kearns, OSU

RSVP to 216-334-2965 or to
pmgerovac@clevelandcatholiccharities.org

PLEASE RSVP SOON—RESERVATIONS LIMITED
(There is no fee for this retreat.)