

# OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

## Suggested Intercessions for the Month of September

September 4      TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For our seminarians as they begin another year of seminary formation, that they deepen their union with the Lord as they prepare to serve the Church, we pray to the Lord.

September 11      TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

That those being called to the ministry of reconciliation will be effective witnesses of the Lord's mercy, forgiveness and peace in the midst of a world torn by war and violence, we pray to the Lord.

September 18      TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For an increase of simple and humble laborers in the vineyard of the Lord, we pray to the Lord.

September 25      TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

That we come to know clearly our vocation in life and that we respond to God's call without delay, we pray to the Lord.

# Suggested Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for September/ October

September 8, 2005 (23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Am I my brother's keeper? All three readings today suggest that for the Christian steward the answer is "Yes!"

September 22, 2005 (25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's Gospel, the vineyard owner says, "I am free to do as I please with my money, am I not?" We are likewise free. Is a generous return to the Lord in thanksgiving for His many blessings among the choices we have made?

October 2, 2005 (27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In the Gospel today, the owner of the vineyard sent messengers to collect his share of the harvest from the tenant farmers; but there was not a single good steward on the property! God is the owner, we are the tenants. What sort of stewards are we?

October 16, 2005 (29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Each year at tax time, we conscientiously give "to Caesar what belongs to Caesar." Do my stewardship indicate that I am as faithful about giving "to God what belongs to God"?

October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005 (31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

"The greatest among you will be the one who serves the rest," Jesus says in today's Gospel. What wonderful good news for those who give of their time in service to others.

September 15, 2005 (24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Stewardship is not optional! "None of us lives as his own master and none of us dies as his own master," says St. Paul. "While we live we are responsible to the Lord, and when we die we die as his servants."

September 29, 2005 (26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The first son in today's Gospel said he would do his father's bidding, but did not. The second son balked at first, but then repented and did as he was asked. What service is God calling me to do? Which son am I more like?

October 9, 2005 (28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's second reading, St. Paul thanks the Philippians for being willing to share in his hardships and promises that God, in turn, will fully supply all their needs. Our God truly cannot be outdone in generosity!

October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005 (30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

We fulfill the commandment to love our neighbor when we exercise good stewardship – joyfully sharing our gifts of life, abilities, and resources to meet our neighbor's need.

# Intercessions for Life

SEPTEMBER 2005

## Sept 4<sup>th</sup> TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For every little child:  
that God might preserve them and keep them safe,  
and that they might ever remind us  
of the wonder of the gift of life;  
We pray to the Lord:

## Sept 11<sup>th</sup> TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For mothers who are children themselves:  
that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
God might give them the faith and the strength  
to grow in wisdom, grace, and maternal love;  
We pray to the Lord:

## Sept 18<sup>th</sup> TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those whose desperation tempts them with death,  
and especially men and women contemplating suicide:  
that God might teach us to bring them his hope;  
We pray to the Lord:

## Sept 25<sup>th</sup> TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all prisoners,  
and especially those condemned to die:  
that faith might sustain them and give them hope;  
We pray to the Lord:



“Parents are the first evangelizers of children, a precious gift from the Creator (cf. *Gaudium et Spes*, n. 50), and begin by teaching them to say their first prayers. In this way a moral universe is built up, rooted in the will of God, where the child grows in the human and Christian values that give life its full meaning.”

Pope Benedict XVI, Letter to Participants in the Fifth World Meeting of Families  
May 17, 2005

## Bulletin Briefs Prepared by the USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities

*What is a human being? ... Who is God? ... The Bible gives one consequential answer to these two queries: the human being is created in the image of God, and God himself is love. It is therefore the vocation to love that makes the human person an authentic image of God: man and woman come to resemble God to the extent that they become loving people.*

Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Participants in the Ecclesial Diocesan Convention in Rome, June 6, 2005

*A handicap, any form of handicap, never affects the dignity of the person nor his or her right to a better quality of life.*

Pope John Paul II, Address to the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Health Care Workers, Nov. 21, 1993

The Specter/Harkin bill on stem cell research, would rescind President Bush's policy on embryonic stem cell (ESC) research, so ... federal funds ... can be used to encourage researchers to destroy new human embryos from fertility clinics for their cells. I urge you in the strongest possible terms to oppose all destructive and morally offensive proposals of this kind.

Government has no business forcing taxpayers to become complicit in the direct destruction of human life at any stage. Nor is there any point in denying the scientific fact that human life is exactly what is at stake here.

Cardinal William H. Keeler, Letter to the U.S. Senate, July 11, 2005 regarding H.R. 810/S. 471, a bill to fund embryonic stem cell research

*America needs no words from me to see how your decision in Roe v. Wade has deformed a great nation. The so-called right to abortion has pitted mothers against their children and women against men. It has sown violence and discord at the heart of the most intimate human relationships. ... It has portrayed the greatest of gifts – a child – as a competitor, an intrusion, and an inconvenience.*

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta