

OFFICE OF PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES

Suggested Intercessions for the Month of December

December 7th SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

That through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, patroness of our nation, America will again support and protect all human life from conception until natural death; *We pray to the Lord:*

December 14TH THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

That in this season of joyful hope, we might cherish each day of life God gives us, and use it to proclaim the goodness of God and the Gospel of Life; *We pray to the Lord:*

December 21ST FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For all doctors and medical professionals, and especially for all those who assist in the miraculous birth of children, that they may be rewarded for their work and their goodness; *We pray to the Lord:*

December 28th THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

For all families, and especially for parents who have grown very old, that they may be loved and cared for by their children and all who love them; *We pray to the Lord:*

Suggested Bulletin Messages for the Month of December

To Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Watch over all families in a special way: May love sealed by the Sacrament ever reign between spouses May children walk on the paths of goodness and true freedom, and may the elderly feel surrounded by attention and affection.

A single soul is a whole world in the sight of God. Jesus, himself, stopped to preach to one woman.

The Church's 'No' to euthanasia and abortion is a 'Yes' to life, a 'Yes' to the fundamental goodness of creation, a 'Yes' which can move every person in the depths of his conscience, a 'Yes' to the family, the most basic community of hope, which so pleases God that he calls it to become a domestic Church.

Human rights flow from the recognition that human beings have an intrinsic dignity that is based on the fact that they are human. Human embryos are human, even if they are cloned. If the rest of us are to have the rights that flow from the recognition of this dignity, then we must act to ban cloning in all its forms.

-Archbishop Celestino Migliore, permanent observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, on October 21, "International Convention Against the Cloning of Human Beings."

Christmas is above all a celebration of the family, because God, being born in a human family, chose it as the first community consecrated by his love. – *Pope John Paul II, December 5, 2002*

Suggested Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for December/January

December 7, 2003 (2nd Advent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the Psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!"

December 21, 2003 (4th Advent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

January 4, 2004 (Epiphany)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The three kings in today's Gospel traveled a great distance at considerable cost to offer their richest gifts to the Infant Jesus. How far will I go and what will I offer to do homage to this newborn King and Savior?

January 18, 2004 (2nd in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's second reading, St. Paul tells the Corinthians (and us) that all of our gifts are from God and that they are given, not for ourselves alone, but for the common good. But the generosity of God knows no limits – the miracle at Cana reminds us that whenever we faithfully do as God asks, He can change our gifts of water into wine!

December 14, 2003 (3rd Advent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."

December 28, 2003 (Holy Family)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The first reading today provides a challenging guideline for the good stewardship of our family relationships. How do I measure up?

January 11, 2004 (Baptism of the Lord)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Jesus, whom God called "my beloved Son," is also the "servant" of whom Isaiah speaks in the first reading. We who are baptized in Christ must follow His example and use our time and resources in the service of God and neighbor.

January 25, 2004 (3rd in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today's reading from I Corinthians: "Because its individual members do collectively make up the Body of Christ, that body's health and well-being are the responsibility of the members - reminds us that we all are stewards of the Church."