

# Intercessions for Life

OCTOBER 2004

## **October 3<sup>rd</sup> TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For our President, members of Congress, and the Supreme Court,  
that they might renounce the death of the unborn,  
and imbue within our laws respect for all life from conception to natural death;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **October 10<sup>th</sup> TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For all who have grown old,  
but especially for those who live in nursing homes:  
that God might teach us how to cherish and honor them,  
and to seek their wisdom and guidance;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **October 17<sup>th</sup> TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For each child who lives today in their mother's womb:  
that the joy of their coming birth  
might strengthen all parents to love and protect them;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **October 24<sup>th</sup> THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For those haunted by the memory of abortion:  
that by contrition and penance,  
they might be relieved of their guilt and freed from crippling sin;  
We pray to the Lord:

## **October 31<sup>st</sup> THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For all who work for life,  
And especially for those who pray in public places:  
That their witness of patient, enduring love,  
Might draw all men and women to the truth;  
We pray to the Lord:



“The rights of the family are a priority in comparison with those of larger social bodies. Among these, the right to be born and to grow up in a stable home in which the words ‘father’ and ‘mother’ can be said joyfully and without deception should not be forgotten. Thus, the smallest children are also prepared to open themselves confidently to life and to society, which will benefit as a whole if it does not listen to certain voices that seem to confuse marriage with other, quite different forms of union, if they are not actually opposed to it, or to consider children as mere objects for a person's own satisfaction.”

Pope John Paul II to the Ambassador of Spain, June, 2004

It is estimated that as many as 17,000 human beings each year are trafficked into the United States. Women and children have been forced to work in prostitution and child pornography rings, while men, women, and children have been forced into different types of manual labor, without pay or protection.

— testimony by the USCCB, Migration and Refugee Services to US Senate Committee on the Judiciary, July 7, 2004

Our obligation as bishops at this time is to teach clearly. It is with pastoral solicitude for everyone involved in the political process that we will also counsel Catholic public officials that their acting consistently to support abortion on demand risks making them cooperators in evil in a public manner. We will persist in this duty to counsel, in the hope that the scandal of their cooperating in evil can be resolved by the proper formation of their consciences.

— Catholics in Political Life

To make such intrinsically evil actions [as abortion] legal is itself wrong. ... The legal system as such can be said to cooperate in evil when it fails to protect the lives of those who have no protection except the law. ... Failing to protect the lives of innocent and defenseless members of the human race is to sin against justice. Those who formulate law therefore have an obligation in conscience to work toward correcting morally defective laws, lest they be guilty of cooperating in evil and in sinning against the common good. — Catholics in Political Life

*Catholics who publicly dissent from the Church's teaching on the right to life of all unborn children should recognize that they have freely chosen by their own actions to separate themselves from what the Church believes and teaches. They have also separated themselves in a significant way from the Catholic community. The Church cannot force such people to change their position; but she can and does ask them honestly to admit in the public forum that they are not in full union with the Church. — Archbishop Myers, "A Time for Honesty"*

**A** Catholic, to be in full communion with the faith of the Church, must accept this teaching about the evil of abortion and euthanasia. The Encyclical Letter *Evangelium Vitae*, with reference to judicial decisions or civil laws that authorize or promote abortion or euthanasia, states that there is "a grave and clear obligation to oppose them by conscientious objection" (no. 73). Moreover, it says that "in the case of an intrinsically unjust law permitting abortion or euthanasia, it is never licit to obey it, or to take part in a propaganda campaign in favor of it, or vote for it."

— Archbishop Levada, "Reflections on Catholics in Political Life and the Reception of Holy Communion"

# Stem Cell Research and Human Cloning

## Questions and Answers

### Parish Bulletin Insert



This new one-page, easy-to-read parish bulletin insert provides clear information on the Catholic Church's position on stem cell research and human cloning. It is intended for distribution in parishes and Catholic organizations across the country. It is also perfect as a mailing piece or to be included in information packets at meetings or seminars. *Stem Cell Research and Human Cloning: Questions and Answers* offers an appealing, cost-effective way to communicate the Catholic Church's teaching on this timely issue.

No. 5-665, package of 100 for \$10.00

Other Modern Questions, Gospel Answers Parish Bulletin Inserts now available are:

- \* No. 5-626, *Between Man and Woman: Questions and Answers About Marriage and Same-Sex Unions*
- \* No. 5-669, *Challenge of Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*

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#### Made in His Image Respect Life 2004-2005

Program can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/prolife>  
This year's program includes:

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- ➔ *Human Dignity in the "Vegetative" State* by Richard Doerflinger
- ➔ *A Call to Effective Action: When Being Right is Not Enough* by Mary Cunningham Agee
- ➔ *Assisted Reproductive Technologies are Anti-Woman* by Marie Anderson, M.D., FACOG
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- ➔ *Assisted Reproductive Technologies are Anti-Woman* by Marie Anderson, M.D., FACOG and John Bruchalski, M.D.
- ➔ *Sex: What Do Women (And Men) Really Want?* by Theresa Nakone, M.A.
- ➔ *Youth Suicidal Behavior* by Daniel Brown, M.A., Art A. Bennett, M.A. and Frank J. Mancher, Ph.D.
- ➔ *Made in His Image, 2004-2005 Respect Life Program Flyer*
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Modern Questions, Gospel Answers

USCCB Publishing, 3211 Fourth Street NE, Washington, DC 20017-1194

# OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

## Suggested Intercessions for the Month of October

October 3            27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all parents, that by their example they may teach their children to listen to the voice of the Lord, we pray to the Lord.

October 10            28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all baptized persons who are preparing to make a permanent commitment through vows, in marriage, holy orders, or in religious life, that they be given the grace of perseverance, we pray to the LORD.

October 17            29<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all who support the work of vocation promotion through their prayers, suffering, and good works, we pray to the LORD.

October 24            30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all religious congregations serving the Church in our diocese and throughout the world, we pray to the LORD.

October 31            31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all priests, especially those of our diocese, that on this Priesthood Sunday they may experience renewal and refreshment in their ministry, we pray to the Lord.

# Suggested Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for October / November

October 3, 2004 (27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

When will I have given enough—of my income, of my time, of my talents? Today's Gospel suggests that only *total* stewardship will do: "When you have done all you have been commanded to do, say 'We are useless servants. We have done no more than our duty.'"

October 17, 2004 (29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today's theme is perseverance – Moses keeping his hands upraised throughout the battle, Paul urging Timothy to stay with the task of preaching and teaching, and the widow appealing to the corrupt judge. To be faithful stewards of God's gifts, we too must persevere in the roles to which we are called.

October 31, 2004 (31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

We are called to be good stewards of our personal vocations. St. Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians is therefore, ours too – "that our God may make (us) worthy of his calling and powerfully bring to fulfillment every good purpose and every effort of faith."

November 14, 2004 (33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today's readings paint a somewhat frightening picture of the end of time. But the Gospel ends with the assurance to faithful stewards that those who persevere will be saved.

November 28, 2004 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent)

"At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come," says today's Gospel. Good stewards know that they are accountable to God for all they have and are and strive to live in readiness for His coming.

October 10, 2004 (28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Jesus healed ten lepers in today's Gospel. Only one (10%) came back to say thank you. I, too, have received many blessings from the Lord—indeed, all I am and all I have is gift! How and how often have I remembered to thank Him.

October 24, 2004 (30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Both the first reading and today's Psalm say clearly that the Lord hears the cry of the poor. Have I been given the gifts – of time or money or abilities – to be the means by which God answers their need?

November 7, 2004 (32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's second reading, St. Paul prays that the Thessalonians may be strengthened "in every good deed and word." May we, too, be strengthened and empowered to use our time and talents for the good of others.

November 21, 2004 (Christ the King)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today we celebrate Christ the King and are reminded that all was created through Him and for Him. Does my stewardship of the blessings entrusted to me give evidence that Christ is Lord of **my** life?

### Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education

During the 2003-2004 school year, the Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education (ACRE) was given to fifth, eighth and twelfth graders in all diocesan schools. The following chart presents the Diocesan Average (DOY) on each domain as compared to the National Average (NA).

#### 5th Grade

DOMAIN	DOY	NA
DOMAIN 1: God-Father, Son and Holy Spirit	84	82
DOMAIN 2: Church-One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic	79	74
DOMAIN 3: Liturgy and the Sacraments	77	70
DOMAIN 4: Revelation, Scripture and Faith	81	80
DOMAIN 5: Life in Christ-Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	66	63
DOMAIN 6: Church History	63	60
DOMAIN 7: Prayer/Religious Practices	71	65
DOMAIN 8: Catholic Faith Literacy	79	74
OVERALL DOMAIN SUMMARY	75.4	71.4

#### 8th Grade

DOMAIN	DOY	NA
DOMAIN 1: God-Father, Son and Holy Spirit	81	79
DOMAIN 2: Church-One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic	72	71
DOMAIN 3: Liturgy and the Sacraments	74	69
DOMAIN 4: Revelation, Scripture and Faith	77	75
DOMAIN 5: Life in Christ-Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	78	77
DOMAIN 6: Church History	65	58
DOMAIN 7: Prayer/Religious Practices	77	72
DOMAIN 8: Catholic Faith Literacy	69	66
OVERALL DOMAIN SUMMARY	74.4	71.2

#### 12th Grade

DOMAIN	DOY	NA
DOMAIN 1: God-Father, Son and Holy Spirit	79	79
DOMAIN 2: Church-One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic	80	81
DOMAIN 3: Liturgy and the Sacraments	77	76
DOMAIN 4: Revelation, Scripture and Faith	62	61
DOMAIN 5: Life in Christ-Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	63	64
DOMAIN 6: Church History	62	61
DOMAIN 7: Prayer/Religious Practices	78	76
DOMAIN 8: Catholic Faith Literacy	68	68
OVERALL DOMAIN SUMMARY	71	70.8

## Diocese of Youngstown 2004



### Catholic Schools' Report Card

The Diocese of Youngstown issues this report to provide accountability for its educational program. The results of two state and two national testing programs are detailed: the *Ohio Ninth Grade Proficiency Tests*, the *Ohio Graduation Tests in Reading and Mathematics*, the *Iowa Tests of Basic Skills*, and the *Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education (ACRE)*. The results of these tests are used by the Diocese and the individual schools to identify areas of strength and areas where improvement is needed. This engages schools in strengthening their Catholic identity and improving the conditions for student learning.

The Diocesan schools are required to administer the *Ninth Grade Proficiency Tests*. These tests cover the areas of citizenship, mathematics, reading, writing and science. For reporting purposes, the performance of tenth graders on the Proficiency Tests are reported. In addition, the Diocesan attendance rate and the Diocesan high school graduation rates are provided. The results of *Ohio Graduation Tests in Reading and Mathematics* are presented.

*The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills* is a collection of standardized tests for several subject areas. The tests are national and are taken by public, private and parochial students. In the Diocese of Youngstown, the tests are given annually in the Spring. Results are reported for students in Kindergarten through seventh grade. The purpose of these tests is to provide information that will be used to improve instruction.

The mission of the Catholic schools is to foster the formation of its students in the Catholic Faith. Catholic identity and spirituality are at the heart of the school. To assist the schools in assessing student growth in religious development, all Diocesan schools give the *Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education (ACRE)* to students in grades five, eight and twelve. The scores listed in this report reflect the performance of both Catholic and Non-Catholic students on the Faith Knowledge section of the ACRE. Scores are reported in terms of the average percent correct for the group on the questions in each area or domain.

Office of Catholic Schools  
144 West Wood Street  
Youngstown, OH 44503  
(330) 744-8451

## Proficiency Tests Report

### Diocesan Schools Exceed All Applicable Standards Information is from 2003-2004 School Year

The Ninth Grade Proficiency Tests are being phased out; therefore, there are no scores for students who were in the ninth grade in 2003-2004.

As tenth graders, they will take the Ohio Graduation Tests in March 2005.

Tenth Grade Performance on the Ninth Grade  
Proficiency Tests.

Percentage that must pass the test to meet the  
*State Standard is 85%.*

	<i>State Average</i>	<i>Diocesan Average</i>		
	<i>03-04</i>	<i>03-04</i>	<i>02-03</i>	<i>01-02</i>
Citizenship	92.1	99	98	99
Math	84.5	95	95	97
Reading	95.7	100	99	100
Writing	95.8	99	100	100
Science	88.3	97	98	99

Percentage that must be met to meet the  
State Standard for the Attendance Rate is 93%.

*The Diocesan Schools Attendance Rate is 96%.*

Percentage that must be met to meet the  
State Standard for the High School Graduation Rate is 90%.

*The Diocesan High School Graduation Rate is  
99.5%.*

## Ohio Graduation Tests Report

Percentage of students who scored at or above the Proficient level.

	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Math</i>
Diocesan High Schools	93	83
Public High Schools	77.5	67.1

The OGT Reading and Math tests were given in March, 2004 to sophomore students. These students were not required to pass these tests as a graduation requirement.

## IOWA Tests of Basic Skills Report

### Diocesan Averages - National Student Norms Based on Testing in Spring, 2004

The scores below are listed in percentiles. The percentile score indicates the performance of the typical diocesan student in relation to other students, nationally, in the same grade. For example, the diocesan average for grade 1 in Reading was 76. This means that the typical diocesan first grade student in Reading scored as well as or better than 76 out of every 100 students nationally based on the national norms.

*National Norm is 50%*

<i>Diocesan Student Performance</i>				
Grade	Reading	Language	Math	Composite
K	N/A	82	79	N/A
1	76	77	77	N/A
2	78	78	71	N/A
3	73	76	70	76
4	75	77	71	75
5	73	76	70	75
6	70	72	68	72
7	71	71	70	72

N/A-Non Applicable: Students in these grades do not take the complete battery of tests so a composite score is not available.

### *Facts about Catholic Schools in the Diocese Based on the 2003-2004 School Year*

Schools:	6	High Schools (9-12)
	43	Elementary Schools (K-8)
Professional Staff:	185	High School (9-12)
	702	Elementary School (K-8)
Students:	2,690	High School (9-12)
	9,369	Elementary School (K-8)
	789	Preschool