

## Bulletin Briefs

“I would like to say, humbly, to those who suffer and to those who struggle and are tempted to turn their backs on life: turn towards Mary! Within the smile of the Virgin lies mysteriously hidden the strength to fight against sickness, in support of life. With her, equally, is found the grace to accept without fear or bitterness to leave this world at the hour chosen by God”.

— Pope Benedict XVI, *Homily in front of the Basilica of Notre-Dame du Rosaire, Lourdes, Monday, 15 September 2008*

Every individual, precisely by reason of the mystery of the Word of God who was made flesh (cf. Jn 1:14), is entrusted to the maternal care of the Church. Therefore every threat to human dignity and life must necessarily be felt in the Church's very heart; it cannot but affect her at the core of her faith in the Redemptive Incarnation of the Son of God, and engage her in her mission of proclaiming the Gospel of life in all the world and to every creature (cf. Mk 16:15).

— St. John Paul II, *The Gospel of Life*, 3

“That special power of loving that belongs to a woman is seen most clearly when she becomes a mother. Motherhood is the gift of God to women. How grateful we must be to God for this wonderful gift that brings such joy to the whole world, women and men alike! Yet we can destroy this gift of motherhood, especially by the evil of abortion, but also by thinking that other things like jobs or positions are more important than loving, than giving oneself to others. No job, no plans, no possessions, no idea of ‘freedom’ can take the place of love. So anything that destroys God's gift of motherhood destroys His most precious gift to women – the ability to love as a woman.”

— Blessed Mother Theresa, *Letter to the Fourth World Conference on Women*, Beijing, 1995

“Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person - among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life.”

— Catechism of the Catholic Church 2270

“Conception is the beginning of human life. From the time that an ovum is fertilized a new life begins that is neither that of the father nor of the mother. It is rather the life of a new human being with his own growth. It would never become human if it were not human already.”

— Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Declaration on Procured Abortion*, 1974

### Life Facts:

By the third month, a child's face is well-formed and is 3-4 inches long.

By month 5, the child's finger prints are already formed.

**Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty.**  
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