

SERVANT LEADER

Every child...brings us God's smile and invites us to recognize that life is his gift, a gift to be welcomed with love and preserved with care always and at every moment. - Pope Benedict XVI

The birth of one's first child is the event most Americans cite as the "high point" of their lives. New parents are understandably awed by the miracle of their new son or daughter.

Children are bubbling wellsprings of joy amidst the serious and sometimes stressful world of adults. Young children have an extraordinary capacity for love and laughter: one researcher found that the average American child laughs 400 times a day; the average adult, only 15.

Every little boy and girl is a unique and irreplaceable creature designed by the God of love, his personal gift that comes to us bearing his image and likeness.

Sadly, in the United States over one million boys and girls are killed by abortion every year. The bodies of many aborted children have been used in fetal research.

Science shows us the humanity and personhood of children in the womb who, far from being inert and passive tissue, actively direct their own development.

A new human being comes into existence at conception, when a sperm cell enters an ovum, resulting in a one-celled individual called a zygote. Even before the first cell division at about 24 to 30 hours after conception, the zygote's 23 chromosomes from mom and 23 from dad already contain the baby's unique DNA - the entire genetic blueprint and instructions for developing from a single-celled person to an adult.

Within minutes of conception, the zygote sends out chemical signals to change its outer protein layer to block other sperm from entering. When only a few hours old, the zygote sends out "ovum factor" to signal the mother's immune system not to attack. The protein "early pregnancy factor" (EPF), which suppresses the mother's immune response, is detectable in her blood before her child is 24 hours old.

About 6 days after conception the embryo's outer cells bind to the lining of the mother's womb and release enzymes that digest and separate maternal cells to permit implantation, so the child can begin receiving nutrition from the mother.

By 8 days after conception, the embryo produces a hormone called hCG. It interrupts the mother's normal menstrual cycle by signaling her ovarian follicle to continue producing estrogen and progesterone. Pregnancy test can detect hCG in the mother's urine and blood by 8-9 days after conception.

By day 21, the three primary sections of the brain can be identified.

On day 22, the embryo's heart begins beating. The little heart will beat nearly 54 million times *before he or she is born!*

Between 4 and 5 weeks after conception, the child's brain develops at an incredible rate, and the stomach, esophagus,

pancreas, intestines, kidneys, and even reproductive organs are all developing. Between 5 and 6 weeks the embryo begins to move spontaneously and reflexively - e.g., in response to touch the embryo will withdraw. By 6 weeks plus 2 days an embryo's brain waves have been recorded by EEG.

Bones are forming, the immune system is maturing, and by 7 weeks, the ovaries appear in females, while testes begin to differentiate in males. The child is now called a fetus, which means "offspring" in Latin.

Fingers and toes are fully separated by 7 ½ weeks, at which time fetuses can bring their hands and feet together and kick their legs.

By 8 weeks the digestive system is working and kidneys are producing urine. When fetuses are touched, they may squint, move their jaw, try to grasp, or point their toes.

By 9 weeks, the unborn child begins thumb-sucking. He can grasp object, open and close his jaw, sigh, and stretch.

At 10 weeks nails and fingerprints begin to emerge in patterns that will uniquely identify this child throughout life.

By 11 weeks the fetus can produce a variety of facial expressions, including a smile.

By 12 and 16 weeks fetuses often touch their mouths, up to 50 times an hour. Teeth begin to grow by 13 weeks.

Beginning at 14 weeks behavioral differences between boys and girls appear: female fetuses move their mouths much more frequently than males.

By 16 weeks an unborn child produces many of the same hormones as adults, for example, a painful procedure will trigger the release of cortisol and other stress hormones.

Rapid eye movement - the pattern of movements seen during dreaming - begin between 18 to 21 weeks after conception. Between 20 and 24 weeks after conception, the unborn child responds to loud noises, pressure, movement, pain, taste, light, heat, and cold.

Children born at 24 weeks post conception have a greater than 80% chance of survival.

Long before the completion of full-term pregnancy at 38 weeks from conception, the unborn child is listening and learning from the external environment. Newborns prefer their mother's voice to any other; they prefer familiar lullabies heard before birth to those heard only after birth.

Every child, at every age of development, brings us God's smile and invites us to recognize that life is his gift, a gift to be welcomed with love a preserved with care always at every moment.

To get involved in such pro-life efforts go to www.usccb.org/prolife/getinvolved.shtml.

~ STEWARDSHIP ~ A WAY OF LIFE ~

This week as we celebrate Respect for Life Sunday, we see this as a vital part of **Stewardship** where our whole life is a gift from God who invites us to use our Time, Talent, and Treasure - all we are and have - for the Lord.

Stewardship is a blessed word to describe who we are in God's eyes and how we live our lives as Christians. I am always looking for better ways to motivate, educate and inspire dedicated stewards, so we can serve God as fully as possible. Inspiring **Stewardship** as a way of life is my constant hope here.

The key to developing dedicated stewards is an ongoing process of education and communication. When we live as stewards, we share all of the blessings God has given to us. Dedicated stewards find joy in the gift of giving.

Stewardship is a consistent way to commit ourselves to sharing the gifts God has entrusted to us and should be at the core of our spiritual life. It will transform the hearts and minds of each of us, our church family, empowering us to give of ourselves, and to share God's gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure with others.

In the weeks to come I hope to promote **Stewardship** which is a blessed and effective way to build up the parish. We will have a **Stewardship** thought during Mass to significantly increase the general understanding of truly giving ourselves to God. Through preaching, bulletin articles, and prayers of the faithful I will teach on **Stewardship**.

I ask your prayers that it take hold in the life of each of us. If we can understand **Stewardship** then every aspect of life will fall into place. May God bless us with true awareness of our beauty and value in His plan.

~ RED MASS WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7 ~

The annual Red Mass for attorneys, judges, elected and appointed officials, and all those working in the legal system or involved in the process of government will be held at the Cathedral on Wednesday October 7 at 5:00 pm. Bishop Jaime Soto will preside and be the homilist. The Red Mass is the popular name for the Mass of the Holy Spirit, in which God's blessings are invoked upon all those working in civil or canon law. The liturgy's red vestments symbolize the tongues of fire and gave the name to this 800-year-old Catholic tradition which gathers together all members of the legal community, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. In the United States, the Red Mass is traditionally celebrated the Sunday before the Supreme Court session begins, which is always the second Tuesday in October. Following Mass, the St. Thomas More Award Dinner will be held at the Sutter Club. Tickets are \$75. Call (916) 753-1300 for reservations.

~ BISHOP QUINN TO RECEIVE AWARD ~

Archbishop of Lucca, Italy, Italo Castellani will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament with Bishop Emeritus Francis A. Quinn at the 12:10 Mass on Friday, October 9. After the Mass, the Giovanni Marinelli Award will be presented by the Mayor of Lucca to Bishop Francis Quinn for his social and humanitarian work. St. Francis

High School Italian classes will provide the worship aid. The Archbishop will be escorted after Mass to a private tour of the Capitol.

~ STEWARDSHIP GIVING ~

I hope to develop a stewardship page soon in our bulletin. It is vital every parishioner know what is happening and so can commit to help as generously as possible. People tell me they like the prayer before the collection which gives it a spiritual meaning not just paying money. The parish collection was \$8,915.75. Thank you and please God it will get better as we go forward.

~ CATHEDRAL CHOIR AUDITIONS ~

Rex Rallanka, Cathedral Choir Director, will conduct auditions for the 2009-2010 Cathedral Choir season. For inquiries, call Rex Rallanka at 444-3070, ext. 38 or email rrallanka@cathedralsacramento.org

~ UPCOMING SUNDAYS~

October 10/11 **Vocation Awareness Sunday.**
 October 17/18 **World Mission Sunday.** Diocesan Second Collection. A day set aside for Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves to the Church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice.

CATHEDRAL MASS SCHEDULE

MON 10/5/2009 **27TH WEEKDAY**
 12:10 pm: Khanh Nguyen
 5:10 pm: Emiliana González, S.I.
TUES 10/6/2009 **ST. BRUNO**
 12:10 pm: Pablo Dayrit +
 5:10 pm: Ises R. & Aaliyahs, S.I.
WED 10/7/2009 **OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY**
 12:10 pm: Our Lady of Guadalupe
 5:00 pm: **Red Mass ~ Bishop Soto**
THU 10/8/2009 **27TH WEEKDAY**
 12:10 pm: Luz M. Morales +
 5:10 pm: Mae Manning +
FRI 10/9/2009 **ST. DENIS & COMPANIONS**
 12:10 pm: Ryan Lumagui +
(Bishop Quinn & Archbishop Castellani)

NO EVENING MASS ON FRIDAYS
ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
WED & THUR 12:40PM-4:45PM FRI 12:40PM-3:45PM
TO SIGN UP CALL ISABELLA CAZARES 391-1760 OR 833-1948,
OR E-MAIL BECAZ96@SBCGLOBAL.NET

CATHEDRAL TOURS EVERY SUNDAY
AFTER 9:00 AM AND 11 AM MASSES

New Parishioner Registration and Change of Address Form

Name: _____ Envelope No.: _____
 Phone: (____) _____
 Address: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Fill out and deposit in Offertory Basket. Thank You!