**Catholic Communications Office, Maynooth Wednesday 29 May 2013**

**Issue 2**

Choose Life 2013

**This content is for your parish newsletters and websites to assist in promoting the Church’s position on the sanctity of unborn human life.**

**Church Teaching**

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states in article2273: “The inalienable right to life of every innocent human individual is a constitutive element of a civil society and its legislation.”

The *Catechism* elaborates: “The moment a … law deprives a category of human beings of the protection which civil legislation ought to accord them, the state is denying the equality of all before the law. When the state does not place its power at the service of the rights of each citizen, and in particular of the more vulnerable, the very foundation of a state based on law are undermined. ” (CDF*, Donum vitae III)*

**Abortion Legislation**

It has been claimed that Ireland has an obligation to legislate for abortion in the context of the 1992 X Case. This is untrue. There exists no constitutional provision or statute requiring politicians to legislate for any Supreme Court decision.

Legislators can make a positive choice: they can preserve current medical practice which guarantees necessary treatment for pregnant women while respecting the right to life of the baby.

Similarly the December 2010 decision of the European Court of Human Rights in the *A, B and C v. Ireland* casedid not oblige Ireland to introduce legislation authorising abortion. Rather it left “future policy on protecting the lives of unborn children in the hands of the Irish people” - Cardinal Seán Brady.

**Extract from *Prayer for the Child in the Womb***

Lord Jesus, you are the source and lover of life. Reawaken in us respect for every human life. Help us to see in each child the marvellous work of our Creator. Open our hearts to welcome every child as a unique and wonderful gift.

Amen

**Weekly Quotes**

“It is God who gives life. Let us respect and love human life, especially vulnerable life in a mother’s womb.” - Pope Francis, 15 May 2013.

“It is important in the current debates about abortion that Christian believers be, and be seen to be, on the side of all life.” - Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, 20 May 2013.

**Life Website**

See chooselife2013.ie which includes an educational and discussion video featuring personal testimonies.

**QR Code**

Smartphones can scan this QR code for: *Prayer for the Child in the Womb.*

www.catholicbishops.ie | Facebook: Choose Life 2013 | Twitter: @chooselife2013 | www.chooselife2013.ie

www.cura.ie or call 1850 622626

Ends

29 May 2013