**Catholic Communications Office of the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference**

**Issue 8 – Wednesday 10 July 2013**

**Choose Life 2013**

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

**Church Teaching**

“If we abandon the principle which teaches that innocent human life is inviolable, which is to say, that is it is sacred and must be protected by law, if we relinquish that principle, and begin to allow for the deliberate and direct destruction of human life, what basis will we have to object when the situation shifts further and other categories of vulnerable human beings are under threat? We will have none or very little, because we will have sacrificed the foundation, the basis, the principle: every human life is to be respected, because it is of inestimable value. This recognition is at the origin of every human society and community. It is not *per se* a religious truth; it is a human truth” - Archbishop Charles J Brown, Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland, 7 July 2013.

**Abortion Legislation**

In recent days bishops have sent a briefing note to deputies and senators on the ‘Protection of Life During Pregnancy Bill 2013’. The briefing note highlights flaws in the abortion bill and explains that it:

* will fundamentally alter the culture and practice of medical care in Ireland;
* accepts the premise that abortion is an appropriate response to suicidal ideation; and,
* creates serious moral, legal and constitutional conflicts in the area of freedom of conscience and religious belief.

Please read the full text of the briefing note on the Choose Life website - www.chooselife2013.ie.

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

Give us wisdom and generosity to build a society that cares for all. Help us to choose life in every decision we take. Amen

The full text of the *Prayer for the Child in the Womb* is available on www.chooselife2013.ie.

**Weekly Quotes**

“The Christian message is a message which respects life and respects every human life, from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death and at every moment in between” - Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, 6 July 2013.

“There are shades here of George Orwell’s *Animal Farm* where all are equal but some more equal than others” - Bishop Brendan Leahy on the abortion bill, 9 July 2013.

**CURA Website**

To avail of Cura’s crisis pregnancy support service see www.cura.ie or call 1850 622626

**Life Website**

See chooselife2013.ie which includes news, life videos, weekly quotes archive and prayers of intercession.

**QR Code**

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

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