



**OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP
OFFICE FOR RESPECT LIFE
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA**

9 May 2012

RITE FOR THE BLESSING OF A CHILD IN THE WOMB

The *Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb* has been confirmed by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in English this past December 2011 and in Spanish this past March 2012, as previously approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2008. The *Blessing* was authorized for use in the Sacred Liturgy on 26 March 2012, this year the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.

Pastors and Parish Respect Life Contacts:

This *Blessing*, which will be incorporated into the *Book of Blessings/Bendicional* at a later date, has been made available electronically on the USCCB website in time for Mother's Day (May 13, 2012). If there is the opportunity to use the *Blessing* this coming Sunday of Easter, then it is encouraged. The use of the *Blessing* in the future should be widespread, both on planned and spontaneous occasions, to ask for God's grace upon the parents and child, as well as to promote respect for human life. The *Blessing* can be offered within and outside of Mass. The *Blessing* is especially encouraged in anticipation of the Sacrament of Baptism when expectant mothers participate in pre-Baptismal instructions.

Download the text at www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/prayers/pro-life-blessings.cfm. The blessing may be ordered through USCCB Publishing as a 43-page bilingual booklet at www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?sku=7-316.