

Therefore, he continued:

“The Church ... is called to proclaim the gift of life, to serve life, and to promote a culture of life. ... This is the message of hope we are called to proclaim and embody in a world where self-centeredness, greed, violence, and cynicism so often seem to choke the fragile growth of grace in people’s hearts.”³

Our Holy Father urged us to let our daily prayer to the Father—“Thy Kingdom come!”—bear fruit in the way we lead our lives and build up our families and communities. He added: “Praying fervently for the coming of the Kingdom ... means overcoming every separation between faith and life, and countering false gospels of freedom and happiness. It also means rejecting a false dichotomy between faith and political life.”⁴

Through the sacraments and meditative prayer, we can rediscover the truth and joy of Christian life fully lived for God and for others. By letting the love of Jesus Christ permeate our lives and actions in defense of our vulnerable brothers and sisters, we can transform our nation, building a culture where all people can again hope and trust in life!

¹ These are available at www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/travels/2008/index_stati-uniti_en.htm.

² Pope Benedict XVI, Responses to the Questions Posed by the American Bishops, April 16, 2008.

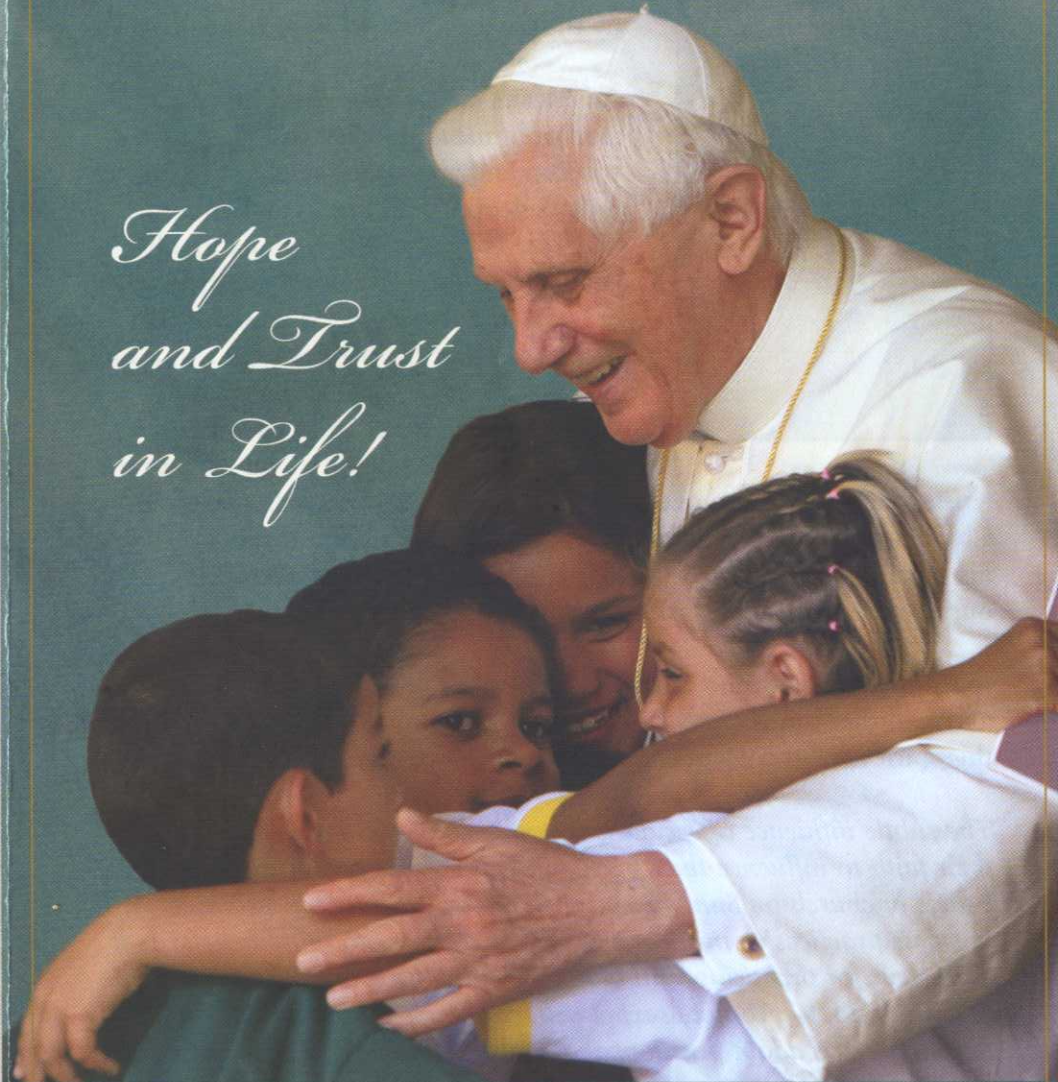
³ Homily, Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, April 19, 2008.

⁴ Homily, Mass at Yankee Stadium, April 20, 2008.



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