

Attendees: Philomena Cellilli, Carl Snipes, Trudy Madden, Marianne Khare, Karen Leyendecker, John Leyendecker

1. Opening Prayer – Carl Snipes

*Generous God, You provide for the lilies of the field and the birds in the air. You promise to take care of us even when our faith is small. Bless us as we examine the use of Your gifts and seek to use them fairly, honestly and prudently to better our community. During this meeting help us to remember that we are doing Your work, not our own. May we see this meeting as a way of serving You. May all that we do and all that we are give You praise and be for Your honor and glory. We ask this in Your Name and through Your Son our Lord and Savior – Jesus Christ – Amen.*

2. NJRTL/SCRTL Update – Carl

- Car Raffle Tickets – will be available at the end of October

3. NJRTL Banquet Dinner

- Speaker Sarah Palin - There were mixed reviews from attendees. Focus was on her disabled son (born with Down's Syndrome) and pregnant teenage daughter.

4. Pam Stenzel

- Discussed getting the Men's and Women's Group to watch the movie- possibly in September

5. Youth Targeted Activities

- Discussed whether there should be a Respect Life Youth Ministry and incorporating topics such as the Pam Stenzel DVD. Discussed showing the movie again to the kids.

6. Catholic Guide to End of Life Decisions

- Meeting held at Saint Ann's in Raritan with Jennifer Ruggiero on April 12
- Handouts: Catholic Guide to End of Life Decisions, Advance Medical Directive, Healthcare Proxy

7. 4H Fair – Laura will coordinate the volunteers August 8, 9, 10

8. Ministry Weekend

- Will be held on the last weekend in September, 9/29-9/30.
- We will promote Life Chain (October 7)
- Discussed possibility of holding a Life Chain at MMOG – topic for future meeting

9. Diocesan Sponsored Talk

- Discipleship Before Leadership - June 2, 2018 at St. Mary's in Watchung 9am – 11:30am, presenter Darrin Nelson

10. Priests for Life - Philomena

- Send thank you letters to President Trump for supporting pro-life positions
- End Taxpayer Funding for Planned Parenthood
- Also contact Sen. Cory Booker opposing funding to Planned Parenthood
- US Catholic Opinion Survey

11. Religious Freedom Week, June 22-29 “Serving others in God's Love”

- USCCB providing prayers for each day with opportunities to Pray, Reflect, and Act

12. Legislative Report – Marianne

- Marianne Khare put together the following list of [Legislative Issues](#) including
- Trump Administration plans to strip Title X funds from abortion providers
- A1504 - Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act - Scheduled for vote on May 24

13. Natural Family Planning

- CDC posting inaccurate data on their web site on family planning methods
- Citizen Go is asking us to sign a petition asking CDC to provide correct information
- Discussed side-effect free and effective Fertility Awareness Based Methods (FABMs) / Natural Family Planning. Visit <https://naturalwomanhood.org/> for info including brochures for women AND men.

14. Caregiver Ministry – Trudy

- Caregiving coalition – there are some things being considered to help caregivers, possibly giving them a stipend.
- The number of caregivers is increasing, this impacts families
- Recycled walkers, canes etc may help families
- Discussed A1504 Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act and its implications: insurance, legal, pharmacy, family

15. End of life issues

- Discussed healthcare proxy. If an individual expressed that they want physician assisted suicide, the death certificate will not say cause of death is suicide.
- With proposed law (A1504), a person has to confirm a second time that they want to commit suicide.
- Discussed how insurance companies are denying treatment... Can family members sue?

16. Prayer needed for Ireland

- There is an urgent need for prayer for Ireland to stop legalization of abortion – to be voted on May 25.

17. Other topics

- Karen knows of a heart transplant recipient who may come and talk at a future meeting. It was noted that when there is organ donation, a family member has to agree.
- Discussed that family members don't know how to handle a person's illness – how can we help?
- Discussed having meetings following Monday night Mass - topic for future meeting.

18. Closing Prayer: John Leyendecker

*Loving God, I thank you for the gift of life you gave and continue to give to me and to all of us. Merciful God, I ask your pardon and forgiveness for my own failure and the failure of all people to respect and foster all forms of life in our universe.*

*Gracious God, I pray that with your grace, I and all people will reverence, protect, and promote all life and that we will be especially sensitive to the life of the unborn, the abused, neglected, disabled, and the elderly. I pray, too, that all who make decisions about life in any form will do so with wisdom, love, and courage.*

*Living God, I praise and glorify you as Father, Source of all life, as Son, Savior of our lives, and as Spirit, Sanctifier of our lives.*

19. NEXT MEETING June 28 in Schellberg Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Marianne Kharé