

Attendees: Philomena Cellilli, Dorothy DeLuca, Trudy Madden, Carl Snipes, Sal Bonfiglio, Betty Buettner, Jake Miller, John Leyendecker

1. Opening Prayer – Carl Snipes

*Good and Loving God, source of every grace and blessing. We give You thanks for the many gifts You have given us. We seek to be good stewards, Lord. Bless us as we gather here to share Your gifts. Send us Your Spirit and be present among us – in the mouths of all those who speak, in the ears of all those who hear, and at the heart of all we say and do. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen*

2. March for Life/Rally for Life/Holy Hour at MMOG –

- Don Bragger and family went to the March in DC. Will report on it at next meeting. It was noted that only FOX and EWTN reported on the March. None of the other stations covered it, however they did cover the women's march, confirming the bias of the media.
- It was noted that St. Magdalene's has a free bus trip to Washington DC for the March funded by the KoC. It includes lunch.
- The Holy Hour went very well. Jake served, Sal gave a great homily. We discussed the possibility of meditations on the video screens for next year, and it was decided not to have video during the Holy Hour since it would draw peoples gaze away from the Eucharist. We also discussed possibly having meditations read during the Rosary, and it was decided that it would leave too little time for silent meditation. We thought perhaps we may hand out meditations.

3. NJRTL/SCRTL Update –Carl

- Car Raffle: - **UPDATE**, information in last minutes was incorrect
  - Our parish ticket sales were better than last year's, and highest in the State – 362 tickets. The Volvo was won by Abe Barkman: Ticket #074390; Second Prize winner was Eric Franzon: ticket # 18743; Third Prize by Rosa Morillo: ticket # 33864; and, Fourth Prize winner was Geno Quitzo: ticket # 15543.
  - FYI - 1st thru 3rd place in highest ticket sales by County were:
    - Middlesex – 5640 tickets
    - Morris – 3300 tickets
    - Monmouth – 2900 tickets
- Dinner – April 20<sup>th</sup> – we have 13 seats available, currently – we are checking to see if Fr. Sean or Fr. Alex would like to attend
  1. Carl
  2. Phil
  3. Me
  4. Laura
  5. Betty
  6. Roseann
  7. Trudy
  8. Bill
  9. Philip
  10. Bern
  11. Angie
  12. Maryann
  13. ??

4. Pam Stenzel
  - Table until next year
  - Need to promote earlier, in September
  - Deacon Chris is ok with the idea, but does not think parents will cooperate
  - Altar Rosary may fund bus if we do decide to do this
5. Legislative Issues
  - Marianne Khare put together the following list of [Legislative Issues](#).
6. Poster Contest
  - We should send email directly to Chris as soon as the dates are set, does not need to be brought up at our meetings.
7. Possible New Items for Respect Life to focus on
  - Chastity and Abstinence – anything more than Pam Stenzel??
  - Bullying – covered very well in Public Schools
  - Drinking ??
8. Caregiver Ministry – Trudy
  - Some discussion topics
    - Dignity of life
    - Elderly live longer
    - In Home Caregivers who are family members
      - 40 – 60 million people do this
      - Provide care to family members with no cost to health insurance companies
      - Families lose income – costing families billions of dollars nationwide
      - There are some bills being proposed to help families
        - ✓ Possibly health benefits to in home caregivers
        - ✓ Life span respite care act
        - ✓ RAISE Family Caregivers Act
        - ✓ NJ is also putting together some bills
      - There is a caregivers coalition through United Way
      - Family leave act is too short in most cases
    - Trump declared Nov to be National Caregivers Month
    - St Joe’s next Caregivers Retreat is March 17<sup>th</sup>
9. It was proposed to make our meetings quarterly and the proposal was unanimously accepted.
  - Although the meetings will be quarterly now, we will have the next meeting in March, since the NJRTL Dinner is Apr 20<sup>th</sup>.

10. Closing Prayer – John Leyendecker

*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.*

*Amen*

11. NEXT MEETING March 22<sup>nd</sup> – No February Meeting

- Opening Prayer: Carl
- Closing Prayer: John