

Mary Mother of God – Respect for Life Meeting

January 26th, 2017

Attendees: Philomena Cellilli, Deacon Sal, Dorothy DeLuca, Karen and John Leyendecker, Mai Chirinos, Carl Snipes, Tony and Nancy Fusco

1. Opening Prayer – Sal’s Homily from Monday

- **The Gospel on Monday:**

- **Gospel** [MK 3:22-30](#)

The scribes who had come from Jerusalem said of Jesus,
"He is possessed by Beelzebul," and
"By the prince of demons he drives out demons."

Summoning them, he began to speak to them in parables,
"How can Satan drive out Satan?
If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.
And if a house is divided against itself,
that house will not be able to stand.
And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided,
he cannot stand;
that is the end of him.
But no one can enter a strong man's house to plunder his property
unless he first ties up the strong man.
Then he can plunder his house.
Amen, I say to you, all sins and all blasphemies
that people utter will be forgiven them.
But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit
will never have forgiveness,
but is guilty of an everlasting sin."
For they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

- **Sal’s Homily:**

Today is a *“Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children”*. Now, in this morning’s Gospel, the leaders of the community think Jesus, of all people, is possessed by Satan. Although Jesus was always sparring with the Pharisees, they weren’t bad people. Just as those who believe we have the right to end a life, in the name of compassion, are not bad people. Martin Luther King said, *“Don’t hate anyone. No one is evil. Because everyone is in the image of God.” “Instead, hate the evil systems that have entrapped them. And do something about it.”*

In the Gospel, Satan was turning the Jews against each other. That’s why Jesus said, *“A house is divided against itself will not stand.”* That house is “his Church”. And the division is between, those good people who believe in the sanctity of all human life, and those good people who’ve been tricked into believing that some human life has less value than others.

Today we’re called to pray, not only for unborn children, but for an end to an evil legal system. Which was created by good people, who are only trying to

do what they think is right, but have been deceived by the enemy. Pray for those in power today. That their hearts will be open to the truth about the sanctity – the holiness – of all human life.

Because if they open their hearts to the Spirit, their minds and actions will follow. Only the Holy Spirit can bring about this conversion. So we must always invoke God's name and invite him in, as we face these issues.

Jesus said, *"No one can enter a strong man's house to plunder his property, unless he first ties up the strong man."* We, the faithful, are the strong ones – The Lord's soldiers, protecting his house. Satan thrives on division, but he can't win if we stay strong and stay together. Jesus said, his house will stand and if it's not divided.

2. Bus Trip for the Rally in Trenton

- The Rally in Trenton was cancelled due to inclement weather
- The Bus was cancelled and there was no charge. The bus company, Conover Transportation, was very accommodating
- Great thanks to Carl for an incredible amount of work that went into arranging the bus
- Just an FYI – We had one parishioner that donated \$100 to defray the cost of the bus, the money was offered to be returned, and our thanks went out to her for her generosity, however she did not accept the return and offered the money to Fr. Sean to use as he wished. We also received three other donations from parishioners which will be returned if possible. The Altar Rosary group was going to donate \$250, but since the trip was cancelled the funds were not needed.
- We assessed whether we started advertising soon enough for the Trenton Rally or not. We had decided last December to start after the Holidays. The website was updated on January 1st. It was decided that this allowed for enough time.

3. Respect Life Points of Contact in other parishes of our deanery

- We discussed the possibility of working with other Respect Life groups in our deanery to promote events such as the Trenton Bus Trip, manning the table at the 4H Fair, Life Chain, Rachel's Vineyard retreats, Pam Stenzel videos and so on.
- Phil is going to get Point of Contact information from the Jennifer Ruggiero at the Diocese

4. MMOG Respect Life Roles

- Sal Bonfiglio is the Spiritual Director
- Philomena Cellilli is the facilitator
- Sue Bates is secretary
- Carl Snipes is the liaison to the Somerset County Right to Life organization
- Karen and John Leyendecker are the liaisons to the Youth Group
- Karen Leyendecker is responsible for Respect Life content on the MMOG Homepage
- Dorothy DeLuca is responsible for the content on the MMOG Respect Life Webpage
- Tony Fusco is the liaison to the Knights of Columbus
- Nancy Fusco is the liaison to the Columbiettes

5. Immediate Goals of the MMOG Respect Life ministry

- To get the word out – to educate. We discussed planning events to help make this happen.
- Our first event will be a Respect Life sponsored Coffee Social – pending Fr. Sean’s approval.
 - Proposed weekend: April 28/29
 - Karen will put together a video
 - Nancy will put together handout cards
 - Content for the video and cards will be discussed at the next meeting
 - We plan to have refreshments after every Mass
 - 5PM – finger foods? Hor d’oeuvres? Coffee and Juice.
 - 6:30PM – baked goods (CCD kids)? Would the Spanish ministry prefer to decide on food? Coffee? Juice?
 - 7:30, 9 and 10:30 – Coffee, Juice, donuts – need to get cost from Margie Bolton
 - 12N – baked goods (CCD kids), coffee, juice
 - Plan to have table clothes on the tables, to set this coffee social apart
 - Advertising:
 - Will announce the coffee social the weekend before, April 21/22
 - Will announce at the end of each Mass, making sure to state that it is sponsored by the Respect Life ministry

UPDATE: after talking to Fr. Sean about this, we discovered that Father wanted to assign a weekend to all ministries for the purpose of educating and inviting new members. We are now waiting to find out what weekend we will be assigned. We have asked for some dates, but have not yet heard back.

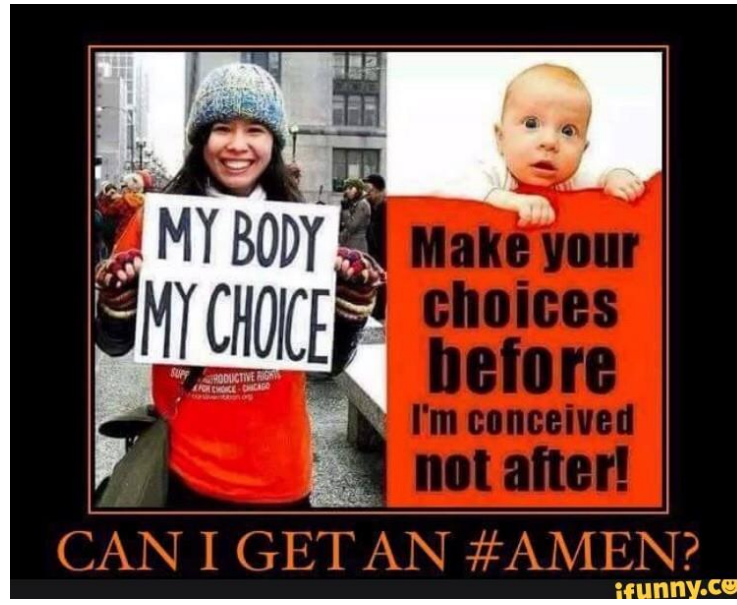
6. Date for next showing of the Pam Stenzel DVD

- The plan is to show the video on Friday, February 24th – pending approval from the office, we need to confirm the Hall
- This showing has been requested by our Spanish community, but will be open to the entire parish
- We will advertise in the bulletin, on the MMOG website and on the monitor in the gathering space

UPDATE: Date of February 24th was confirmed, event has been advertised.

7. From FACEBOOK

- Karen found a rather moving image:



8. NEXT MEETING Feb 23rd

- Opening Prayer: Carl Snipes
- Closing Prayer: John Leyendecker