

Mary Mother of God – Respect for Life Meeting

October 26th, 2017

Attendees: Philomena Cellilli, Dorothy DeLuca, Karen Leyendecker, Trudy Madden, Carl Snipes, Sal Bonfiglio, Francisco Marin, Laura Boyle

1. Opening Prayer – Sal Bonfiglio

Respect Life Rededication Prayer

Heavenly Father, the beauty and dignity of human life was the crowning of your creation. You further ennobled that life, when your Son became one with us at his incarnation. Help us to realize the sacredness of human life and to respect it from the moment of conception until the last moment at death.

Give us courage to speak with truth, love, and conviction in defense of life. Help us to extend the gentle hand of mercy and forgiveness to those who do not reverence your gift of life. Grant pardon to all, for the times we have failed to be grateful for your precious gift of life or to respect it in others.

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Now, at this, the anniversary renewal of the Respect Life Ministry, we rededicate this ministry to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and ask for her continued protection and intercession.

We ask her to guide the efforts of this ministry, enlighten its members, and always lead us towards the fulfillment of Jesus' mission, which is to respect and protect the dignity of all human life, for the glory of God in whose image all people have been created.

Lord, may everything we do begin with your inspiration and continue with your help. Let our work always find its origin in you, and reach perfection under your guidance. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

And may Almighty God bless you...

2. Movie on the Mass – Karen Leyendecker

3. Respect Life Ministry Activity

- We have over 70 members, but very few attend meetings
- How can we get members more involved?
- Proposal to join with other parishes to host events, this will spread the work among other RL groups throughout our area

4. Pam Stenzel

- Talks will be on March 13th and 14th.
- Karen asked Chris about bussing older kids to one of the talks, we are thinking St. Joe's on the 14th. He did not say no, but did not commit either. The MMOG CCD Program does have some funds which could be used for this.
- Phil asked Altar Rosary about funding bus, they did offer to provide funding.

5. Youth Involvement

- Fr. Sean was approached and is in support
- Avolios to put some thoughts together

6. NJRTL/SCRTL Update –Carl

- Car Raffle:

- Announcement in bulletin
- Raffle tickets sold over multiple weekends
- the VOLVO **was** won by someone from Bedminster (Somerset County)!
Our parish ticket sales were better than last year's, and 4th highest in the State. [But - still, no win!!]

The Volvo was won by Ms. Barbara Ellis from Bedminster: ticket # 31122;
Second Prize winner was Mr. Vince G. from Wycoff: ticket # 21578;
Third Prize by Mr. John Korkin: ticket # 02271; and,
Fourth Prize winner was Mr. Dan Zarobitz: ticket # 48889.

- FYI - 1st thru 3rd place in highest ticket sales by County were:
 - Middlesex
 - Morris
 - Monmouth

7. MMOG Respect Life Website

- Went over content

8. Poster Contest

- We should ask Chris to promote this
- The Diocesan Website has still not updated the info for the contest for 2018.

9. March and Rally for Life

- March for Life in Washington will be on Jan 19th, Youth rally will be at the Verizon Center, tickets will be needed in will be in short supply, contact Jennifer Ruggiero if interested.
- Rally for Life in Trenton will be on Jan 22nd

10. Caregiver Ministry – Trudy

- Some discussion topics
 - Caregiver resources
 - Free options
 - Supporting caregivers in the parish
- Connections with elders in the parish and nursing homes
 - Legacy connections
 - Adopt a grandparent – *this is already being done by Mary Lawler*
 - Activities
 - Christmas Concert
 - Let elders talk about life when they were young
 - Workshop on how it was to walk in their shoes
 - Bring kindergarten children to visit Assisted Living locations to intermingle
- Help for at risk/teen mothers
 - HHS had class on baby care
 - We talked about Spiritual Adoption of babies at risk of abortion
- Help for elders
 - Workshop on how to walk with a cane
 - Workshop on how to read with poor vision
 - Workshop on how to use a tablet
 - Note, the diocese had a workshop on how to get by after a stroke, how to get around. Might be helpful to get information from them.

11. Life Chain

- Total 175, 40-50 from our church
- For next year:
 - Posters in church
 - Pictures during a short talk, to show that it is a peaceful event
 - We want to have the Respect Life Ministry table September 29/30, so we can promote the event, we need to request this beginning of September. Fall back date for ministry table would be two weeks prior to event.
 - Life Chain is Oct 7th next year

12. Next year's activities

- January – March and Rally
- March – Pam Stenzel
- August – 4H Fair
- September – MMOG Respect Life Ministry Table in Narthax
- October – Life Chain

13. Critical Life Issues Conference

- Speakers were excellent
- One talk was on organ donation
 - Nationwide 120,000 people on wait list
 - NJ 5000 people on wait list
 - Only 1% of recipients are viable
 - Perhaps we could have a program to educate people on organ donation – Karen knows someone who would give the talk for free.

14. Go Red for Women

- Movement to bring awareness to women of their risk for heart disease and stroke. Women are to wear red to support of the movement.
- Website is <https://www.goredforwomen.org>

15. Closing Prayer – Karen 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.

Amen

16. NEXT MEETING Dec 14th

- Opening Prayer: Carl
- Closing Prayer: John