

**MARY MOTHER OF GOD – RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY
MEETING MINUTES**

A meeting of the Respect Life Ministry was held on **Thursday, October 27, 2016** in Schellberg Hall. Philomena Cellilli started the meeting at 7:30 PM.

ATTENDEES

Philomena Cellilli, Deacon Sal Bonfiglio, Karen Leyendecker, John Leyendecker, Barbara Gural, Carl Snipes, Francisco Marin, Michelle Marin, Laureen Westover, Mai Chirinos, Nancy Fusco, Tony Fusco, Marty Noll, Dorothy DeLuca

REPORTING ITEMS

- **Life Chain**
 - o The Somerville Life Chain was well attended, 250 overall, 50 from MMOG. Life Chain participants stood from the corner of 206 and Somerset St, to the intersection of Somerset St and Veteran's Memorial Highway, then up Mountain Avenue past Immaculate Conception Church.
 - o Felt that Father promoting the event from the Altar was the strongest reason that MMOG was so well represented. It was also helpful to have the table for signups as well as the event being promoted on the website and the display in the Narthax.
 - Perhaps we could request a budget at Pastoral Council.
 - that next year we might consider a flyer insert in the bulletin
 - signs
 - share event info with other ministries so that they might promote it at their meetings
- **Respect Life Holy Hour**
 - o Deacon Sal did an awesome job, homily was incredible
 - o How can we get more Respect Life Ministry members involved???
 - o Was suggested to promote the November First Friday Holy Hour at the end of the All Soul's day Mass. The November Holy Hour will be for those lost over the past year and years past.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

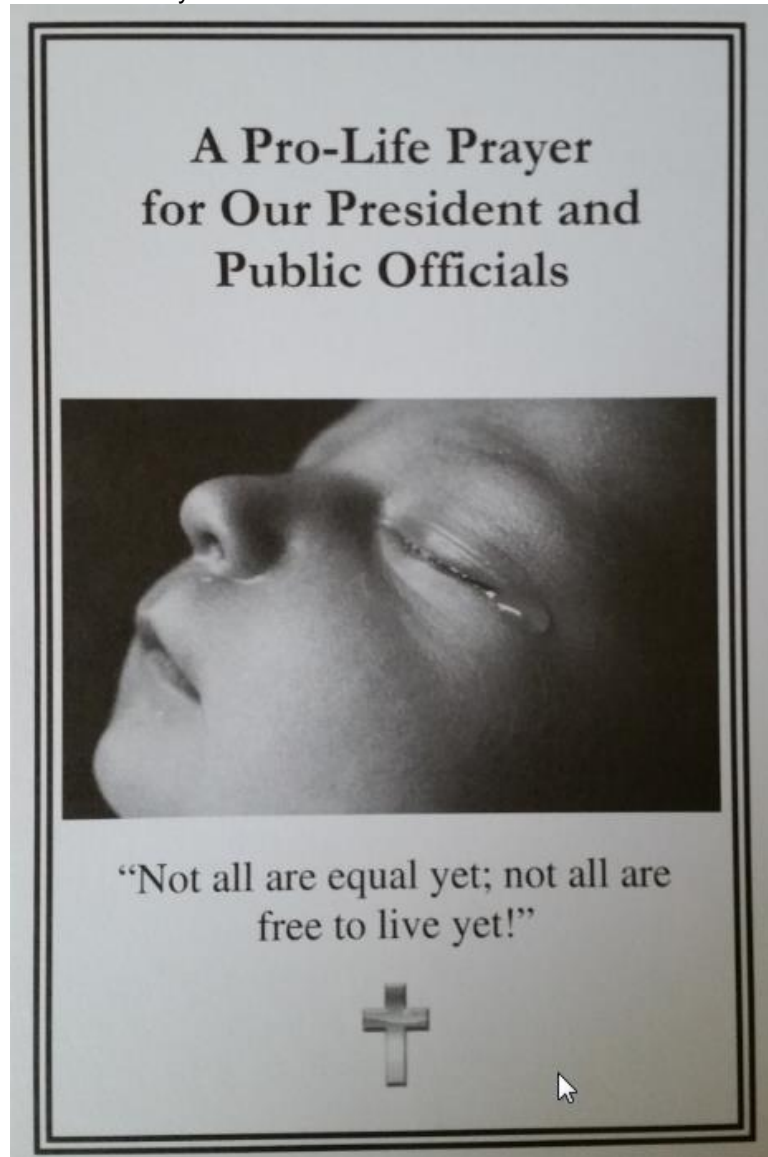
- **High Cost of Living Video to be shown Friday, Oct 28th**
 - o The movie will be in Schellberg Hall and will start promptly at 7:30.
 - o We will NOT have refreshments
 - o We need to make sure that Gary will be setting up seating for 100.
 - o Karen and John Leyendecker put together a wonderful handout to be given to attendees. It is a personal message welcoming and thanking all those who came to view the movie. Karen will make 50 copies of the handouts.
 - o The Spanish Community will not be in attendance since they will be attending a special Spanish Mass at the Cathedral. Francisco and Michelle plan to attend the movie.
 - o 8th graders will be viewing the movie as part of CCD
 - o It was suggested to provide paper and pencils for feedback on the movie. If people have questions they will be directed to contact Pam via her website. The paper is for feedback only, to give people the opportunity to voice their opinion on the content.

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- The Spanish video that Francisco watched was not regarded well. It was subtitles, so difficult to follow, and it was the secular version of the video.
- **Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli – Coming to Listen – November 3rd, 7:30PM, Schellberg Hall**
 - THIS WILL NOT BE AN ENDORSEMENT – this will be made very clear
 - This meeting is for Respect Life members and their guests.
 - Jack again voted for Physician Assisted Suicide, this was due to personal experience with end of life pain suffered by someone he knew. This is often the case for those voting in support of this bill.
 - Bill will be coming before the senate soon, so we need to get out another email with information on how to contact state senators. Check the Diocesan Website to view the alert: <http://diometuchen.org/offices-and-ministries/pastoral-life/respect-for-life/physician-assisted-suicide/>, Also check the NJRTL website to email your senators: <http://iframed.cqrcengage.com/njrtl/app/take-action?engagementId=234213>, you will be prompted to enter your street address and zip code.
 - Assemblyman Jack voted against Planned Parenthood
 - Bring your questions, this is a wide open discussion
- **NJ Right to Life 2016 Volvo Raffle**
 - Will be selling tickets the weekends of Nov 4/5 and Nov 12/13. An email will follow for signing up to man the tables before and after each Mass to sell tickets.
 - Be sure to pass out our MMOG weekend bulletin and/or the Catholic Spirit Magazine as our free gift for supporting the event ☺
 - If a ticket is received in the mail, it was recommended NOT to pay for your raffle ticket that way since none of the revenue for the sale will go to the Somerset County Right to Life organization. If tickets are instead purchased from the tables, 10% of the sale will support Somerset Count Right to Life.
 - Prizes are:
 - 1st Place – Volvo worth \$42000
 - 2nd Place - \$1000 ShopRite Gift Card
 - 3rd Place - \$750 ShopRite Gift Card
 - 4th Place - \$500 ShopRite Gift Card
 - November 18th NJ RTL Dinner where winners will be announced
- **Critical Life Issues Conference – October 29th**
 - Click here for [Conference Details](#).
 - Register online by clicking [here](#).
- **March for Life and Rally for Life 2017**
 - The events are on different days this year
 - Rally for Life on the steps of the State Capital will take place on Monday January 23rd.
 - March for Life in Washington DC will take place on Friday, January 27th
 - There will be busses for both events

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- Carl Snipes will be our MMOG facilitator for both events.
 - [Information on both events](#) can be found on the Diocesan Website.
 - Plan to add information to the MMOG Website early on
 - Plan to have our priests mention both events from the Altar in early January. That same day we will man tables to provide information about the events.
- **PRO-LIFE PRAYERS**
- **Barbara Gural passed out some Pro-Life prayers**
 - A Pro-Life Prayer for Our President and Public Officials



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**A Pro-Life Prayer
for Our President and Public Officials**

Lord God, Author of Life and Source of Eternal Life, move the hearts of all our public officials and especially our President, to fulfill their responsibilities worthily and well to all those entrusted to their care.

Help them in their special leadership roles, to extend the mantle of protection to the most vulnerable, especially the defenseless unborn, whose lives are threatened with extermination by an indifferent society.

Guide all public officials by your wisdom and grace to cease supporting any law that fails to protect the fundamental good that is human life itself, which is a gift from God and parents.

You are the Protector and Defender of the lives of the innocent unborn. Change the hearts of those who compromise the call to protect and defend life. Bring our nation to the values that have made us a great nation, a society that upholds the values of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all.

Mary, the Mother of the living, help us to bear witness to the Gospel of Life with our lives and our laws, through Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.

Imprimatur:

January 22, 2009

+ Most Reverend Robert J. Baker, S.T.D.
Bishop of Birmingham in Alabama

For copies of this Prayer Card contact:
Office of Pro-Life Activities (205-776-7163).
Email: prolife@bhmdiocese.org

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- A Prayer at Election Time

A PRAYER AT ELECTION TIME

O Lord, Our Just and Loving Father,
We thank you for the precious gift of Human Life
That is greatly threatened by the Culture of Death.

Aware of the dangers we are now facing,
We ask that You guide us in electing the leaders
Our nation truly needs:

- Leaders with the wisdom to discern your providential plan,
- Leaders who understand the weakness of the human condition,
- Leaders who counsel our citizens to respect the rule of law,
- Leaders with the fortitude to face their opponents with grace,
- Leaders with knowledge of our Constitution and of natural rights,
- Leaders whose piety makes them aware of their own limitations,
- And leaders whose reverential fear informs their moral judgment.

We pray that the inalienable rights
To life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,
Promised by our founders,
May be preserved, protected, and defended for all,
Especially the most vulnerable members of our society.

Almighty and Merciful God,
Sustain us in our struggle to live in peace
As one nation under God. Amen.

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▪ A Prayer to Mary at Election Time

A PRAYER TO MARY AT ELECTION TIME

O most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy,
we entrust the United States of America to your loving care,
and beg you to reclaim this land for the glory of your Son.

Overwhelmed with the burden of the sins of our nation,
we cry to you from the depths of our hearts
and seek refuge in your motherly protection.

Look down with mercy upon us and touch the hearts of our people.
Open our minds to the great worth of human life
and to the responsibilities that accompany human freedom.

Free us from the falsehoods that lead to the evil of abortion
and threaten the sanctity of family life.
Grant our country the wisdom to proclaim that God's law
is the foundation on which this nation was founded,
and that He alone is the True Source
of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

O Merciful Mother, give us the courage to reject the culture of death
and the strength to build a new Culture of Life.

Trusting in your most powerful intercession, we pray:
*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by
this confidence, we fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, our Mother.
To thee do we come, before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions,
but in thy mercy hear and answer us. Amen*
- by Msgr. William J. Blacet – Used with permission

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- **NEXT MEETING OF THE MMOG RESPECT FOR LIFE MINISTRY**
 - It was decided to combine our November and December meetings into one meeting earlier in December in order to avoid meeting too close to the holidays
 - **Our next meeting will be on Thursday, December 15th from 7:30 – 9PM in Schellberg Hall**
 - **AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:**
 - **Opening Prayer** – Philomena Cellilli
 - **REPORTING ITEMS**
 - Pam Stenzel Video
 - NJ RTL Volvo Raffle
 - Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli
 - **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - March and Rally for Life
 - Should we advertise the Pam Stenzel Talk sponsored by the Diocese?
 - **Closing Prayer** – Philomena Cellilli

The meeting was adjourned at **9:00 PM**.

Submitted by:

Dorothy DeLuca