

Respect Life Quarterly Meeting: Fall 2011 Recap

- **Welcome**

- **Opening Prayer: Break my Heart**

Not that you need this invitation, not that you wait for my permission, Still this is my humble contrition: please break my heart, O God, With what breaks your heart. O God, please break my heart.

Not just some empty repetition, no, this is my sincere confession:

That I need so much more compassion, please break my heart, O God, with what breaks your heart. O God, please break my heart.

For the sick, for the poor, for the ones who need more tenderness And justice, break my heart. For the lost, the deceived, those suffering In pain, help me see you in each face through a broken heart.

Lord, lift the veil that clouds my vision. Loose every chain and inhibition.

More than a prayer, it's my decision to break this heart, O God, with what breaks your heart. O God, please break my heart.

- **Introductions (33 people attended. Wonderful!)**

- **News/Issues:**

- Voter Registration Drive **REMINDER**
 - The Office will coordinate *as much as possible*. Suggested dates: April 15 and 22, 2012 after Easter (April 8). **Deadline to register and vote in the primaries is Wednesday April 25.** This has to be non-partisan and non-issue based.
- Vigil for all Nascent Human Life: Vatican Response: While they were very grateful for the tremendous response to the Vigil in the United States, the Vatican officials made clear that "the occasion has not been conceived as a yearly celebration, though this does not mean that the invitation may not be renewed in the coming years."
- HHS preventive services requirements: (See last page)

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- **Round the Table**

- Respect Life Month: How was it treated in your parish?
- 40 Days for Life: Updates

Summary:

Visuals

- travelling crib
- giving crib
- banners
- posters
- information table
- Oktoberfest big display with handouts and balloons

Events

- Knights of Columbus Respect Life Breakfast
- Presentation by Tamara Johnson
- Presentation by Liberty Pike
- Saturday Life Chain
- Life Chain on the Highway

Education

- weekly bulletin insert
- 4-part bulletin insert for four weeks
- weekly bulletin story about a baby (the development of a fetus)
- pulpit announcements
- homily
- USCCB Respect Life materials, English and Spanish

- **Events:**

- Sunday January 22nd: Roe v Wade Rally: Portland
- Saturday January 21 & Sunday January 22: Youth Rally for Life. The St. Mary of Corvallis Youth Group is organizing a Youth Rally in Portland Saturday January 21, 2012 and Sunday, January 22, 2012. The Youth Rally will take advantage of the Roe v. Wade Memorial Rally for Life, Sunday, January 22, 2012 at Pioneer Square.

The overnight version includes Saturday night lodging at OMSI; admission to OMSI's Body Worlds exhibit and lunch at St. Patrick Catholic Church. The Rally for Life begins at 2:30 p.m., which will be followed by a Walk of Life. For more information contact Diane Noble, St. Mary of Corvallis, dnforjesus@gmail.com

- ORTL Conference: April 21st. I am not available; Jim Brey will man the Office table. (Can anyone else help?)
- Spring 40 Days for Life: February 22 – April 1: Suggest involving Knights of Columbus

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- **Parish Social Ministry**
Committee Spotlights

- **Erin Salter**, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, People of Life
Mission is to create a culture of life through education, prayer and empowerment

Education

- Respect Life Sunday display
- Roe v. Wade memorial display
- Little soles
- Abortion Memorial Wall
- Pamphlets placed in bathrooms
- Speakers during their Lenten suppers
- Presentations to the Youth Group and a Speaker Series
- Current project: Webpage

Prayer Opportunities

- Spiritual Adoption Program
- Mass of the Holy Innocents

Empowerment (Ways to get involved)

- Annual baby shower for Birthright
- 40 Days for Life
- Advocacy: Parental Notification Ballot Measure; FOCA Postcard Campaign, USCCB Action Alerts on Conscience Protection

- **Kathi Van Liew**, Queen of Peace, Committee of All Life Issue
Just getting started (September)

- Had a mentor from a successful neighboring life ministry
- personally invited 6 people to join
- through bulletin and pulpit announcements had 6 more join
- Used USCCB Materials to provide guidance and structure as they formed <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/pastoral-plan-prolife-activities.cfm>
- There are so many possible issues, so little time and manpower so working on culling down their focus issues based on members' passions

- **Amy Cookson**, St. Francis: monthly brochure
Find this excellent brochure at <http://www.stfrancissherwood.org/index.cfm?load=page&page=216>

Email Sue Pelletier at spellet@hotmail.com for a Word version

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- **Presentations: Information We Can Use to Excite and Educate Our Ministries and Parishes**
- Mark Sutton, Catholic Lighthouse Media
<http://www.lighthousecatholicmedia.org/7mark77@gmail.com>
- Deacon Michael Caldwell (mcaldwell@archdpx.org) : Catholic Teaching on Life and Dignity of the Human Person (1 hour presentation for RCIA, Adult Ed, Confirmation)
http://www.archdpx.org/jprespect/JP_Respect/Catholic_Teaching_Life_Dignity.pdf
- Liberty Pike (libertypike@live.com), ORTL, engaging presentation to youth groups on the realities of abortion

Next Meeting: Tuesday February 28^h, 7:00-9:00, Resurrection

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CARDINAL DINARDO URGES SENATE TO STRIKE PROVISIONS IN APPROPRIATIONS BILLS THREATENING HUMAN LIFE

BALTIMORE-The U.S. Senate should vote to remove four provisions that pose a direct threat to human life from a package of three appropriations bills, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. In a November 14 letter, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston urged the Senate to support amendments to H.R. 2354 that would correct each of these provisions.

Dear Senator:

This week the Senate is expected to take up H.R. 2354, a “minibus” or package of three appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2012 -- Energy/Water, Financial Services, and State/Foreign Operations. You have already received a November 2 letter from the Catholic bishops' conference and Catholic Relief Services, urging you to oppose further reductions in desperately needed poverty-focused development and humanitarian programs (see <http://uscpcb.org/about/international-justice-and-peace/index.cfm>).

As it works to preserve these life-affirming programs, the Senate should also remove from the Financial Services and State/Foreign Operations bills four provisions that pose a direct threat to innocent human life:

- The Senate's Financial Services bill completely eliminates Congress's longstanding provision against federal funding of health plans that cover elective abortions in the **Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP)**. Thus Congress will directly use taxpayers' funds for elective abortion coverage – contradicting repeated assurances by supporters of the health care reform law of 2010 that Congress had no intent of doing so. Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) will offer an amendment to restore the ban in current law.
- The Financial Services bill would also reverse the current policy, in effect for most of the last 22 years, against spending any congressionally appropriated funds on elective abortions in the **District of Columbia**. Senator Mike Johanns (R-NE) will offer an amendment to maintain the D.C. abortion funding ban that President Obama signed into law this spring.
- Report language accompanying the State /Foreign Operations bill recommends \$40 million for the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**, despite that agency's continued support for a brutal program of coerced abortion and involuntary sterilization in China. Senator Roger Wicker (R-KS) will offer an amendment to eliminate this funding.
- Section 7086 of the State/Foreign Operations bill would permanently ban restoration of the **Mexico City Policy**, which during the Reagan and Bush administrations prevented U.S. funding of foreign non-governmental organizations that perform and promote abortion as a method of family planning. In fact the bill's provision sweeps even more broadly, so that *no* harmful or destructive “health or medical service” may render an organization ineligible for U.S. funds if that “service” is permitted in the host country and “would not violate United States law.”

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This last requirement is almost meaningless, as even infanticide, euthanasia and other lethal procedures are generally forbidden by individual state laws and not by United States law. In short, this provision effectively says that if a foreign nation allows medical personnel to abuse men, women and children, the United States will subsidize the perpetrators. Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) will offer an amendment to strike this anti-human rights provision.

I urge you to support all these amendments, to ensure that federal taxpayers' funds are not used to attack and demean innocent human life. At a time when Congress is tempted to reduce even vitally important programs that serve the poorest and neediest people here and abroad, the moral wrong of expanding subsidies for direct violations of human life and dignity is especially egregious. With the approval of these corrective amendments, I hope funds that would have been spent to take life can be directed instead to the true needs of the poor and vulnerable.

Sincerely,

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo

Chairman, Committee on Pro-Life Activities

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops