

Respect Life November 2012 Recap

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, February 26, 7:00pm at Resurrection Parish

- **Welcome + Opening Prayer: Bianca**
- **Presentation: Madonna's Center**

[Madonna's Center](#) (MC) serves the youngest, most vulnerable, at-risk families in Clackamas County – teen parents and their children. They are not a crisis pregnancy center or an adoption agency. They are not a maternity home, shelter or drop-in center. Last year, MC served 150 teen girls.

Annette Faccini of St. John the Baptist facilitated a panel discussion with four teen mothers who have used or are using the services of MC. We heard some very personal stories, the emotion and impact behind them being impossible to capture here in a few short words.

Here are a few nuggets:

- Teen moms are not a stereotype. They are real people with their own stories.
- One had the support of her family; the rest were disowned and kicked out.
- Perhaps not immediately but each eventually valued the life inside enough to see the baby come to full term. And then keep the child.
- These teen moms were, are, poor. Each valued education as a means to eventually move out of poverty.
- Until they can move out of poverty, resources are limited (which makes MC a special and valuable place). Government support is very limited and restrictive: if you're under 18 DHS either wants your parents' incomes to count in the means testing or if you're not with your parents then they look at placing you (and the child) into foster care. For the mom to receive food stamps or WIC or TANF, the father can't be in the picture.

Top 3 Worries

- Electricity (money to pay for electricity before it's turned off)
 - Rent
 - Diapers
 - Childcare (this was important to attend school and/or work)
 - Food
 - Transportation costs (gasoline, insurance, etc.) Before she had a car, one mother rose at 4:00am to catch a 5:00am bus for a 2-hour bus ride to get to school.
- **Recap of Respect Life Sunday and Respect Life Month (October)**
 - What happened in your parish?
 - Erin Salter: Display
 - **News and Issues:**
 - Gospel of Life Flyer at Clergy Convocation
 - Pastor Outreach
 - Parish Social Ministry Regional Conference: May 17/18 in Boise: Workshop on "Advocacy on Respect Life Issues"

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- Catholic Sentinel Life Special Section
<http://www.catholicsentinel.org/main.asp?SectionID=10&SubSectionID=57&ArticleID=11936>
- Consider marketing the connection between the 40th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade and 40 Days for Life

• Upcoming Events:

- **Friday December 28: Feast of the Holy Innocents: Rosary and Mass for the Little Saints.** 6:30 p.m. Rosary and 7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 3145 SW 192nd Avenue, Aloha.
- This bilingual Mass remembers all deceased children, especially those who have died before birth or baptism, and for victims of abortion.
- **Roe v Wade Rally:** Sunday January 20 at Pioneer Square
- **Roe v Wade Mass:** Tuesday January 22 6 p.m. at St. Cecilia in Beaverton with a 40-rose procession
- **Saturday January 26, 2013: Establishing Roots for Long-Term Growth: Building a Parish Movement by Building Relationships.** 9:00 – 1:00 at Catholic Charities. [Flyer](#)
 - Grow your Parish Social Ministry -- This workshop is for people in ministries of social justice, respect life, and social service (and others!).
 - Learn the fundamentals of organizing your community
 - Build foundations through One-on-One Listening Sessions
 - Build relationships and engage others, and establish a parish culture
- **40 Days for Life:** Portland and expanded Beaverton program (Monday, Wednesday and Friday!)
- **ORTL Conference:** Saturday April 20 at the Portland Airport Holiday Inn
- **Year of Faith:** Opportunities for prayer throughout the Year of Faith, as suggested by the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty and the Committee on Pro-Life Activities

January 20 through 26, 2013, Week of Prayer, Penance and Pilgrimage on the Occasion of the 40th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade:

Throughout the Week – Catholics are encouraged to **pray daily** for an end to abortion and the healing of all those who have suffered due to involvement in abortion, and also encouraged to offer personal sacrifices this week in reparation for the national disgrace of abortion on demand and the continuing harm it is causing to individuals and to our culture. Suggestions: daily Mass, abstaining from favorite television programs or from meat, praying a rosary or Chaplet of Divine Mercy during one's commute to work instead of listening to the radio.

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- **Closing Prayer: Prayer for Reverence of Life**

All mighty God, giver of all that is good. We thank you for the precious gift of human life.

For life in womb, coming from your creative power

For the life of children, making us glad with their freshness and promise

For the life of young people, hoping for a better world

For the life of the handicapped and disabled, teaching us humility

For the life of the elderly, witnessing the ageless values of patience and wisdom.

Like Blessed Mary, may we always say yes to your gift. May we defend it and promote it from conception to its natural end and bring us at last oh Father to eternal life, in Jesus Christ our lord. AMEN

- **Why We Gather**

- Purpose of Quarterly Meetings: For the Office of LJP and other parish ministries to share strategies for success in order to strengthen *each* parish's Respect Life Ministry
- We respect Sacred Listening
- We work from a place of consensus, not divisiveness

- The Life Core Team advises the Office on life issues and sets the agenda for the Respect Life Quarterly Meetings. If you have suggestions or concerns please contact Becky Griffo, Deacon Mike Caldwell, Bianca Nerenberg or Jim Brey

- The Justice and Peace Commission advises the Office on all priorities and collaborates on strategic planning. If you have suggestions or concerns please contact Jill Wenger, John Krebsbach or Valerie Aschbacher.