

Respect Life Fall 2014 Recap

- **Opening Prayer: Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord,
by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit
help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

- **News, Issues and Events:**

- **The First 1000 Days: A Catholic Culture of Life Initiative: 143 Weeks of Bulletin Reflections**

More details at the February meeting. A teaser postcard, with a request to save space in bulletins for short reflections, was mailed to every parish office in October.

- **Spring 2015 40 Days for Life: Randy Stewart**

Considering the Lovejoy Clinic in NW Portland as the spring site. Matt Cato has asked Archbishop if he would say the Saturday morning mass at the Cathedral February 14 or 21, which would be used as the kick-off mass.

- **Monday December 29: 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. **Celebrated by Bishop Ken Steiner**

This bilingual Mass remembers all deceased children, especially those who have died before birth or baptism, and for victims of abortion.

- **Sunday January 18: Roe v Wade Memorial Rally and Walk;** Portland, Pioneer Courthouse Square 2:30-3:30. March for life begins immediately following rally

WINTER MEETING: TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24, 7:00PM

- **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 → AMEN

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

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

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

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

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

Respect Life Fall 2014 Recap

- **Presentations for Respect Life Ministries: Websites NOTE: At our winter meeting, February 24, we want to see what changes folks have made to their webpages based on any ideas they've learned from each other.**

Catholic Charities

http://www.catholiccharitiesoregon.org/services_pregnancy.asp

http://www.catholiccharitiesoregon.org/services_project.asp

Holy Trinity

<http://www.h-t.org/respect-life-ministry.html>

Our Lady of Our Lake

<http://www.ollparish.com/respect-life.html>

Resurrection

<http://www.resurrection-catholic-parish.org/group/celebratelifecommittee>

St. Agatha

<http://www.stagathaparishandschool.com/>

St. Cecilia

<http://stceciliachurch.org/respect-life-committee>

St. Francis

<http://stfrancissherwood.org/respect-life-committee>

St. Joseph the Worker

<http://stjosephtheworkerpdx.org/ministries.html>

St. Pius

<http://www.stpius.org/#!/ministries/c207r>

St. Rose

<http://www.strosepdx.org/parishministries.html>

Office of Life, Justice & Peace

http://www.archdpdx.org/jprespect/2_Life.html

http://www.archdpdx.org/jprespect/respect_life.html

Respect Life Fall 2014 Recap

FROM THE OFFICE: RESPECT LIFE: EACH OF US IS A MASTERPIECE OF GOD'S CREATION!



I was lost trying to find the exit on the 4th floor at Catholic Charities when I walked past a handful of folks gathered around, attracted to something. A darling woman I know brought in her three-week-old baby to show her colleagues. This beautiful tiny boy was justifiably the center of attention and much cooing. I found life.

A day later I stopped in front of a Catholic High School when I saw a parent pick up her daughter after an athletic competition. The athlete was smiling and seemed in good spirits. A bumper sticker on her mom's sedan read, "Keep Abortions Safe and Legal."

Planned Parenthood promotes its "safe" and legal abortions. A Catholic acquaintance argued that Planned Parenthood wasn't perfect but to first look at the valuable, necessary services it offers to low-income women before condemning it.

Really? I thought of the recent Mexican protests over the arrest of the boss of the local drug cartel. The town's citizens depended on the jobs and money the boss provided. They were outraged over the probable loss of their economic stimulus, which seemed valuable and necessary for their struggling area.

I thought of Planned Parenthood's billboard on Highway 217 that read, "Your embarrassing problem is our Tuesday morning." Really? A human being, albeit not as beautiful as my friend's newborn boy, is simply an embarrassment? Is that how we view life?

Pope Francis beautifully shares his concern for unborn life, "Among the vulnerable for whom the Church wishes to care with particular love and concern are unborn children, the most defenseless and innocent among us. ... [A] human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development. Human beings are ends in themselves and never a means of resolving other problems."

There is a line that bears repeating, "[A] human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development."

That sentence alone nearly sums up the reasons for the prevalence of abortions:

- **These are human beings:** We are unaware or chose to ignore that this unborn child is human.
- **Human beings are sacred:** Each of us is a creation of God. Faith and belief in God is compromised when we mar God's creation.
- **Human beings are inviolable:** One's existence alone gives him or her a dignity equal to all and demands respect from others.
- **In any situation:** It doesn't matter if the person is poor or rich, mean or pleasant, sick or healthy, unemployed or employed, black, white, brown or blonde, male or female, American or Russian, Christian or Muslim
- **At every stage of development:** Pre-born, newly born, aged and infirmed, hale and hearty or suffering with mental or development disabilities.
-

There is one reason that is not contained in that single sentence, which Pope Francis also comments on:

"Unfortunately, what is thrown away [in our society] is not only food and dispensable objects, but often human beings themselves, who are discarded as 'unnecessary.'" For example, it is frightful even to think there are children, victims of abortion, who will never see the light of day..."

No unborn baby is an embarrassment. No human being is unnecessary. **Each of Us is a Masterpiece of God's Creation!**

Read more on ["Each of Us is a Masterpiece of God's Creation!"](#)