

EXAMPLES FROM SUCCESSFUL PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

St. Michael: Joanne Betschart

St. Joseph (Salem): Anna Poynter

Our Lady of the Lake: Sharon Mlinar

- Use visuals such as baby bottles and cribs.
- Teenagers won't take literature but they will take stuff like rubber bracelets. Posters, Banners.
- Events such as hospitality after masses, movie nights, booths (presence) at community events such as Oktoberfest.
- Baby Bottles and the traveling crib are simple but effective ways to preach the gospel.

St. Agatha: Randy Stewart

- Really started in February 2010. Has been saying a monthly rosary for life to be consistent and attract people and *because everything starts with prayer.*
- Is committed to (focuses on) prayer, education (essential because this really helps provide answers to challenges), and community outreach.
- Respect Life Sunday: distributes a set of precious feet and a prayer card
- Tries to engage parishioners during coffee and doughnuts. At the first the circle around them as people avoided them was large but has steadily been getting smaller.

St. Joseph the Worker: Mary Nordlund

- Prayer Vigil at Planned Parenthood at SE 50th and Franklin
- 40 Days for Life
- Respect Life Month: provide information materials, collect baby items for PRC's, yearly pro-life rosary
- Political Action: Voter Registration, Catholic Answers Voters Guide
- March for Life from St. Stephens to Planned Parenthood
- August 15: Mass for Loss of Innocent Lives
- JustFaith
- Regular KBVM participation

Resurrection: Linda VanWart

- Celebrate Life Committee meets periodically and organizes parish functions to bring speakers on life issues:
 - Annual Mothers Day Luncheon
 - Fall fellowship Luncheon
 - Winter/Spring function
 - Celebrate Life newsletter inserted in the Sunday Bulletin three or four times a year
 - Every Sunday's Prayer of the Faithful: a petition "that we witness that life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment conception until the moment of death."
 - Seek to encourage parishioners to support pregnancy care centers

St. Cecilia: Bianca Nerenberg

- Baby Bottle Fundraiser
- Natural Family Planning Awareness Week Promotion
- Respect Life Month

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St. Francis: Mike Rossetti and Amy Cookson

- Small group so the focus is on education and information
- January: Sanctity of Life prayer
- Mother and Child Baby Bottle for the M&C Education Center
- Mother's Day Knights of Columbus Carnation Sale; donations to Mother and Child*
- October 22nd: Holy Hour
- Every Sunday bulletin contains a respect life quote: Mike and Amy suggested to Google "pro-life quotes." Doing so, I came up with <http://prolifequotes.blogspot.com/>
- Prayers of the Faithful
- Pro-life rosary in the chapel after the 8:30 mass (which allows those attending the 10:30 mass to participate). Since July 2007!
- Quarterly newsletter
- **Mother's Day Prayer**→

The most important person on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral -- a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body...

The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven.

Only a human mother can.

Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature; God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation...What on God's good earth is more glorious than this:

To be a mother?

Christ the King: Janice Donahue

To create a self-sustaining, cohesively functioning organization that is not dependent upon any one person and that utilizes the many and varied strengths of its 24 members, we have designed a new working structure. Our goals are to be more effective in bringing awareness and education to our parish family across the full spectrum of respect life issues. Page one is the committee design, approved by our members in meeting. Page two is our annual calendar featuring core issues. Each year, the calendar remains the same but we will present a new aspect of each issue for the purpose of benefiting the lives and souls of our faith family, primarily, and the wider community, secondarily.

General Committee- All members

Task Groups operating within General Committee:

- Research- Fact Checks, Position Papers, Church Teaching, Logistics, Meeting Notes
- Communications- Phone Calls, Emails, Meeting Minutes, Info to Parish Council
- Publicity- Flyers, Posters, Bulletin, Signs, Function Decorations, Give-aways
- Hospitality- Refreshment Details for Functions & Activities
- Special Events- Mother's Day, Father's Day, Speakers, Special Projects
- Parish/Youth Outreach- Parish Picnic/Functions, Adoration, Stations, Donuts
- Fundraising- Donations for Carnations, Projects for NW Family Services, Ideas
- Community Outreach- 40 Days, Rosary Bowl, Prayer Vigils, Outside Speakers, Archdiocesan sponsored and/or approved activities

Double Coordinators: Janice Donahue & Stacey Pinder

Create meeting agendas per Task Group input; Provide prayer & spiritual focus; Communicate with Fr. Don, Deacon Jim, & Parish Council; Facilitate communication among Task Groups; Set deadlines; Run meetings

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Life is Sacred at CTK Annual Calendar

This calendar is designed to create a new informational focus each month, in line with items covered by the USCCB and timed to coincide with community & Archdiocesan activities, liturgical seasons, and logical placement. Life is Sacred endeavors to plan three months ahead, providing time for information gathering, logistics, & approvals. There will be short term plans and longer term plans. Short term plan ex.- recognition gifts for our Dads on Father's Day. Long term plan ex.- engaging our youth, under the auspices of The Edge, in Church teaching on chastity, purity, & approved life issues. Year after year, we will never run out of issues to be addressed & will seek interesting, simple, & we hope, meaningful ways to share with our parish family. With our new structure, many hands make light work & we look forward to serving our parish in this way.

January- Abortion/Unborn (Sanctity of Life, Rowe V. Wade, Medical Issues, Church Teaching, Healing Ministries, Preventing, Knowledge, Info, Deceptive Practice, Big Business, Health Risks, ...)

February- Embryonic Issues (Frozen Embryos, Selling, Testing, Research, Experimentation, Fetal Development, Miracle of Life, Birth Defects, ...)

March- Prison Ministry (, Spiritual Needs, Human Needs, Suffering, Death Penalty, Legal Issues, Mercy vs. Revenge, Education, Redemption, Poverty, ...)

April- Abortion/Culture of Death (40 Days for Life, Lenten Implications, Suffering Savior, planned parenthood, Latest News, ...)

May- Teen Health & Development (Changes, Mental/Physical Health, Purity/Chastity, Cultural Pressures/Deceptions, Risky Behavior, Personal Worth/Dignity, Suicide, Substance Abuse)

June- Child Abuse (Psychological/Mental/Other, Child Safety, Child Labor, Fair Trade, Human Trafficking, Child Protection, Home Safety, Cultural Pressures on Children & Parents, ...)

July- End of Life/Assisted Suicide (Depression, Hospice, Pain Management, Care Givers, Legal Aspects, Living Wills, Organ Donor Facts, Assisted Suicide, Loneliness, Redemptive Suffering,...)

August-Fertility/Birth Control (Church Teaching, Health Issues, Misconceptions, Pressures, Abortifacients, Infertility, Adoption, Miscarriage, Sterilization, Ectopic Pregnancy, ...)

September- Impure Media (Pornography, Parental Oversight, Television/ Film/Commercial Concerns, Internet Use, Church Teaching, Emotional/Spiritual Dangers, ...)

October- National Respect Life Month (40 Days, Prayer Vigils, Rosary, Rights of Unborn, Theology of Life, Humanae Vitae, Latest Research, Rosary Bowl, ...)

November- Homeless/Veterans (Mental Illness, Health Issues, Reality, Emotional Pain, The Disabled, Loneliness, Needs, Assistance/Practical Help, Attitude/Compassion, Culpability, ...)

December- In Celebration of the Family (Supporting Families, Importance of Dad, Value of Mom, God's Design, Basic Societal Unit, Customs, Pressures, Grand-parenting, Church Teaching, ...)

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St. Mary's, Corvallis: Diane Noble

I would like to start out by briefly sharing about the structure in our parish that promotes and teaches on social issues. The Social Justice Commission had existed for 20-30 years at our parish and at the request of our pastor; I formed the Respect Life committee and became part of this ministry about 6-7 years ago. This commission has undergone restructuring this past year and also received a name change. The new name of this commission is, Catholic Social Teaching and Action Commission or CSTAC. . The name was changed to more accurately reflect its purpose, to teach and act on the 7 themes of Catholic Social Teachings.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person is the foundational issue of all Catholic Social Teaching. Though previously our Respect Life committee had attempted to cover all the life issues (with little success), beginning this fall there will be different Action Committees formed to address the different life issues: abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, death penalty, stem cell research. I will chair the abortion committee, as that is where my passion lies and my hope is that passionate and willing parishioners will step forward to work on Action Committees for the other life issues as well.

Below are some of the things we have done to promote life issues in our parish:

Deacon Vandecourvering from Keizer has come to speak on the death penalty and prison ministry. We scheduled these talks after the 5:45 Wed. evening Mass and served a simple supper and then had the program.

We promote the Oregon Right to Life Rally in Salem, the conference held each spring and we also promote the leadership camp, Camp Joshua that ORTL puts on during spring break for high school students. We also have promoted the art, essay and oratory contest that ORTL puts on each year.

We arranged for talks on abortion related topics for the high school youth group, including speakers from ORTL, Pregnancy Care center, an adoptee and by post-abortive men and women.

We have held movie nights to watch Bella, Stem Cell Research informational video by Fr. Tad, Blood Money, and other films.

Our parish has attended the West Coast Walk for Life in San Francisco for four years. The number of people going on this trip each year has varied from 9 people to a tour bus load full of high school and college youth, our parish priest, and chaperones. This trip has had strong support from our parish priest and youth minister and there is interest in continuing it. It is a very big undertaking to plan and organize this trip and it is expensive and so it may evolve to be an every other year trip. These trips have been a very positive and energizing trip for our young people and for me, and I am not so young!! I would love to see a trip like this planned at the Archdiocesan level so that more people could participate.

Our biggest event is a fundraising dinner and dance for the website, StandUpGirl.com, that we put on each January. We have done this for 4 years and it has been a big success and a fun parish evening. We do the food ourselves and it is almost all-homemade, including smoked tri-tip!! A fun DJ provides the music, 1940's all the way to current music! It is a very fun evening and worthwhile undertaking.

This past spring during the 40 days for life and during Lent we had a Life Chain for one hour on Saturday mornings in downtown Corvallis. We averaged 14-25 people each week that stood with signs and prayed for one hour. There was interest in continuing throughout the year on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays, though they have not been as well attended and so I am thinking that we will wait again until fall and do it during the next 40 days for Life. We used the official Life Chain signs that are available from their website. They are simple profound messages, easy to read, and have prayers and hymns on the back.

These are some of the things that we have done at our parish and that I hope to continue. I would be happy to talk with any of you if you have questions or you can email me. dnforjesus@gmail.com
541-929-6811 God bless, Diane Noble