

Respect Life Winter 2016 Recap

Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, the beauty and dignity of human life was the crowning of your creation. You further ennobled that life when your Son became one with us in his incarnation.

Help us to realize the sacredness of human life and to respect it from the moment of conception until the last moment at death.

Give us courage to speak with truth and love and with conviction in defense of life.

Help us to extend the gentle hand of mercy and forgiveness to those who do not reverence your gift of life.

To all, grant pardon for the times we have failed to be grateful for your precious gift of life or to respect it in others. We ask this in Jesus' Name.

Amen.

Presentation: [Angela Paz](#), Director of the Office of Persons with Disabilities

Dignity of all Human Life (SUMMARY)

Prenatal Testing: suggested that all women should be offered screening tests before 20 weeks of pregnancy.

Non-Routine Prenatal Testing: Testing can have value when used to plan the safest delivery possible of a child with a condition that needs specialists

There is a move to “prevent” the birth of a baby with a disability or disease...

OB/GYN is sued 4-6 times in career

- Belief in the “perfect outcome”
- Unreal expectation that prenatal medicine is perfect

Parents report feeling harassed or judged if they consider carrying to term

- Asked repeatedly to affirm their decision not to abort

“Prenatal diagnosis is morally licit, ‘if it respects the life and integrity of the embryo and the human fetus and is directed toward its safe guarding or healing as an individual.’” (CCC #2274)

And further, “. . . It is gravely opposed to the moral law when this is done with the thought of possibly inducing an abortion, depending upon the results.

MOST PRENARAL DIAGNOSIS END IN ABORTION

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SUPPORT

Parishes must provide support:

- How can the family of faith reach out to parents of children diagnosed with disability in utero?
- How can the Church continue this support after the birth of a child diagnosed with disability?
- Healing ministries offered by Church
- Our greatest source of healing—the Sacraments

We must become equally good at offering:

- support and encouragement at the time of diagnosis
- clear moral teaching at the time of decision making
- presence and prayer in the event of still birth
- support and understanding throughout pregnancy
- help to parents in raising their child
- Love and support of family

BECOME AWARE

One person in every 5 has some form of disability; one family in every 3 has a member with a disability (per US Census Bureau)

One person in 68 is born with autism (per CDC 2014) (though some numbers given are as high as 1 in 50)

IDENTIFY WHO IS MISSING

Search your parish boundaries... look for families that are not connected

- Personal outreach (volunteers?)
- Offer companions, and perhaps transportation for Mass and other gatherings
- Be patient and keep trying

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News, Issues and Events

- [Oregon Petition Update](#) (Working to receive Archdiocesan support/endorsement for all parishes to support a signature-gathering drive)
- First 1000 Days

This 143-week series of bulletin reflections began March 22, 2015. If your parish hasn't carried them yet. **START ANEW** on Sunday March 20.

The 1000 days from conception through a child's second birthday are the most crucial for a child's development. These 1000 days are our best opportunity to shape a healthier, more prosperous future for the child. All children.



- **1st Sunday of Each Month: Human Trafficking Silent Prayer Vigil.** 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. at St. Andre Bessette Catholic Church, 601 West Burnside Street, Portland.

Pray for victims and for an end to human trafficking.

For more details email info@saintandrechurch.org

Wednesday February 10 - Saturday March 20: Portland 40 Days for Life Vigils.

Milwaukie:

Planned Parenthood, 14411 SE McLoughlin Blvd.

Coordinator: Joanne: 503-341-9591 or joanne@hope360pc.com

Portland:

Lovejoy Surgicenter, 933 NW 25th Avenue

Coordinator: Therese Ruesink, 503-997-1884 or ruesinktherese@comcast.net (from 7 am to 7 pm daily)

Salem:

Planned Parenthood, 3825 Wolverine Street NE

Coordinators: Tamra Johnson and Teresa Whalen, 971-777-9200 or salem40days4life@gmail.com (from 8 am to 7 pm daily)

Eugene:

Glenwood Planned Parenthood, 3579 Franklin Blvd.

Coordinators: Teresa, 541-514-9189 or teresadanovich@live.com; Love, 541-521-7142 or rosaryvigil@hotmail.com (from 6 am to 7 pm Mondays through Saturdays)

Respect Life Winter 2016 Recap

- **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

MAY MEETING: TUESDAY MAY 24, 7:00PM

- **Closing Prayer:** Intercessions for Life

For all people: May we repent for the times we did not cherish God's gift of life, and may we be inspired to seek his forgiveness without fear; We pray to the Lord:

May God grant us courage to embrace the precious gift of life, even in the most difficult of circumstances; We pray to the Lord:

For people with disabilities; May they be treated with the loving care and respect due to each person; We pray to the Lord:

For young people: May they discover the freedom and peace that comes from following Jesus's call to purity; We pray to the Lord: