

Respect Life Quarterly Meeting: Spring 2011 Recap

- **Welcome**
 - **Opening Prayer**
 - **Introductions**
 - **Round the Table**
 - Discussion on difference in terminology between respect life, pro-life and social justice.
 - **News/Issues:**
 - **Deacon Mike Caldwell:** Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching on Life and Human Dignity.
 - Mike, Matt and Fr. Tim discussed preparing an education program on the fundamental Catholic social teaching. Goal is a 1-hour program for adult faith classes, RCIA, Confirmation groups. Still in its early phases and we plan to role this out during the year. Would love to have volunteer pilot groups. Suggestions included this quarterly meeting, parish groups, Confirmation retreats (Erin attested to the power of a personal story and reaching teens).
 - **Colm Willis:** Voter Registration Drive.
 - Something the Office is trying to coordinate. Suggested dates: April 15 and 22, 2012 after Easter. Deadline to register and vote in the primaries is Wednesday April 25. This has to be non-partisan and non-issue based.
 - **Matt:** USCCB's Physician-Assisted Suicide Statement
 - Sometime in the last two weeks of June. Timing due to U.S. Bishops meeting in Seattle for their June Conference (Oregon and Washington allow PAS) and the increasing tide of legalized PAS in other states.
 - **Bianca:** Natural Family Planning Awareness Week: July 24-30
 - Bianca ordered pamphlets from USCCB on contraception and birth control, but USCCB doesn't have anything great on NFP. Suggestions to check with Northwest Family Services and Catholic Updates. Discussion including reaching teens and young adults about NFP, and not wait until pre-marriage classes.
 - Respect Life Month: ***I came that all might have life, and have it to the full***
 - Pamphlets** summarizing Catholic teaching on a pro-life issue in a compelling, non-preachy way: (1) abortion, (2) contraception, (3) the death penalty, (4) persons with disabilities, (5) embryo destructive research, (6) end of life issues, (7) reproductive technologies, and (8) the meaning of human sexuality, family and marriage. Matt will bring copies for RL chairs to the August 30th meeting.
 - Archbishop's Mass on 10/2:** 11:00 at Cathedral. Because the Vatican does not plan another mass for nascent human life, we could use this to invite those working in RL ministries and bring them up to the altar for a blessing.
- Priests' Retreat 10/3-7. Fr. Mockaitis to encourage them to say a specific RL mass on another Sunday in October.

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-Other ideas to promote RL Month: crib, speakers, prayers of the faithful, Standup Girl.

▪ **Parish Social Ministry**

Committee Spotlights

- 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. Mary (Corvallis): Diane Noble
 - see attachment
- See attached list of parishes with Respect Life Ministry Chairpersons or our parish contact.

▪ **Events:**

- **Bianca: Baby Bottle – Fund Raiser**
 - Raised \$6000. Held for three weeks during the dead of summer. Hand out baby bottles weeks 1 and 2 and collect them weeks 2 and 3.
 - Queen of Peace does something similar for Mothers' Day.
 - Make sure the pastor is informed and onboard with your plans (such as no conflicting collections).
- Summer Fairs: ORTL Booths (Matt handed out prayer cards, which you can distribute. If you like these contact the Office and come by to pick up some)
- 40 Days: September 22. **Please make sure to send Matt your plans for 40 Days and a Kick-off by August 15th**
- Rosary Bowl, Saturday October 1st

▪ **Next Meeting: Tuesday August 30th, 7:00-9:00, Resurrection**