

## Respect Life Quarterly Meeting: Spring 2012 Recap

- **Welcome**
- **Opening Reflection**
- **Presentation: Deacon Michael Caldwell: “Catholic Teaching on the Gospel of Life (Evangelium Vitae).”** (A collaboration among the Office of Life, Justice, and Peace, Catholic Charities Office of Pregnancy Support & Adoption Services, and Project Rachel).

The purpose of this one-hour presentation was *not* to tell us anything new – though all of us probably picked up something – but to learn about this opportunity to [invite Deacon Caldwell](#) and this presentation on the Catholic Teaching on Life to our ministries and parishes. Generally, these Respect Life Quarterly meetings are to energize us leaders and find ways to sustain our ministry, build our ministry, and invite fellow parishioners to learn more about our good work on defending life and dignity.

- **News/Issues:**
  - **Fortnight for Freedom:**

Please share your parish’s own Fortnight events with this email list.

**Thursday June 28: Fortnight of Freedom Holy Hour.** 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral. Led by Archbishop John Vlazny.

**Why You Want to Attend:** The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met -- to one another, to our families, and to the larger society. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency (including) the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and the right to manifest one's religion either individually or in community, in public or in private.

During the Fortnight of Freedom Archbishop Vlazny asks pastors to:

- Highlight the Fortnight of Freedom with all their parishioners
- Preach about religious freedom from the pulpit on either Sunday or both Sundays during the Fortnight, June 24th and July 1st
- Work with their vicar to provide ecumenical services on behalf of religious liberty in the vicariate
- On July 4th at 9:00 a.m., PDT, ring the church bells to proclaim and celebrate the freedom we have enjoyed and to ask God's favor to protect it now and in the future.

[Click here for more information](#)

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- **Handout:** Letter from Fr. Mockaitis to all Pastors and the booklet *After Abortion* that accompanied this mailing
- **2012-13 Respect Life Program:** The Office will order 50 extra copies and, like last year, hand these out at the August meeting. Use them! Your pastors or the parish offices will each receive a packet. We hope that the posters are displayed. One or more of the topical pamphlets might speak to your ministry and you may decide to order copies to handout or print excerpts in your parish bulletin.
- **USCCB: Prayer for Religious Freedom:** I have these prayer cards in English and Spanish. You can order them yourselves or contact the Office for cards.
- **Petitions 22 and 25 for the state ballot:**

With the archbishop's approval we support Petition 25: No public funds shall be used to pay for any abortion, except to save the life of the mother or as may be required by federal law.

"Initiative 25 is a great step for life - innocent life. Our tax dollars should go to strengthen and treasure life, not take it away. I am happy to support this important life initiative." Rev. Msgr. Dennis J. O'Donovan,  
Vicar General, Catholic Archdiocese of Portland

The Archdiocese does not support Petition 22, commonly known as the Human Life Amendment, because of its exclusionary language, " (3) THE RIGHT TO LIFE GUARANTEED IN THIS SECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY PERSON SENTENCED TO THE PENALTY OF DEATH FOR AGGRAVATED MURDER AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 40 OF THIS ARTICLE."

- **Faithful Citizenship: A Summary:** The Office and provide you with the bulletin inserts or the summary brochure. [Or you can print them off yourselves.](#) Archbishop Vlazny requests that during this election year, pastors use only the materials from [www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org), (including this summary) which he has authorized for use.
- **Events:**
  - Send me information! I miss a lot of events around the Archdiocese
- **Closing Prayer**

You can find this and past updates at [http://www.archdpdx.org/jprespect/respect\\_life.html](http://www.archdpdx.org/jprespect/respect_life.html)

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 7:00pm at Resurrection Parish.** Note: I will be on vacation until September 9. We can move this meeting to Tuesday September 11 if you all (and our hosts!) would like.