

Respect Life Spring 2015 Recap

- **Opening Prayer**

Jesus knew his disciples would face a scattering as well, and he prepared them with the teaching that the Father remains with us, a message that gives peace. A world of challenges and temptations constantly surround us, and we are called to be the light in the darkness, regardless of where we go and what life brings our way. It is no easy task fighting for what is right and good and just, and we are called to take courage. Jesus has already conquered the world, and we can conquer our own challenges with God by our side.

Jesus speaks with such conviction in this passage. Realizing the time has come for them to scatter, Jesus emphasizes the need to stand resolute in faith. Centuries separate this moment from ours, but the message remains clear and unchanging: remember to take courage, to live justly and fully in God's image, regardless of where we are scattered.

All-powerful and ever living God, your Son, Jesus Christ, taught us to not be afraid of pain and suffering. As we face this world's uncertainties and challenges, send your Spirit to sustain, nourish, and fortify us for wherever life takes us. Help us to remain faithful in good times and bad until we see you again and rejoice in your presence forever. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- **Our Petitions for Prayers and Gratitude → This is the best part of the meeting; it reminds us why we gather, not for an agenda but out of faith for our ministry**

- **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

- **Guest: Jason Kidd, Director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life**

Jason Kidd jkidd@archdpdx.org introduced himself, shared his background, a little bit about what we hope to accomplish but first he wants to listen to as many voices. With that in mind, **here is a link to that short 3 minute 10 question survey to help Jason:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BRZGG25>

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FIRST 1000 DAYS: A CATHOLIC CULTURE OF LIFE INITIATIVE



Missed a 1000 Days bulletin reflection?
Is your parish not carrying these?

[Click here to find recent reflections](#)

LOS PRIMEROS 1000 DIAS: UNA CULTURA CATOLICA DE LA INICIATIVA DE VIDA



¿Se perdió las reflexiones del boletín de los Primeros 1000 Días? Encuentre las más reciente reflexiones en el sitio web.

<http://www.archdpx.org/jprespect/1000-dias.html>

- Summer Plans?

Mary Rigert rigert3@frontier.com : Baby Bottles: You need to contact Mary and ask for her handout on St. Cecilia's Summer Baby Bottle Drive. She has a well-thought out fundraiser that many parishes could use.

Two suggestions from other RL Chairpersons:

- A Hispanic teen mom addressing the Hispanic masses about the Baby Bottle Drive works wonders
- By numbering the baby bottle and writing down the names of the person taking a bottle (and which number) ensures participation.

4th of July is a wonderful opportunity to promote your ministries at parades, etc. Since the 4th is on a Saturday, have a mass to close the Fortnight for Freedom.

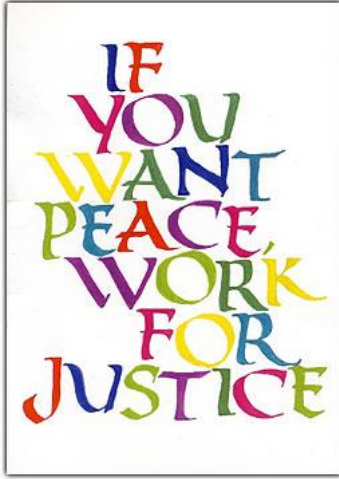
Learn about [UpstART](#) which provides women at risk of sexual violence, exploitation and homelessness with creative and income generating opportunities through reuse of old and broken jewelry.

Take advantage of ministry fairs and summer events, such as Oktoberfest.

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- **News, Issues and Events:**

FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM: FREEDOM TO BEAR WITNESS: JUNE 21 - JULY 4



During these 14 days our liturgical calendar celebrates a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power — St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, St. John the Baptist, SS. Peter and Paul, and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome. The theme of this year's Fortnight will focus on the "freedom to bear witness" to the truth of the Gospel.

"Keeping the spirit of the Gospel means that Catholic institutions are to bear witness in love to the full truth about the human person by providing social, charitable, and educational services in a manner that fully reflects the God-given dignity of the human person." - Archbishop William E. Lori, Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, on the "Freedom to Bear Witness"

The teaching of our Catholic faith obliges us to work together with fellow citizens for the common good of all who live in this land. That is the vision of our founding and our Constitution, which guarantees citizens of all religious faiths the right to contribute to our common life together.

Fortnight for Freedom is a political activity; it is not a partisan issue. It is not about defeating Obama or repealing the healthcare law. It is much more than the portion of the HHS Mandate that threatens our religious freedom. Fortnight for Freedom is about all challenges to religious liberty both at home and abroad.

The success of this Fortnight is vital to establishing and maintaining a new movement for religious freedom, in response to the growing range of religious freedom issues in so many areas of law, such as immigration, adoption, and disaster relief, both here and abroad.

Resources are available at www.Fortnight4Freedom.org

Help Protect International Religious Freedom by Passing H.R. 1150 Christians and Religious Minorities Suffering in Middle East and Elsewhere

The Catholic Church has long standing commitment to international religious freedom. In a June 2014 address, Pope Francis exhorted all to "recognize, guarantee, and protect religious freedom, which is a right intrinsically inherent in human nature, in man's dignity as a free being, and is also an indicator of a healthy democracy and one of the main sources of the legitimacy of the State."

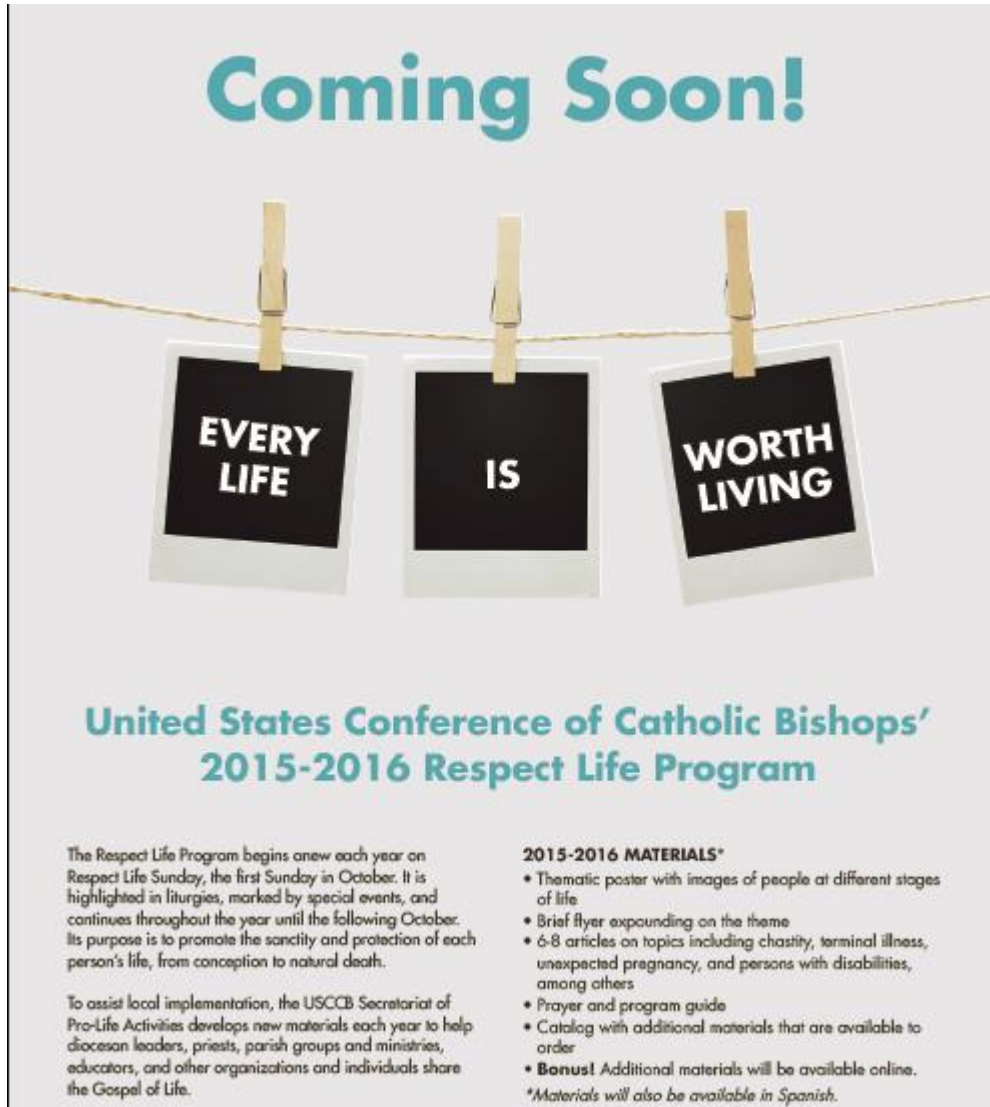
[ACT NOW!](#)

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Place your order with mcato@archdpdx.org

Plan for what you want to do for Respect Life Sunday, Respect Life Month. Don't let it sneak up on you.

Tip: Establish a schedule for the year. Revise as necessary. By having a set schedule establishes a foundation for your work and establishes a culture that stands when a new pastor arrives.



Coming Soon!

EVERY LIFE IS WORTH LIVING

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' 2015-2016 Respect Life Program

The Respect Life Program begins anew each year on Respect Life Sunday, the first Sunday in October. It is highlighted in liturgies, marked by special events, and continues throughout the year until the following October. Its purpose is to promote the sanctity and protection of each person's life, from conception to natural death.

To assist local implementation, the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities develops new materials each year to help diocesan leaders, priests, parish groups and ministries, educators, and other organizations and individuals share the Gospel of Life.

2015-2016 MATERIALS*

- Thematic poster with images of people at different stages of life
- Brief flyer expounding on the theme
- 6-8 articles on topics including chastity, terminal illness, unexpected pregnancy, and persons with disabilities, among others
- Prayer and program guide
- Catalog with additional materials that are available to order
- **Bonus!** Additional materials will be available online.

**Materials will also be available in Spanish.*

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AUGUST MEETING: TUESDAY AUGUST 25 (TENTATIVE), 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