

Respect Life Summer 2013 Recap

- **Opening Reflection/Faith Sharing**

Just Sow

Life-changing moments of insight may be frequent for some people but rare for others. They may be dramatic moments or unexpectedly simple realizations that shift the way we look at ourselves and the world.

I heard a speaker comment on the use of the seed metaphor in the Gospels: “Disciples do not harvest; they just sow,” this speaker said. “Throw the seed everywhere and do not worry about it. Only God can make it grow; only God is in charge of the harvest.”

The seed stories in Scripture challenge us to ascribe every kind of abundance to the One who is the harvester. God “supplies seed to the sower,” multiplies it, and increases the harvest. Once the “grain of wheat falls to the ground” the sower ceases to matter, as the seed germinates and grows out of the earth to “produce much fruit.”

Our lives as Christians are first and foremost about sowing and not about harvesting. When things seem off kilter in our lives, perhaps it is because we are focusing too much on the harvesting of our own desires and plans. The good news is that Jesus points to himself as the Seed of abundant self-giving love—buried, become fruitful, and harvested for the sake of the world.

- **Presentation:**

Rebekah Barnes, NW Regional Coordinator for of Students for Life: Engaging Catholic students in respect life. Giving students the voice to talk about being pro-life. Providing opportunity for student groups that are in line with Catholic social teaching but empowering them to be self-directed and create their own agendas.

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- **Parish Presentation:**

St. Rose’s Life, Justice and Peace Ministry (Suzanne Belatti): A relatively new ministry and intentionally called “Life, Justice and Peace” just like the Office. See the handout at the bottom.

- **News and Issues:**

- **Discounts:**

The Office of Life, Justice and Peace receives a 40% discount on materials from the USCCB: <http://www.usccbpublishing.org/> If you need materials for displays and handouts, you can call (800-235-8722), order your materials and tell them you work with the Office of Life, Justice and Peace. You will need a credit card but you will receive your discount and the materials will be shipped directly to you. Account #: 4063748

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- **Support Oregon 2014 Initiative**

This letter went out to all pastors.

You should consider 1. Making sure this is shared with parishioners; 2. Conducting petition drives; and 3. Working by vicariates rather than alone in your parish.

150,000 Signatures must be turned in by March, 2014 to qualify for the November ballot.

The Archdiocese of Portland encourages all Catholics to sign Oregon 2014 Initiative (Initiative Petition #6) and endorses non-partisan efforts to conduct signature drives.

The Oregon 2014 Initiative reads “No public funds shall be used to pay for any abortion, except when medically necessary or as may be required by federal law.”

Every day: 11 publicly-funded abortions

The Oregon Health Plan (OHP) paid for 4,191 abortions in fiscal year 2011-2012. Because OHP is funded by Oregon taxpayers, your tax dollars pay for abortions.

11 each day; just in one day (and 17 years later) that 11 could have been the entire starting defense for a high school football team. After a second day, that could have been the entire starting offense. After a third day, that could have been the entire special teams and kicking units.

The average yearly cost for taxpayer-funded abortions in Oregon: \$1.75 million per year
\$1.75 million could be better used for Archdiocesan-supported programs to protect the poor: Employment-Related Day Care and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

1 of 13 states

Oregon is one of only 13 states to require taxpayers to fund other people's abortions, without restrictions. Oregon is a wonderful state to settle down in; Oregon is a great state when all Oregonians work together in support of each other, including the unemployed, the poor, the hungry and the vulnerable, including Oregonians who are alive but not yet born.

Statement on Oregon 2014 Initiative (Initiative Petition #6)

“Catholics are strongly encouraged to support the Oregon2014 Citizens Initiative. While the focus is narrow, any measure that strengthens life and improves the protection of unborn children is a good step forward” - Fr. Peter Smith, Vicar General.

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- **Upcoming Events:**

- Saturday September 14: National Day of Remembrance, 12:00pm at St. Mary, 1062 Charnelton, Eugene mellenlifepilgrim@yahoo.com
- Friday September 20: Beaverton 40 Days for Life Vigil. 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at Planned Parenthood, SW 1st and Betts, Beaverton. **With Vicar General Father Peter Smith**
- Thursdays September 26 - December 5 (every 2 weeks): 6 Perspectives on the Death Penalty. 7:00 p.m. at the St. Joseph, Salem, in the Parish Center. From the St. Joseph Peace & Justice Committee. **Led by Father Todd Molinari and experts on the death penalty.**
- Friday September 27: Portland 40 Days for Life Vigil. 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at Planned Parenthood, SE 50th and Franklin St. **With Archbishop Sample**
- Sept. 25 to Nov. 3 2013: Salem 40 Days for Life. 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. daily at 3825 Wolverine St NE, Salem OR 97305 www.40daysforlife.com/salem or call Rafaela or Cheri at 503-930-9347 or 503-569-4794
- Saturday October 5: 7th Annual Rose Bowl Mass **celebrated by Archbishop Alexander Sample** 10:00 a.m. Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem. Holy Rosary will follow the mass.
- Sunday October 13: Called By Baptism: Giving Voice to the Kingdom of God. 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Catholic Charities Building, 2740 SE Powell Blvd, Portland 97202. With Chris West, Catholic Relief Services Director of Partnership, Training, & Engagement. **From the Office of Life, Justice and Peace**

Explore how advocacy is grounded in our Catholic faith; how we are called to be political (not partisan)! Reflect on how we are called by the Holy Spirit and deepen the spiritual roots of our work. Connect with companions in parish ministries of life, social concerns, and peace and justice!

Why You Want to Attend: "Among our tasks as witnesses to the love of Christ is that of giving a voice to the cry of the poor, so that they are not abandoned to the laws of an economy that seems at times to treat people as mere consumers." *Pope Francis I*

- Wednesday October 16: People of Faith Against the Death Penalty. 5:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, SW 18th and Jefferson, Portland. **With Archbishop Sample** and leaders of fifteen different faith communities.
- **May's Work Plans: Building/Strengthening your Ministry: Small Groups: Planning for Respect Life Program 2013-2014**

THEME: OPEN YOUR HEARTS TO LIFE!

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- **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

NOVEMBER MEETING: TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26, 7:00PM

St. Rose Life, Justice and Peace Committee

Mission:

Strengthen evangelization within our parish community, deepen understanding of Church teaching and facilitate opportunities for greater faith formation. Unite ministries with time and talents of parish community. Work with Pastoral Council to meet the needs of the parish in these ways. Promote, educate and be a resource for issues surrounding the dignity of life; defending human life and dignity wherever it is diminished or endangered. Encourage family support and outreach to the poor and vulnerable.

The ministry focuses on the personal, the individual, the parish community, and involvement.

Goals:

1. Coordinate current ministry needs and communicate those needs within the Parish to facilitate a more diverse ministry involvement from the larger Parish community.
 - a. Create and maintain ministry booklet
 - b. Update and maintain accuracy on parish webpage in regards to ministries.
 - c. Update parish website with exhaustive listing of current ministries, volunteer opportunities and faith activities in or around our community.
 - d. Be a liaison between ministry chairs and parish community to meet needs of each.
 - e. Organize ministry fairs on a continuing basis as needed.
 - f. Work with Pastoral Council in a supportive role to maximize ministerial works.

2. Provide faith formation opportunities for evangelization, unity of parish community and increased involvement in the ministries.
 - a. Facilitate ongoing home groups following Lent with study/faith groups.
 - b. Increase devotion: develop Fatima prayer cell, adoration times, consecration to Mary.
 - c. Promote, monitor & grow CD (Lighthouse CD's) evangelism ministry.
 - d. Bring speakers on various faith topics.
 - e. Create a Catholic resource library in foyer or other central location. (2 parishioners outside LJP willing to maintain and work on a library)
 - f. Update/Reinvent the parish bulletin board with "snapshot" of ministry booklet.
 - g. Rearrange the foyer spaces, front and back, to improve communication and ministry outreach to parishioners.
 - h. Work with RCIA program to reach out to current Catholics/parishioners for adult education opportunity.

3. Initiate a pro-life group that provides education and resources on pro-life issues. Organize and facilitate pro-life activities in order to be a stronger voice for life in larger community.
 - a. Organize group activities in our parish for 40 days for life.
 - b. Bring speakers, programs or movies to our parish on pro life issues.
 - c. Initiate, facilitate or encourage prayer groups. (Patriotic Rosary, Rosary for Life)
 - d. Facilitate series of activities that focus on the Works of Mercy (Hope for the Homeless)
Other ideas: Prison ministry, Homeless outreach, Battered women, Refugees, Mentally challenged, Physically disabled, Soldiers returned from war, Child welfare, Human sex trafficking, Young mothers/mothers without support, Immigration issues.
 - e. Improve resources made available to parishioners for information on Pro-life topics: bulletin announcements, bulletin inserts, or pamphlets.
 - f. Work within vicariate to increase awareness of pro-life issues & improve participation/collaboration.

Summary of LJP activities thus far:

- Hope for the Homeless x 2
- Baby bottle drive with Mother and Child Education Center x 2 (collected over \$2200)
- 40DFL bulletin announcements for website, kick off, & other activities.
- Bulletin announcements regarding resources/info. for abortion issues.
- Pamphlets and flyers/signs (life related) (back foyer, entrance & bathrooms)
- Petition #25
- Fortnight for Freedom: Patriotic Rosary x 2 bulletin inserts on fortnight/religious liberty.
- 40 DFL: Informational presentation with video, Q&A, giveaway of books ie: Unplanned
- 40 DFL: Rosary for Life before each mass during 40 DFL x 3
- Organized St. Rose group for March for life 2012 & Religious Liberty Rally
- Ministry fair 2013
- Ministry booklet
- Lighthouse CD Rack
- Ditty Bags: Baggies of basic essentials for the homeless. Something parishioners can hand out at exit ramps or on TriMet. This simple gesture treats people with dignity and shows them respect, thus building a connection. With the parish.

St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church

Life, Justice, & Peace Committee:

Kathie Cooper
Therese Ruesink
Lisa Brady
Suzanne Belatti