

## Respect Life Quarterly Meeting: Winter 2011 Recap

- **Welcome**
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introductions**
- **Round the Table: How can Father Tim Mockaitis best help you?**
  - Attend Pro-Life events in your collar and announce your intention to participate in advance, especially to parishioners and your fellow clergy. It is more important to attend public events such as a 40 Day for Life vigil than to attend more private events such as the Quarterly Respect Life Meetings.
  
  - Participation in Pro-Life Vigils. And by publicizing it more participants will likely attend.
  
  - Give advice on how we can approach our own pastor on life issues: including protecting life in the Prayers of the Faithful, bulletin announcements, displays, events, etc.
  
  - Help dissuade the notion that pro-lifers are militant.
  
  - Give an address at your priest retreats about your work, about the need for help, encouragement, blessings to create a parish/vicariate respect life social ministry.
  
  - What can the Respect Life Chairpersons do for you?
- **Other: Suggestion: create a brochure / calendar of all the “usual” pro-life events.**
- **Events**
  - Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup>: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mother’s Tea for Life, St. Cecilia.
  - Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup>: ORTL Conference
  - Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup>: Mother’s Day: This is natural day to promote motherhood. Use it to your advantage:
    - Public blessing of expectant moms at mass
    - Mother’s Day lunch (Resurrection has a well-attended lunch)
    - Sell carnations to benefit Birthright, Father Taafe Homes, your ministry, etc.
  - Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>: Parish Social Ministry Workshop (which includes Respect Life Ministries)
- **Parish Social Ministry: Committee Spotlights**
  - **St. Joseph the Worker: Mary Nordlund (Handout)**
  - Prayer Vigil at Planned Parenthood at SE 50<sup>th</sup> and Franklin
  - 40 Days for Life
  - Respect Life Month: provide information materials, collect baby items for PRC’s, yearly pro-life rosary
  - Political Action: Voter Registration, Catholic Answers Voters Guide
  - March for Life from St. Stephens to Planned Parenthood
  - August 15: Mass for Loss of Innocent Lives
  - JustFaith
  - Regular KBVM participation

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- **St. Francis: Mike Rossetti and Amy Cookson**
  - Small group so the focus is on education and information
  - January: Sanctity of Life prayer
  - Mother and Child Baby Bottle for the M&C Education Center
  - Mother's Day Knights of Columbus Carnation Sale; donations to Mother and Child\*
  - October 22<sup>nd</sup>: Holy Hour
  - Every Sunday bulletin contains a respect life quote: Mike and Amy suggested to Google "pro-life quotes." Doing so, I came up with <http://prolifequotes.blogspot.com/>
  - Prayers of the Faithful
  - Pro-life rosary in the chapel after the 8:30 mass (which allows those attending the 10:30 mass to participate). Since July 2007!
  - Quarterly newsletter
  - **\*Mother's Day Prayer→**

*The most important person on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral -- a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body...*

*The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven.*

*Only a human mother can.*

*Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature; God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation...What on God's good earth is more glorious than this:*

*To be a mother?*

Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty

- **Action subcommittees (Smaller groups that can focus on specific items)**
  - Calling parishes and establishing Respect Life contacts
  - Working with the media
  - Education for Youth and Young Adults
  - **Contact Becky Griffo if you're interested in these or anything else.**
- **Issues**
  - Colm Willis of Oregon Right to Life: ORTL issues (HB 3512 [Unborn Infant Pain Relief Act]), Back Alley Abortion Prevention Act, Federal Taxpayer Funded Abortion) and Letter Writing Campaign (10 personal letters makes more of an impact than an e-mail campaign).
- **Next Meeting: Tuesday May 31<sup>st</sup>. 7:00-9:00, Resurrection.** Following the lessons from the Parish Social Ministry Gathering May 21<sup>st</sup>, we can use this meeting to plan for the next year.