

Respect Life February 2013 Recap

NEXT MEETING: [Wednesday May 29, 7:00pm at Resurrection Parish](#)

- **Welcome + Opening Prayer (Prayer for Life): Fr. Mockaitis**

O God, our Creator, all life is in your hands from conception until death. Help us to cherish our children and to reverence the awesome privilege of our share in creation. May all people live and die in dignity and love. Bless all those who defend the rights of the unborn, the handicapped and the aged. Enlighten and be merciful toward those who fail to love, and give them peace. Let freedom be tempered by responsibility, integrity and morality.

- **Presentation: Pat Cary: Martha and Mary Home**

The mission of [Martha & Mary Ministries](#) is to promote dignity at end of life through compassionate care and presence, spiritual support and community education. The home is for those who cannot remain in their own homes.

The seeds for Martha and Mary Home grew when the Oregon Physician Assisted Suicide law passed; the home is an alternative to PAS. M&M Home is not a hospice; it is an adult-care home for five people. They all live together and the staff doesn't know who has money and who doesn't. It's a community. The spirit is, "It's okay, we just love you."

Jesus is in the home.

Learn where you can [volunteer](#) – giving, doing, or simply being present.

You can [request a speaker](#) for your parish about such topics as Advance Directives, resources at end of life, protecting dignity at end of life, etc.

- **Upcoming Events:**

Send me information! I miss a lot of events around the Archdiocese because I'm not aware of them.

- **Through Palm Sunday: 40 Days for Life**
- **ORTL Conference:** Saturday April 20 at the Portland Airport Holiday Inn
- **Parish Social Ministry Regional Conference:** May 17/16 in Boise: Workshop on "Advocacy on Respect Life Issues"

Respect Life February 2013 Recap

- **News and Issues:**

- Archbishop Lori Urges Congress To Include Conscience Provisions In Funding Bills
 1. Sec. 537 would extend the longstanding federal policy on conscience to the new coverage mandates for private health plans created by the Affordable Care Act, so Americans are not forced to violate their fundamental moral and religious convictions in order to offer, sponsor and purchase health coverage.
 2. Sec. 538 clarifies current nondiscrimination laws to improve protection of individuals and institutions that decline involvement in abortion, allowing the victims of discrimination to vindicate their rights in court.

- **Three Action Alerts from the U.S. Bishops**

http://www.archdpx.org/jprespect/Act_Now.html

1. Protect conscience rights and religious liberty. Congress is preparing to consider “must-pass” appropriations legislation. Needed conscience protection provisions should be made a part of this legislation.
2. Call on Congress to do the Right Thing: Responsibly reduce our nation's deficit by protecting poor and vulnerable people.
3. Support Policies That Reduce Gun Violence

- **Work Plans: Building/Strengthening your Ministry: Small Groups**

We have recently explored the issue of teenage pregnancy (Madonna Center) and end of life care (Martha and Mary Home). There are many more issues, events, and educational opportunities.

How can you use an issue, a big event, etc., as a vehicle to engage others in your ministry and energize your committee? (The committee is those who gather to plan ways to engage the parish. This work is your ministry. Similar to the Music Ministry where there is a choir that practices and on Sundays leads the congregation in song.)

We took 30 minutes in groups of four and brainstormed ideas. Perhaps an idea sparked you but the goal was to practice this process and use it with your ministry.

The process includes

- Identifying a specific goal
- With realistic timelines
- Determining the steps you need to take or the activities that need to happen to accomplish the goal.
- Identifying which persons do you need to talk with to gain parish support and to promote this within the parish

Respect Life February 2013 Recap

Here is a sampling of suggestions:

- Find or create a BIG EVENT that would serve as a rallying point; use holidays such as Mother's Day
- Using [Net Ministries](#) to facilitate a weekend retreat for youth on Theology of the Body
- Expand from just your parish to the vicariate. Create a Vicariate RL Committee or have parish ministries collaborate on a vicariate effort
- Engage the parish through a [Spiritual Adoption](#)
- Create and maintain a robust information table
- Take time for your committee (and other interested parishioners) to study and learn
- Read the USCCB's [Pastoral Plan For Pro-Life Activities](#) and use suggestions for your ministry's work.

Here is the sign that St. Francis of Sherwood placed on their property. It was vandalized with a swastika painted on one side. We prayed for the conversion of those who desecrated this sign.



Respect Life February 2013 Recap

- **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

- **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

Respect Life February 2013 Recap

WORK PLAN

A work plan is a useful tool for defining specific short-term and long-term accomplishments by which you can measure your work; it provides short-term check points, and ways to celebrate success in the process of working toward a long-term vision. It's a useful tool for deciding how much is realistic and in setting priorities when you can't do everything.

I. Work Plan Tool

1. Attached, is a tool to help you get started with a work plan. Identify some concrete goals with realistic timelines. Try to be specific with your goals.
2. Once you have your goals set, work backwards to determine what steps you need to take or what activities need to happen to accomplish your goals. These benchmarks can help you measure progress in achieving your goal. If these steps don't happen by the time you need them to happen, you can always rework your timeline to accomplish your goals.
3. Share your work plan with other participants. Giving participants feedback on their plans is an important part of this exercise.

II. Tips for Developing Your Work Plan

1. Once you have your goals, activities and key people identified, use a 12 month calendar that includes important dates, holidays, activities, etc. On this calendar you can begin to map out your identified goals and activities. The idea is to get everything into one place so that you get sense if your goals and timeline are realistic.
2. In assessing your work plan, be sure to consider important factors
3. When you have entered your goals and activities into your 12 month calendar, share it with key people.
4. Hopefully you are walking away with some concrete activities to begin soon. Adjust your plan to integrate feedback from key people with whom you've shared the plan. Then, proceed to work your plan.

III. Review and Evaluation

Take a look at your work plan often, are you on track towards meeting important goals? If not, you will want to update or modify your work plan and timeline.

At the end of the year you should plan an overall evaluation (did you accomplish your goals? If not, why not? Were your goals realistic?), and start the process again for the next year. You should build in times to confer with the appropriate people to do this, and to celebrate your accomplishments, as appropriate.

Respect Life February 2013 Recap

Building/Strengthening your Committee/Ministry

Goals:

Activities:

What Catholic educational resources will you use?

Who can help you accomplish your goals?

Timeline:

Respect Life February 2013 Recap

Relationship-building w/ Key People

Names of People with whom to Build Relationships	Why do you want to meet with them? What goals can they help you accomplish?	Do you know some of their priorities?	Month/Year when you want to meet with them