

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

OUR MISSION

We hope to make St. Mary's the #1 respect life parish in the Diocese of Worcester! We want to lead, inspire and educate our parishioners, especially the young, to know God's will on the life issues of today. We start with and emphasize the harmfulness of abortion. This life issue is highlighted because it is the greatest evil and social injustice of our day, as it strips away an innocent unborn baby's unalienable right to life. We will also continue to address other life issues in accordance with the Catholic Church's teaching relative to them. These issues include natural family planning versus contraception sterilization, physician assisted suicide and euthanasia, the death penalty, and more. We will also promote awareness of state and federal legislation that contradicts Catholic Church teaching.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Send questions to:

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Chairperson

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WHEN WE MEET

The Respect Life Ministry meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in St. Mary's Pastoral Center. No meetings in July & August.



WHY WE EXIST

We want to be a group of St. Mary's parishioners who are visible, active, prayerful, accessible, and informed on life issues. In addition, we wish to effectively promote the culture of life and oppose the culture of death in our society, especially in how the latter finds expression in the activity of the abortion industry, human embryo killing for research and physician assisted suicide. We also oppose Federal government interference with our free conscience rights.

TYPICAL ACTIVITIES

- Annual 24 Hour Rosary
- Participation in March for Life in Washington D.C.
- Rosary recitation after the Saturday AM Mass for the protection for those unborn babies whose lives are threatened by abortion.
- Guest speakers on Natural Family Planning.
- Talks on abstinence to teenagers in the parish's religious education program.
- Support for Problem Pregnancy, Visitation House & Spring House
- Annual essay contest for 7th & 8th graders in St. Mary's School & Religious Education program on the topics of abortion, the disabled and euthanasia.
- Participation in the 40 Days for Life campaign.
- Project Rachel - an outreach ministry of the Catholic Church to women · and men who are hurting from a past abortion.

WHO WE ARE

We are stewards of our time. In 1973 when the United States Supreme Court legalized abortion in America, a group of St. Mary's parishioners got together to see how we could advocate for the right to life of the unborn. Key figures in this group were former Massachusetts Supreme Court Justice Francis P. O'Connor and his wife Ann, Dr. Robert Blute and his wife Ann Marie, Attorney John Connors and his wife and Ann and Dr. John Harding along with his wife Grace. All are welcome to join us in this ministry with a core group that meets monthly for educational discussions, planning activities, and mutual support.

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