Resources, Ideas, and Philosophy for Student Respect Life Ministry Clubs

- **Sample Mission Statements**
  “We are a group who seek to build a culture of life from womb to tomb with no exceptions. We support the dignity and sanctity of all life and seek to educate on these important topics by supporting and defending those most vulnerable in our society.”

  “Our Respect Life Club seeks to be a voice for the voiceless in our society as we work to educate and empower students to engage in difficult conversations and work in defense of all life womb to tomb”

  “Our society bases our value on our productivity and circumstances. Our group is committed to advocating for the value of life simply in the fact that we are created and loved by God and that no life is worth less than any other. We support all life from womb to tomb and will work to ensure that all life is respected — no exceptions.”

- **Group Leadership Roles**
  **President:** Responsible for running meetings and keeping order, creating and distributing agendas, attending and scheduling all meetings, welcoming new members

  **Vice President:** Assists President by taking over responsibilities in his/her absence

  **Secretary:** Responsible for taking attendance and notes at meetings, responsible for keeping calendar up to date with upcoming events and meetings, helps keep track of communications between school leadership and club.

  **Treasurer:** Responsible for keeping track of all monies gathered at fundraising events, keeps track of all expenditures, turns in any necessary receipts

  **Public Relations Officer:** Assists in putting together flyers both digital and hardcopy for events and advertising the club, helps with recruitment, maintains any social media or website presence (more than one person can fulfill this position)
• **Meeting Format (see Sample Agenda)**
  - Have all present sign-in and pass out Agenda
  - Begin with prayer
  - Welcome new members
  - Present a Life issue or topic (have a student or speaker present on this issue, read a reflection, or watch a video)
  - Discuss
  - Go over Minutes from the last meeting/Review action items from last meeting
  - Have students share new business (Based on what was already submitted to be on the agenda!)
  - Decide on action items for next meeting/set agenda for next meeting
  - Close in prayer

• **Ministries & Charities to Support**
  - for preborn, moms in need, euthanasia, elderly, and suicide resources check out [www.archoke.org/respectlife](http://www.archoke.org/respectlife)
  - for moms in need, refugee, immigrant, homeless, and impoverished, check out [www.catholiccharitiesokc.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesokc.org)
  - for issues of justice advocacy, death penalty, and legal news, check out [www.okcatholic.org](http://www.okcatholic.org)

• **Other Resources to Help Start a Club**

  **How to Start:**

  - [https://studentsforlife.org/high-school/start-a-group/](https://studentsforlife.org/high-school/start-a-group/)
  - [https://cultureoflifestudies.com/starting-a-pro-life-club-2/](https://cultureoflifestudies.com/starting-a-pro-life-club-2/)
  - [https://prolifeaction.org/action/club/](https://prolifeaction.org/action/club/)

  **25 Ways To Create An Engaging And Active Pro-Life Group On Campus:**

  [https://humandefense.com/college-group/](https://humandefense.com/college-group/)
• Issues

There are many important issues to address with regards to respecting life. Your group may choose to prioritize a couple of issues to work on all year – perhaps human trafficking and abortion, or death penalty and euthanasia. While abortion is the most rampant and immediate threat to life, all life issues are related in some way.

Here are some issues that correspond to national advocacy months and ideas for doing a spiritual or corporal work of mercy:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Spiritual Work</th>
<th>Corporal Work</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Unborn</td>
<td>- Attend March for Life and/or Sanctity of Life Mass&lt;br&gt;- &quot;Adopt an unwanted child&quot; and pray for that mom and baby</td>
<td>- Volunteer to serve at a local crisis pregnancy center&lt;br&gt;- Bring in someone who works with moms in need to speak to your group&lt;br&gt;- Host a fundraiser for a crisis pregnancy center</td>
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<td>February</td>
<td>Human Trafficking</td>
<td>- Fast from something on Superbowl Sunday (notorious for high trafficking activity!)&lt;br&gt;- Pray for those struggling with addiction to pornography</td>
<td>- See <a href="http://www.fightthenewdrug.org">www.fightthenewdrug.org</a> for resources in how to spot predators&lt;br&gt;- Host a Viewing Session and share the infographics as part of an education campaign <a href="https://www.a21.org/content/media/goq8r4">https://www.a21.org/content/media/goq8r4</a></td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>Feminine Genius</td>
<td>- Learn about the Female Saints! St. Joan of Arc, St. Catherine of Siena, Our Lady&lt;br&gt;- Consecrate your club to Mary&lt;br&gt;- Read JPII &quot;On the Dignity of Women&quot;</td>
<td>- Read &quot;The Abolition of Woman&quot; about how women are exploited even under the disguise of feminist ideology&lt;br&gt;- Listen to Fiorella Nash on YouTube&lt;br&gt;- Visit Catholic Charities' Sanctuary for Women, Rose Home, or Grace Home to see how women are being empowered and supported</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>Chastity</td>
<td>- Read Theology of the Body&lt;br&gt;- Pray a Rosary for strength in the virtue of Chastity</td>
<td>- Listen to Jason Evert’s presentation on Chastity&lt;br&gt;- Follow Emily Wilson or Jackie Francois, Matt Fradd, Jason Evert social media/YouTube for chastity inspiration&lt;br&gt;- Watch Pam Stenzel talk on YouTube and discuss how lack of chastity can contribute to physical, mental, spiritual, and relational difficulties</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Post-abortive Healing</td>
<td>- Pray for a woman who has had an abortion (or a man who is grieving too!), that she/he would experience God’s mercy and love and healing&lt;br&gt;- Ask, in prayer, for the words to say when you encounter someone hurting from abortion</td>
<td>- Pass out <a href="http://www.supportafterabortion.com">www.supportafterabortion.com</a> materials&lt;br&gt;- Invite a speaker to share her story of abortion&lt;br&gt;- Watch UnPlanned (need permission form from parents due to R rating, but Archdiocese already has public viewing license)</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>Refugee Awareness</td>
<td>- Choose a particular region to intentionally</td>
<td>- Volunteer with St. Vincent de Paul</td>
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<td>Month</td>
<td>Theme</td>
<td>Activities</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Fertility Awareness and American Disabilities Act Anniversary</td>
<td>pray for their refugees and learn about - choose to fast from something that a refugee would likely not have access to - Do a coat drive for the upcoming winter months - Call Catholic Charities and ask what needs they have for refugee/immigration support - Learn about where Christian martyrdom is still taking place and pray for them</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>End of Life Issues/Euthanasia</td>
<td>- Read Humanae Vitae’s predictions - Pray for women struggling with reproductive health issues - Pray for people to honor the dignity of those with disabilities - Read the Vatican document on Euthanasia by the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith - Pray for those suffering with terminal illness - Invite someone to teach a class on Fertility Awareness to women in order to learn how possibly identify health concerns - Volunteer at Center of Family Love, home for disabled - Evaluate your school and Church for accessibility and friendliness towards those with mental or physical disabilities and propose solutions - visit overpopulationisamyth.com</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>Mental Health/Suicide</td>
<td>- Pray for those living with mental illness - Participate in &quot;write Love on her arms&quot; - Have a prayer service or Mass for survivors of suicide - Watch &quot;Between the Bridge and the River&quot; and see discussion guide - Participate in Yellow Ribbon Week - Distribute crisis hotline info</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>Respect Life: Down Syndrome Awareness, World Day Against Death Penalty</td>
<td>- Pray for an end to the death penalty - Pray the Stations of the Cross - Pray to Respect all Life - Learn about death penalty history and cases in OK - Host a viewing of “Just Mercy” with parent permission - Read “Just Mercy” - Share stories of friends and family with Down Syndrome</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>Adoption/Foster Care</td>
<td>- Reflect on what Adoption means in the Old Testament - Pray for those who are orphaned to find forever homes (perhaps find a local news sources and pray for those kids by name) - Bring in representative from Catholic Charities to talk about adoption - Do a Christmas toy drive for Foster kids - Invite someone to share their story and experience with adoption</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>Violence/Domestic Violence</td>
<td>- Read the story of the Woman Caught in Adultery in Scripture - Pray for victims of violence - Discuss dating violence/bring in a speaker or counselor to bring awareness of warning signs - Distribute resources for help - Volunteer to fundraise or work at Catholic Charities’ Sanctuary for Women</td>
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Sample Agenda

I. Open in Prayer

II. Welcome New Members

III. Review Old Business

IV. Educate
   A. Identify the Topic of the Month
   B. Share a Resource (invite speaker, watch video, read article/book)
   C. Discuss

V. Advocate
   A. How can we bring this topic to the general student body?
      1. What materials do we distribute
      2. What media do we share
   B. What do we need to do to advocate for this respect life need?
      1. Volunteer
      2. Fundraise
      3. Educate
      4. Advocate

VI. Assign Goals for the Month
   A. Add events to calendar
   B. Commit to a Spiritual and/or Corporal Work of Mercy

VII. Close in Prayer/Set Date for next meeting