

Attendees: Philomena Cellilli, Angie Bernardo, Laura Boyle, Tony Fusco, Nancy Fusco, Trudy Madden, Dorothy DeLuca, Jake Miller, Sal Bonfiglio, Roseann Mertes, Gail Bellas, Betty Buettner, Janine Maslyn, Karen Anderson, Megan Bogado, Eileen Lawless, Helen Campbell

1. Opening Prayer – Sal Bonfiglio

Come Lord Jesus, send us your Spirit, and be with us as we seek to make the world a safer dwelling place for all your creation – particularly the weakest and most vulnerable. We welcome our guests this evening, who share our passion for life. Pour out your graces so to allow all people of faith and good will to work together to meet the challenges that threaten the sanctity of life in our world. Come Lord Jesus, send us your Spirit, renew the face of the earth. Amen.

2. Prayers needed for:

- Carl Snipes, in the hospital with pneumonia. Also, once recovered, he will still need prayers for his knee replacement which keeps getting postponed due to this illness.
- Roseann Mertes, for upcoming tests.

3. Legislative Issues – Philomena Cellilli

- Assisted Suicide Bill which passed in both the Assembly and the Senate.
 - Spoke a little on this, especially as it can become a slippery slope, just like abortion has.
 - When abortion first became legal, no one believed that one day it would allow for the abortion of a full term baby.
 - It is not hard to imagine a future in which NJ allows insurance companies and doctors to decide a patient's fate, just like what is already happening elsewhere in the US and Europe. We need to stay vigilant.

4. Welcome to members of St. Joseph's Respect Life ministry

- Attending tonight:
 - Gail Bellas – St. Joe's Parish Staff, responsible for Social Concerns Outreach – i.e. Respect Life, Prayer Shawl, Emergency Meals, Food Bank, Elijah's Soup Kitchen, Sunshine, ..., Healing Ministry
 - Karen Anderson – Respect Life, Healing Ministry, Promoting Unplanned
 - Eileen Lawless – Respect Life, Healing Ministry, Choir, Faith Sharing Group
 - Helen Campbell – Respect Life, Healing Ministry, Choir, Faith Sharing Group
 - Megan Bogado – Respect Life, EM, formerly also involved with Patriots, CCD, Youth Group
- Also in the ministry, but not there tonight are:
 - Carl Panzera
 - Jerry Bove
 - Ken Wetzel
 - Peter Cipparulo
 - Phil Gentile
 - Rachelle Hanna
 - Rita Lecessi
- We shared our ministry involvement with St. Joes:
 - Dcn Sal – Respect Life Spiritual Director, Deacon
 - Nancy Fusco – Respect Life , Prayer Shawl, Women's Group, Rosarians, Babysitting
 - Jake Miller – Respect Life , Reader, Altar Server, Youth Group
 - Dorothy DeLuca – Respect Life , EM, Reader, Communion to Homebound, Website, Scheduling

- Trudy Madden – Respect Life , Rosarians, Caregiving, Bereavement
 - Roseann Mertes – Respect Life, EM
 - Betty Buettner – Respect Life , RCIA, Worship, Pastoral, EM, Reader
 - Janine Maslyn – Respect Life, EM, Communion to the Homes, CCD
 - Angie Bernardo – Respect Life, EM
 - Laura Boyle – Respect Life, 4-H Fair
 - Philomena – Respect Life, Women’s Group, EM, Reader, Bereavement, Lazarus
- Expectations:
 - To work together to promote respect for life
 - To promote events happening between parishes
 1. We discussed Pam Stenzel and how we would like to have St. Joe’s attend next year. Gail Bellas is going to talk to the proper people at St. Joe’s (CCD & Youth Group)
 2. We discussed the movie Unplanned – Karen Anderson spoke very passionately on it
 - ✓ She has an autographed poster which she won from [Carmel Communications](#), the producers of the movie, signed by [Abby Johnson](#), Ashley Bratcher, Cary Solomon, and Chuck Konzelman, which she is using to promote the movie.



- ✓ [Carmel Communications](#) produces movies that promote faith and family culture. You can go to their website to sign up for notices on upcoming movies.

- ✓ Karen highly recommends listening to the interesting free 60 minute webcast, "The **Unplanned** - Post Movie Action Plan", presented by Teresa Tomeo. sponsored by Our Sunday Visitor. You can register and watch the recording by clicking this link: <https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/1915378/EAA8D8A98D49328288E57AF304C5DC98>. This webcast features guests Abby Johnson, and "Unplanned" movie directors Cary Solomon and Chuck Konzelman, and Fr. Frank Pavone. The purpose of the webcast was to discuss the next steps to take.
 - i. Was asked when the DVD would be coming out, they said the plan is in 60 days, but it takes a lot of work; they're adding back stories and behind the scene conversions to the DVD. A Benedictine nun already requested 7000 dvds.
 - ii. Abby's goal is to save other workers at abortion facilities. She started a non-profit **And Then There Were None** (ATTWN) - <https://abortionworker.com/> an organization that exists to help abortion clinic workers leave the abortion industry. ATTWN's vision: No abortion clinic workers, no abortion clinics, no abortions. It starts with the workers

You can register for OSV future

webcasts <https://www.osvcatholicbookstore.com/webcasts>

- ✓ St. Joe's is planning to purchase the DVD when it comes out and will be showing it. They will let us know when that will be happening so we can promote it at MMOG, and attend.
3. We invited St. Joe's to our Divine Mercy Holy Hour, this Sunday April 28th at 3PM. Confessions from 2PM to 3PM.
 4. We discussed Life Chain – St. Joe's stands by Immaculate Conception Church, we stand along Somerset St, from 206, to the corner of Veteran's Memorial Drive. We shared thoughts on how to promote it:
 - ✓ Have the pastor speak on it
 - ✓ Have an information table
 - ✓ Have sign up sheets
 We also mentioned that we have Adoration at MMOG during Life Chain for those that cannot stand outside for that long.
 5. The Coast to Coast Rosary for 2019
 - ✓ Will be on October 13th
 - ✓ Should be prayed at 4PM EST
 - ✓ For more information: <https://rosarycoasttocoast.com/rosary-coast-to-coast-2019/>

5. Pam Stenzel

- Commented on how important it is for teens to make informed choices and that Pam presents the message of chastity as a choice. She gives logical, truthful, medically sound arguments in favor of chastity, including pointing out the risk of contracting diseases that can cause sterility and even death.
- Jake pointed out that in Hillsborough High School they have posters promoting being promiscuous. He would like to see Pam speak at the High School since the kids there are only being given the wrong message, no balance, no choice.
- It was noted that having the Youth Group involved in promoting the talk produced great results. Much better received by our teens than when adults are doing the promotion.

- **Results, from Karen Leyendecker**

The total that signed up were 118, but I believe that several adults that signed up didn't come,

- Total teens were 48
- Total adults were 70

- **Total evaluations 51**

- Teens alone 25
- Adults alone 16
- Adults with teens 10

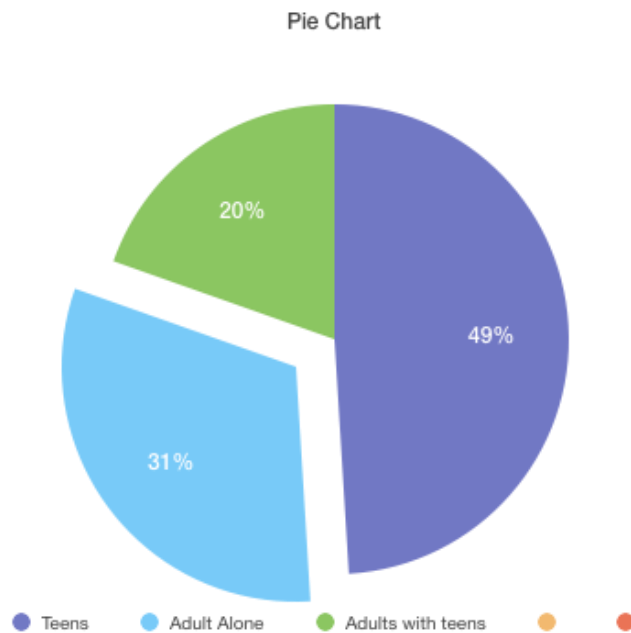
- **Parishes attended**

- MMOG 42
- St. Rose 1
- St. Mary's New Brunswick 1
- Christ the Redeemer 2
- Lady of Lourdes 1
- St. Joseph 2
- Somerville 2
- Zarepath Christian Church 1

- **Comments:**

- Very good topic for young adults. (Adult with teen)(Christ the Redeemer)
- Would see any of her Videos, Pam is great! (Adult)(Christ the Redeemer)
- Amazing (Adult) (St. Mark's New Brunswick)
- Excellent Speaker(Adult) (St. Rose)
- Please come back next year so I can bring my granddaughter. (Adult)(Zarepath Christian Church)
- Pam is powerful. (Adult) (MMOG)
- I saw her DVD...want to see the rest. (Adult)(MMOG)
- Very powerful. Excellent presentation, kids need to hear.(Adult)(MMOG)
- So helpful and We are in need to hear about this. (Adult)(MMOG)
- Very Informative (Adult)(MMOG)
- So good. (Adult)(MMOG)
- I wish there was a Pam Stenzel when I was growing up. Thank you Pam for all that you do! (Adult)(MMOG)
- Pam is an excellent speaker, please keep reaching as many people as you can, all of them.(Adult)MMOG
- Amazing speaker. (Adult) MMOG
- Excellent Presentation that should be seen by ALL teens as a prerequisite for Confirmation. (Adult MMOG)
- Eye Opening and Powerful! (Adult with teen) (MMOG)
- Very interesting even for a parent (Adult with teen) MMOG
- Wonderful (Adult with teen) MMOG
- Very Insightful (Teen) MMOG
- So Good ! (teen) MMOG
- Very informative in a convenient way (Teen) MMOG
- Happy Face. (Teen) MMOG
- Heard her talk before (Teen) MMOG wants to see "Take a look in the Mirror"
- As a teen I was very moved. (Teen) MMOG
- Amazing Please come back again soon. (Adult with teen) MMOG
- Pam, you are a wonderful person! Now take pride as a virgin! (Teen) MMOG

- I absolutely loved this talk, Pam Stenzel is a necessary asset to our youth. (Teen) MMOG
- I've heard her talk before (Teen) (MMOG)



- 2019 NJRTL Banquet Dinner May 3rd
 - Carl Snipes will not be well enough to attend, please keep him in prayer. Karen Anderson will be taking his spot.
 - Fr. John cannot attend. Still looking for a replacement.
- Focus on the Family – May 4th in NYC – Laura Boyle
 - They will be featuring a live 4D image of a third trimester baby which will be broadcast on the jumbotrons in the middle of Manhattan! Apparently this will be streamed.
 - For more information see: <https://jimdaly.focusonthefamily.com/save-the-date-alive-from-new-york-on-may-4th/>
 - They are encouraging everyone to sign the “[Declaration for Life](#)”. Your voice has power and it needs to be heard. Click on the link to sign the declaration! They need 100000 signatures to secure a response on the issue from Congress. **Please sign it if you have not already done so, it takes only a minute or so.**
- Spiritual Adoption – Laura Boyle
 - We did this about 15 years ago.
 - To help stop the anti-life push around the world, the late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen encouraged the spiritual adoption of an unborn child. This is done by praying that the one particular but unknown child’s life be spared abortion and be allowed to continue to live.
 - To help accomplish this, it was recommended an individual say the following daily prayer for a period of nine months. *“Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of [baby’s name] the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.”*
- Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen
 - We would use materials such as:
<http://www.littleonepublishing.com/insidebrochure.html>
 - To sign up to spiritually adopt a baby in danger of abortion, visit:

http://spiritualadoption.org/sign_up_today.html

- In a side discussion, it was noted that Spiritual Adoption need not only be for the unborn. There are many vulnerable people in danger of dying who could be spiritually adopted:
 - Teens under pressure, being bullied or dealing with depression considering suicide
 - The elderly and seriously infirmed considering assisted suicide

Pray for God to give you the name and age of someone in danger of dying, and what battle that person is going through. Spiritually adopt that person and pray for them.

9. Respect Life Mailing Lists were changed. This was not brought up at the meeting, but I wanted to make sure all were aware:

- RespectLife@marymotherofgod.org goes to Philomena as head of Respect Life ministry
- RespectLife-list@marymotherofgod.org is our Mailing List and will send to all of our members, including members from St. Joe's Respect Life ministry.
- RespectLifeCore-list@marymotherofgod.org – Mailing list of Core team members
- RespectLifeTable@marymotherofgod.org – Mailing address for managing table assignments – currently set to forward to Laura Boyle for manning the 4-H Fair Table.

10. Consecration and Mass for our Ministry

- Sal will Consecrate us to Mary at our October meeting since October is Respect Life month
- Jake suggested we have another Monday Night Mass dedicated to Respect Life

11. Changing meeting day

- Proposed days:
 - 2nd Wednesday of the month
 - 3rd Wednesday of the month
 - 3rd Thursday of the month
- Please respond with your preference

12. Closing Prayer – Sal Bonfiglio

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life. Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy.

Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever-new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives, and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life.

— Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae* (1995)

13. **NEXT MEETING August 22nd (unless we change meeting day by then) – *NO May, June or July Meetings***

- Opening Prayer: Carl
- Closing Prayer: John
- Tentative Agenda will be:
 - Review of 4-H Fair – report from Laura

- Review of NJRTL Banquet Dinner – report from those who attended
- Diocesan ProLife Rep Meeting – report from those who attended
- Focus on the Family event in NYC – report from Laura
- Continued St. Joe’s Respect Life Ministry welcome, any new members...
- Life Chain – October 6th, 2PM – 3:30PM
- Coast to Coast Rosary – October 13th at 4PM
- Spiritual Adoption
- Consecration to start October Meeting
- Monday Night Mass for Respect Life
- Propose change of meeting day – if not decided already by email
- Propose change of ministry name to align with Diocese and USCCB
Human Life and Dignity

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dorothy DeLuca.