

Attendees: Philomena Cellilli, Carl Snipes, John Leyendecker, Karen Leyendecker, Angie Bernardo, Betty Buettner, Fr. John, Laura Boyle, Tony Fusco, Nancy Fusco, Roseann Mertes

1. Opening Prayer – Carl Snipes and blessing by Fr. John

Generous God, You provide for the lilies of the field and the birds in the air. You promise to take care of us even when our faith is small. Bless us as we examine the use of Your gifts and seek to use them fairly, honestly and prudently to better our community. During this meeting help us to remember that we are doing Your work, not our own. May we see this meeting as a way of serving You. May all that we do and all that we are give You praise and be for Your honor and glory. We ask this in Your Name and through Your Son our Lord and Savior – Jesus Christ – Amen.

2. Legislative Issues – Philomena Cellilli

- Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (S. 311)
 - the US Senate failed to pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (S. 311) on a vote of 53 to 44, with 3 senators not voting. In the Senate, 60 votes are needed to overcome a filibuster and pass a bill.
 - S. 311 in no way restricted any woman's access to abortion, as abortion advocates claim. The bill was proposed to ensure basic medical and humanitarian care to any child who survives an abortion, a protection not sufficiently provided in federal law.
 - Senators who voted against the bill did not stand up for "choice." Access to abortion was not at issue. Those senators have put themselves on public record as being indifferent to the pain, suffering and death of an infant who survives abortion.
 - In spite of the shocking result, we must not become discouraged. Please take a minute to write to your senators to express appreciation for their support of Born-Alive, or disappointment and disapproval if they voted against it.
 - To take action, click [here](#)
- Assisted Suicide Bill coming up
 - To take action, click [here](#), the Assisted Suicide issue is one of the options.

3. 2019 NJRTL Banquet Dinner May 3rd

- Cost per person is \$100
- Contact Carl with questions about the banquet
- If paying by check, make it out to Dorothy DeLuca, I will be sending in the monies by March 25th to meet the deadline for early registration which is April 3rd.
- **Please let me know as soon as possible if you plan to attend, or if you know you cannot attend.** Based on response, if needed, I will see if I can get some seats at the table next to us.
- Main Speaker [Congressman Trey Gowdy](#) of South Carolina, the MC will be Bill Spadea, NJ Radio 101.5
- Committed Attendees
 - Carl Snipes - *pd*
 - Karen Leyendecker
 - John Leyendecker
 - Philomena Cellilli - *pd*
 - Betty Buettner
 - Angie Bernardo
 - Bern Oles
 - Marianne Khare - *pd*
 - Fr. John - (*paid for by Respect Life ministry*)
 - Roseann Mertes

- Hubert Mertes
- Laura Boyle
- Possible Attendees
 - Fr. Sean – RL ministry would pay
 - Fr. Alex – RL Ministry would pay
- Cannot Attend
 - Dorothy DeLuca – will be in Colorado
 - Trudy Madden – Conflict
 - Bill Madden – Conflict

4. Holy Thursday

- 6 members from the Respect Life ministry will be bringing down the gifts
 - Laura Boyle
 - Roseann Mertes
 - Angie Bernardo
 - Betty Buettner
 - Nancy Fusco
 - Karen Leyendecker

5. Pam Stenzel

- **PROMOTING TO CHURCHES AND BOE**
 - Respect Life Ministry Points of Contact for churches and organizations below should contact the organization, find a contact there, explain who Pam Stenzel is and email them the [flyer](#), or offer to drop some by
 - We should also request that they put in a bulletin blurb or announcement:

**DYNAMIC TEEN SPEAKER COMING TO
Mary, Mother of God Church, Hillsborough
April 7th, at 2PM
Audience: 8th Grade and up
Cost \$10 per teen, adults free**

Pam Stenzel tackles today's tough issues of sex with candor, insight, humor, and the challenge for young people to make the healthiest choice. Day after day teens that hear Pam's message say: **"If someone would have explained the consequences I would have made a different choice, but... NOBODY TOLD ME !"**

- **CHURCHES in our deanery – Respect Life Ministry Points of Contact:**
 - St. Ann's Raritan – Philomena is point of contact
 - Sr Phyllis is contact at St. Ann's
 - St. Joe's Millstone – Philomena is point of contact
 - Going to Diocesan talk, but those who cannot make that talk are welcome to come to ours
 - Immaculate Conception – Philomena is point of contact
 - Going to Diocesan talk, but those who cannot make that talk are welcome to come to ours
 - Patti Jannuzzi is contact at IC
 - Christ the Redeemer- Laura Boyle is point of contact
 - Holy Trinity – Tony Fusco is point of contact
 - St. Charles Borromeo – Roseann Mertes is point of contact
 - St. Joe's Raritan – Dorothy DeLuca is point of contact
 - St. Matthias – Carl Snipes is point of contact

- **CATHOLIC CHURCHES not in our deanery - Respect Life Ministry Points of Contact:**
 - St. Paul's Princeton – Angie Bernardo is point of contact
- **NON CATHOLIC CHURCHES:**
 - Philomena has a list and will be point of contact
- **NON RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS:**
 - Philomena will be contacting the BOE

- **PROMOTING TO CCD CLASSES:**
 - [Flyer](#) to be emailed to parents
 - Youth Group members to talk to CCD Classes, was discussed Sunday 3/3 at Youth Group Meeting.

- **NON RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS:**
 - Philomena will be contacting the BOE

- **REGISTRATION OPTIONS:**
 - We will put the black box in the Gathering Space for registration
 - We should put the flyer in envelopes so payment and registration can be kept together
 - Key for black box is in the office per Donna Amundsen
 - Registration can be given to the office and payment mailed or dropped off there
 - Registration can be emailed to teenspeaker@marymotherofgod.org and a check mailed to the parish office
 - Walk ins will be welcome, but registration ahead of time is preferred

- **PROMOTION:**
 - We received no assistance from the Diocese on this
 - Karen has made the [flyer](#).
 - Karen has added a banner on the homepage with a link to the [flyer](#).
 - Karen has made a poster and is looking into getting them made up like Don Thorsen does for Bible Study
 - Karen has given the [flyer](#) to Maria in the Spanish Ministry to translate, to be completed by 3/4/19
 - DATES:
 - Father/Deacon will speak at all Masses weekend of March 9/10
 - Will go into March Bulletin weekend of 9/10
 - Announcements will be made all weekends from March 16/17 on
 - Youth Group discussing when they will talk to CCD Classes March 3rd
 - Notify other ministries and groups for promoting
 - Women's Group
 - Men's Group
 - Chapter B – Tony Fusco, inviting parents/grandparents/aunts/uncles... to invite teens they know

- **OTHER ITEMS:**
 - Rosarians have offered to pay \$500 towards costs if needed
 - Other groups have already contributed some monies, three groups \$87 each.
 - Do we want to provide bottles of water? This was not firmly decided upon.
 - Sign in forms at the beginning should be created
 - Evaluation forms at the end should be created
 - Promote the showing of Parent's Matter DVD as a followup a month after Pam's talk

6. Respect Life Literature

- A number of informational flyers were donated to our ministry from a person that was closing her business. These items were given to Roseann to inventory
- Roseann is looking into getting a deal on wooden roses to use as a fundraiser. These are sold currently at the Hillsborough Diner.

7. Closing Prayer – John Leyendecker and blessing by Fr. John

Loving God, I thank you for the gift of life you gave and continue to give to me and to all of us. Merciful God, I ask your pardon and forgiveness for my own failure and the failure of all people to respect and foster all forms of life in our universe. Gracious God, I pray that with your grace, I and all people will reverence, protect, and promote all life and that we will be especially sensitive to the life of the unborn, the abused, neglected, disabled, and the elderly. I pray, too, that all who make decisions about life in any form will do so with wisdom, love, and courage. Living God, I praise and glorify you as Father, Source of all life, as Son, Savior of our lives, and as Spirit, Sanctifier of our lives.

Amen

8. **NEXT MEETING March 28th**

- Opening Prayer: Carl ??
- Closing Prayer: John

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dorothy DeLuca.