

Attendees: Philomena Cellilli, John Leyendecker, Karen Leyendecker, Angie Bernardo, Laura Boyle, Tony Fusco, Nancy Fusco, Trudy Madden, Dorothy DeLuca

### 1. Opening Prayer – John Leyendecker

*Heavenly Father, the beauty and dignity of human life was the crowning of your creation. You further ennobled that life when your Son became one with us in his incarnation. Help us to realize the sacredness of human life and to respect it from the moment of conception until the last moment at death. Give us courage to speak with truth and love and with conviction in defense of life. Help us to extend the gentle hand of mercy and forgiveness to those who do not reverence your gift of life. To all, grant pardon for the times we have failed to be grateful for your precious gift of life or to respect it in others. We ask this in Jesus' Name. 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 passed in both the Assembly and the Senate.
  - the Assembly passed the Assisted Suicide bill (A1504/S1072) by the bare minimum number of votes needed to pass- 41 votes. The Senate also passed the bill by the bare minimum votes needed – only 21 votes.
  - Governor Murphy issued a statement announcing his intention to sign it into law.
  - To take action, **contact the Governor** and urge him to Veto or conditionally veto A1504/S1072. Phone the Governor: 609 292 6000. Email the Governor: <https://www.state.nj.us/governor/contact/>.

### 3. Respect Life Mailing Lists

- [RespectLife@marymotherofgod.org](mailto:RespectLife@marymotherofgod.org) goes to Philomena as head of Respect Life ministry
- [Respect-Life@marymotherofgod.org](mailto:Respect-Life@marymotherofgod.org) is our Mailing List and will send to all of our 67 members
  - There is an unsubscribe link
  - Subject will be prepended with: MMOG Respect Life:
  - I changed behavior
    - ✓ Reply will now reply to original sender, not entire mailing list
    - ✓ Reply all will reply to entire mailing list
- It was decided we should have a separate mailing list for members that attend meetings. It has been created and is: [Respect-Life-Core@marymotherofgod.org](mailto:Respect-Life-Core@marymotherofgod.org)
  - **PLEASE NOTE, if you “Reply All” to an email that went out to [Respect-Life@marymotherofgod.org](mailto:Respect-Life@marymotherofgod.org) and you really want it to just go to the core group, modify the To: address to change **Respect-Life** to **Respect-Life-Core****

- The current list of members is (please let me know if I missed anyone):

Angie Bernardo  
Betty Buettner  
Carl Snipes  
Deacon Sal Bonfiglio  
Dorothy Deluca  
Fr. John Rozembajger  
Francisco Marin  
Jake Miller  
John Leyendecker  
Karen Leyendecker  
Laureen Westover  
Mai Chirinos  
Marianne Khare  
Nancy Fusco  
Philomena Cellilli  
Roseann Mertes  
Tony Fusco  
Trudy Madden

4. 2019 NJRTL Banquet Dinner May 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Cost per person is \$100
- Contact Carl with questions about the banquet
- If paying by check, make it out to Dorothy DeLuca, check has been sent to meet the deadline for early registration which is April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- LOCATION:

Hyatt Regency Hotel New Brunswick  
2 Albany Street  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

**For GPS, use 200 Neilson Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901**

**Since the parking garage is on the side street.**

- 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 - *pd*
  - John Leyendecker - *pd*
  - Philomena Cellilli - *pd*
  - Betty Buettner
  - Angie Bernardo - *pd*
  - Bern Oles - *pd*
  - Marianne Khare - *pd*
  - Fr. John - (*paid for by Respect Life ministry*)
  - Roseann Mertes - *pd*
  - Hubert Mertes - *pd*
  - Laura Boyle – *pd*
  - Philip Strollo

- Cannot Attend
  - Dorothy DeLuca – will be in Colorado
  - Trudy Madden – Conflict
  - Bill Madden – Conflict
  - Fr. Sean

#### 5. 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
- It was brought up that members of the Respect Life ministry should try to spend some time on Holy Thursday after the Mass of the Lord's Supper until midnight in Adoration, offering up the time spent for the Pro-Life intentions. **We will send out an email to the entire ministry and propose a set time when we might meet as a group.**

#### 6. Pam Stenzel

- **STATUS**
  - **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
      - Not coming, but will let students know if they feel the information is needed. (we are not quite sure what that means)
    - 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
      - Mai dropped a flyer off to the head of the Youth Group
    - 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, but has not been responsive
    - Christ the Redeemer- **Laura Boyle** is point of contact
      - Angie dropped off flyer to the parish secretary
      - Laura called spoke to the secretary who said she would put copies in the back of the Church
      - Laura asked about putting into the bulletin and the secretary said it was too late to do that. The secretary did not appear to be pleased to help.
    - Holy Trinity – **Tony Fusco** is point of contact
      - NO STATUS REPORTED
    - St. Charles Borromeo – **Roseann Mertes** is point of contact
      - Both Roseann and Philomena tried contacting
      - Angie brought flyers there
    - St. Joe's Raritan – **Dorothy DeLuca** is point of contact
      - Spoke with Jim Piccolo
      - They have three 8<sup>th</sup> Grade CCD students and will ensure they have the flyer
      - I invited Jim and the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade CCD teacher to attend so they will know how to promote it next year. They did not commit.
    - St. Matthias – **Carl Snipes** is point of contact
      - Carl has called but not gotten any response

- **CATHOLIC CHURCHES not in our deanery - Respect Life Ministry Points of Contact:**
  - St. Bernard's – **Marianne** said she had a contact there
  - St. Magdalen's – **Angie** gave Miriam, the Parish secretary, a copy of the flyer and asked for something to be put into the bulletin. Miriam was going to ask the Pastor. Angie will follow up.
  - St. Paul's, Princeton – **Angie** contacted them
    - They will put an announcement in their bulletin
  - **Philomena** may have contacted some others
- **NON CATHOLIC CHURCHES:**
  - Harlingen Church – **Angie** contacted them
  - Christian Church of Somerset – **Angie** contacted them
  - St. Mary's Byzantine – **Angie** contacted them
  - Temple Beth El – **Angie** placed a flyer in their mailbox
  - Emmanuel Baptist Church – **Angie** gave a flyer to one of the caretakers
- **NON RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS:**
  - Montessori School – **Angie** gave a flyer for the parents
  - **Angie** contacted Manville public library (Jen, Librarian) and the high school (Mrs. Banders)
    - It was thought the talk did not mention God and they were thinking of putting the flyers up. They were both informed that this presentation will mention God.
  - **Philomena** contacted the BOE
- **PROMOTING TO CCD CLASSES:**
  - [Flyer](#) was emailed to parents of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students
  - Youth Group members spoke to all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students on Mar 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. They led both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Stations of the Cross. After Stations, the 7<sup>th</sup> graders left and Youth Group members talked about Pam Stenzel. Every 8<sup>th</sup> grader was given the flyer. In fact 8<sup>th</sup> graders that did not get a copy of the flyer were asking for it, such was their interest!
- **REGISTRATION SO FAR:**
  - From Karen's [spreadsheet](#) we have 38 teens and 52 adults
  - 9 teens have paid – total \$90 collected
- **FINANCES:**
  - **WE NEED TO HAVE A CHECK FOR \$1000 FROM Fr. John to give to Pam on Sunday – Philomena will ensure this happens**
  - Total collected so far:
    - We have **\$90** collected from teens attending. *(The amount may have changed...)*
    - We have \$845 from:
      - Altar Rosary will pay \$500
      - \$250 was covered by a few of the core for deposit
      - Any extra monies collected for the NJRTL Banquet will go to cover the cost, we should have \$95 extra since Fr. Sean is not attending the Banquet.
  - Total cost for Pam is \$1250
  - Still owe: **\$315** *(May change based on amount collected from teens)*
  - **If all teens pay that are not on record as paying yet, that is another \$290**
  - We will put out a Free Will Offering basket or container at the end of the event
  - **Karen** will handle checks/cash at end of the night
- **SETUP**
  - **We need to make sure that the chairs used at Comedy Night REMAIN in Schellburg Hall after they are taken down Who will take care of this?**

- **Tony** will take the lead to make sure tables are removed and chairs set up after the Sunday Coffee Social on April 7<sup>th</sup>
  - We need to keep one or two rectangular tables for Pam's items to sell
  - We need to keep two rectangular tables for registration, they need to be moved to the gathering space
  - **Do we want to have one table with bottled water???**
- **John** will be in charge of audio
- **Karen and Youth Group** will be greeters
- Registration tables
  - We will have two tables outside of Schellburg Hall for registration
  - **Trudy, Laura, Angie and Dorothy** will take care of registration, 2 people per table
- After talk starts
  - Change out registration tables so that they contain Feedback Forms and Free Will Offering baskets or container (**Karen** has one that Youth Group uses)
- **FOLLOW UP**
  - Feedback Forms
    - Karen put this together: [Feedback Form](#)
  - Letter to Parents as they enter
    - Karen put this together: [Letter to Parents](#)
  - Follow up DVD for Parents
    - **Karen** to ask Pam what she would recommend
      - **Parents Matter?**
      - Have Pam announce our upcoming DVD showing
    - **Date to show DVD – May 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 in Schellburg Hall**
      - Chose 1:30 to give time to clear out after 12N Mass
      - Offer refreshments
      - **John** will work the video
      - **Karen, Nancy and possibly Philomena** will not be available this day

#### 7. Focus on the Family – May 4<sup>th</sup> in NYC

- 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!
- 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!

#### 8. UNPLANNED movie and follow-up Holy Hour and discussion

- The movie UNPLANNED is the true story of Abby Johnson, a former director of Planned Parenthood
  - It will be shown April 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM, at the AMC Theater in New Brunswick
  - cost is \$5 for a reserved seat
  - Click [here](#) to make your reservation
- Follow up Holy Hour for Life, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the Diocese followed by fellowship and discussion
- See the [Flyer](#) for more information
- This [flyer](#) was sent to the Respect-Life mailing list

9. Closing Prayer – John Leyendecker - **AWESOME!!!**

*Father, in Jesus our Lord, we praise and thank you for your most precious gift of human life and for forming us in your divine image. Keep us, the dwelling place of your most Holy Spirit, ever healthy in body and soul. Jesus, Divine Healer, pour your grace upon all those afflicted with illness or disease. Protect from all harm those who are vulnerable due to sickness, suffering, frailty, poverty or age, whether elderly or unborn. Holy Spirit, touch the hearts of all who serve human life in medicine and science, so they will protect the dignity of each person, from conception to natural death, and remain faithful advocates of all entrusted to their care. Grant those who are called to serve as health care providers renewed conviction in their ministry, and increased wisdom to treat the whole person, and not merely the illness. Protect the right of health care providers to serve their patients without being forced to violate their moral and religious convictions. Guard them against discrimination, that they might be free to follow you faithfully while fulfilling their professional duties. Grant our lawmakers the wisdom and courage to uphold conscience rights for those called to the ministry of healing, and help them resist the pressure to become collaborators in the culture of death. Give us strength to be bold and joyful witnesses to the truth that every human life is sacred. In your goodness, guard our freedom to live out our faith and to follow you in all that we do. Father, we ask this in Jesus' name, through the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

**10. NEXT MEETING April 25<sup>th</sup> – *NO May, June or July Meetings***

- Opening Prayer: Carl
- Closing Prayer: John
- Tentative Agenda will be:
  - Review of Pam Stenzel Talk
  - Any Early Prep for Life Chain

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dorothy DeLuca.