

Mary Mother of God – Respect for Life Meeting

September 28th, 2017

Attendees: Philomena Cellilli, Dorothy DeLuca, John Leyendecker, Karen Leyendecker, Trudy Madden, Carl Snipes, Sal Bonfiglio

1. Opening Prayer – Carl Snipes

Heavenly Father, we come to you today asking for your guidance, wisdom and support as we begin this meeting. Help us to engage in meaningful discussion; allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of community. Fill us with your grace, Lord God, and continue to remind us that all that we do here today, all that we accomplish, is for the pursuit of truth, for the greater glory of you, and for the service of humanity. We ask these things in your name, Amen.

2. Life Chain

- Bit of a conflict, with the UNICO Italian Festival.
- We will have table and handouts in the Narthax. Carl put together a handout with the Life Chain Code of Conduct on it. Plus we had two others:
 - [Handout1](#)
 - [Handout2](#)
- At the Diocesan Meeting they mentioned there would be new corrugated Life Chain Posters.

3. Respect Life Workshop

- Phil mentioned an upcoming 2 part workshop at St. Magdalen's Church in Flemington.
- The workshop will be given by Jennifer Ruggiero.
- Dates are Oct 5th and Oct 19th
- We wanted to ask the Diocese for more information on:
 - Chastity/Abstinence
 - More up to date political items
 - Health talks

4. Pam Stenzel

- Talks will be on March 13th and 14th.
- Karen will ask Chris about bussing older kids to one of the talks, we are thinking St. Joe's on the 14th.
- Phil will ask Altar Rosary about funding bus
- Carl will research cost again, Conover, 908-874-5803

5. Youth Involvement

- Fr. Sean was approached and is in support, we need to come up with activities to draw them in

6. Critical Life Issues Conference

- Oct 14th, Phil and Trudy are planning on going

7. October's First Friday Rosary is for Respect Life

- Sal will be giving a talk
- Marianne will lead the rosary
- Decades will be led by Angie, Trudy, Sal, Mai & Family, John

8. Legislative Issues

- Marianne Khare's update can be found [here](#).
- Phil noted that Donna Simon and Mark McGuire are both 100% pro-life

- Another interesting note, there is a very large secular prolife movement. Of all pro-lifers, 6 million of them are either atheist or not affiliated with any church.

9. NJRTL/SCRTL Update –Carl

- Carl's update can be found [here](#)
- 4H Fair additional notes:
 - the 7mos model was stolen
 - The small babies handed out were very popular

10. ProLife Rep Meeting – attended by Carl

- Carl's report is [here](#)

11. Poster Contest

- We should ask Chris to promote this
- The Diocesan Website has still not updated the info for the contest for 2018.

12. March and Rally for Life

- March for Life in Washington will be on Jan 19th, Youth rally will be at the Verizon Center, tickets will be needed in will be in short supply, contact Jennifer Ruggiero if interested.
- Rally for Life in Trenton will be on Jan 22nd

13. Caregiver Ministry – Trudy

- St. Joe's Millstone gave a caregiver's workshop
 - Spoke about caregiver retreats, resources, ... It is a ministry to help caregivers, not to provide care
- They asked MMOG Bereavement group to give a talk
- Would something like this ministry fit under Respect Life? What should we do?

14. Some miscellaneous notes

- YouTube video: Nellie, a Life Worth Living
- Southern Poverty Law Group is promoting hatred by calling religious groups hate groups. They have listed both the Catholic Church and the Ruth Institute as hate groups. We need to pray to combat this attitude.

15. Closing Prayer – John Leyendecker

Lord and giver of all life, help us to value each person, created in love by you.

In your mercy, guide and assist our efforts to promote the dignity and value of all human life, born and unborn. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

16. NEXT MEETING Oct 26th

- Opening Prayer: we will start the meeting in the Church with a blessing from Sal
- Closing Prayer: John