

# Respect Life



*For You formed my inmost being; You knit me in my mother's womb."*

*Psalm 139:13*

Respect for Life at every stage is a core value of our faith. A million children are being lost to abortion every year in the United States; it is the defining issue of our time. Some doctors see abortion as the appropriate response to malformation of a child in the womb. Euthanasia is also a growing threat.

There are many ministries who lovingly seek to improve the quality of life of our neighbors. The Respect Life ministry seeks to preserve life itself. In addition to trying to rescue children from abortion, we want to help their mothers to not only avoid the painful aftermath of abortion, but to plan to provide for a nurturing home for their child, whether through adoption or parenting. We also want to nurture a respect for life at every stage, under every condition.

# Respect Life Committee St. Laurence Church

- Mission:**
- 1. Education:** Inform the community on life issues, and the church's teachings. Life and related issues include abortion, contraception, in vitro fertilization, use of human embryos in research, marriage, assisted suicide, euthanasia, end of life care, and the death penalty.
  - 2. Pastoral Care:** Reach out to pregnant women, post-abortive women, the disabled, prisoners.
  - 3. Public Policy:** Inform the community on current political issues, and encourage and facilitate communication of pro-life values to legislative representatives.
  - 4. Prayer:** for women who are tempted to abort, for those who are suffering from past abortions, for conversion of those involved in the abortion ministry, and for greater respect for human life at all stages, in every circumstance.

## Activities:

**Education:** Bulletin items, Brochure of the Month, information on the web site, presentations  
Occasional tables at Hospitality Sunday, especially January and October.  
White Crosses on the lawn – for one or two weeks around Jan 22, anniversary of Roe v. Wade  
Spiritual Adoption Program - follow development of a child in the womb while praying for them.  
Participation in Life Chain (October)

**Pastoral Care:** Gabriel Project: parish "angels" are matched with pregnant women in need. Baby items are collected and given to moms in need.

**2019: Looking for a new Gabriel Project Coordinator.**

Mother's Day Carnation Sale (to raise funds for Gabriel project)  
Baby Shower – Tag line asking for baby items to give to needy moms through the Gabriel Project, hosting  
shower at May Hospitality Sunday.

Activities to support the Pregnancy Resource Center: Baby Bottle Fundraiser

Miscarriage Mass – 6:30 pm Mass, on a Wednesday near the feast of the Assumption (Aug 15).

Flowers and prayer cards are offered to moms who have miscarried.

Miscarriage Support package available at Parish office.

**Other possibilities:** Christmas cards for prisoners, calling Bingo at a nursing home.

**Public Policy:** Voter Registration Drive, information on Conscientious Voting on even numbered years.  
Parishioners who are registrars may accept completed registration cards. Participation in the Diocesan Advocacy Day in Austin.

**Prayer:** Rosary for the Preborn: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, after the 11:00 Mass.

Spiritual Adoption Program - prayer for nine months (Aug – May) for a child in danger of abortion.

Participation in: Life Chain, 40 Days for Life, Sidewalk Advocacy or prayer support outside abortion clinics.

Coordinator: Marie McCoy Mob: 281-610-3986 [mariemccoyprc@gmail.com](mailto:mariemccoyprc@gmail.com) H: 281-265-7749

## Respect Life Committee Volunteer positions:

### A. Once a year responsibilities:

- 1. January: White Crosses Coordinator:** (400 white crosses are placed in the church lawn on Austin Parkway near the intersection with Sweetwater to represent the roughly 3500 babies aborted every day in the U.S. (formerly 4000/day). Recruit volunteers and coordinate placing of crosses, prayer at the crosses on **Jan 22** or other day near that date, and removal of the crosses. Crosses are stored in the storage unit in the corner of the parking lot across from the parish hall. **Currently: Deacon Dennis Henderson.**
- 2. Pro-Life Stations of the Cross:** Arrange with Liturgy Coordinator (Rosemary M.) to designate one Friday in Lent for a Pro-Life Stations of the Cross. We already have booklets to use. Recruit any volunteers needed to participate and publicize the event. **Currently: NEEDED**
- 3. 40 Days for Life Coordinator:** Work with Marie to recruit participation in 40 Days for Life during Lent, with tables in plaza, other means. **Currently: NEEDED**
- 4. April: Baby Bottle Boomerang Coordinator:** Work with Marie to schedule with PRMC and Social Concerns for April (avoiding Easter) and staff a table in the Plaza for two weeks. Get bottles from PRMC, recruit volunteers to distribute the first weekend, and both collect and distribute the second weekend. After the second weekend a basket is left at the hospitality desk and Marie can usually collect from it and will empty all the bottles. **Currently: NEEDED**
- 5. May: Baby Shower Coordinator:** Produce tags for baby item tag line, recruit volunteers to staff tag line, recruit cakes and decorate for parish baby shower, held at Hospitality Sunday on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of May. **Currently: Barbara Pane - looking for a replacement**
- 6. April -May: Mother's Day Flower Sale:** Reserve table in plaza, arrange for purchase and acquisition of flowers, volunteers to sell, change to start with. Turn in money to Social Concerns. **Currently: Barbara Pane - looking for a replacement.**
- 7. August: Miscarriage Mass Coordinator:** (Miscarriage Mass is done on a Wednesday in August near the feast of the Assumption.) Work with the music ministry to arrange music. Keep supply of holy cards given out, and order more when needed. Order and purchase 50 white (or pink, yellow) roses, and bring them to the church. Recruit volunteers to help give out the roses after Mass. **Currently: Barbara Pane and Amy Curiel – may need additional help.**
- 8. Life Chain Assistant:** Work with Edward Young to recruit participation (tables in plaza for 2 weeks) in Life Chain (last Sunday of October), obtain signatures on waivers, and give out signs. **Currently: NEEDED**
- 9. Nov- Dec Possibility: Christmas Card Coordinator:** Work with elementary school teachers to have students make Christmas cards for prisoners; other parish children may be invited to contribute cards with a bulletin announcement. Collect cards, sort out inappropriate cards and

deliver to Deacon Al and/or Deacon Charles to bring to prisoners.

Has not been done for some years. **Currently: NEEDED**

## **B. Ongoing or most of the year positions.**

- 1. Gabriel Project Coordinator:** Accept calls from diocese referring Gabriel clients, assign clients to angels. Recruit angels and have them go through training. Attend Diocesan meetings for Gabriel project coordinators. Accept donations of baby items and keep them organized and ready for giving to clients. Conduct a flower sale on Mother's Day to raise funds, and solicit cakes and decorate the parish hall for the baby shower at the May Hospitality Sunday. Sort donated baby items and arrange for sharing with needier parishes.

**Currently: Barbara Pane - looking for a replacement**

**Also needed: Angels to work with pregnant moms, Flower sale and Baby Shower Coordinators.**

- 2. Brochure of the Month:** Work with Marie to choose a Brochure of the month for each month of the year. Place the brochures at the Hospitality Desk at Church and at the AMC reception desk. Update the web site and send out the summary of the brochure to ministry leaders. Approach ministries to encourage them to feature the brochure of the month at their meetings, or to forward the summary to their email list. **Currently: NEEDED**
- 3. Spiritual Adoption Coordinator:** Keep the monthly posters depicting the development of the baby, and bring the appropriate poster to the foyer of the Corpus Christi room each month, and making sure it is on display on Hospitality Sunday. Send bullet points for the fetal development to Ron Martinez to be included in video slide show.  
**Currently: Amy Curiel**
- 4. Hospitality Sunday table coordinator:** Schedule Respect Life table at Hospitality Sundays throughout the year (especially January, October, and to accompany the Baby Shower in May). Prepare materials and schedule volunteers to represent Respect Life after each morning Mass.  
**Currently: NEEDED**
- 5. Possibility: Family Rosary and Pot Luck Dinner Coordinator:** Recruit a host for the dinner for even months of the year. Coordinate who will bring what, and bring rosary booklets and extra rosaries. Has not been done for years because of a lack of coordinator. **Currently: NEEDED**
- 6. Possibility: Bingo Coordinator:** Recruit, schedule, and remind Bingo volunteers. (If Respect Life decides to commit to call Bingo once a month at a nursing home) **Currently: NEEDED**