



**St. Stephen Respect Life Ministry October 25, 2016, Meeting Minutes and News**

**November Dates**

- 11/02 7:30 – 5:30 PM 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. Renton Cedar River Clinics Sidewalk Vigils (1-hr each)
- 11/04 6:00 – 7:00 PM 1<sup>st</sup> Fri. Pro-Life Adoration (with Knights of Columbus)
- 9:00–10:00 PM 1<sup>st</sup> Fri. Pro-Life Adoration (RLM, Gabriel Proj, Legis.Advocacy)
- 11/05 9:30–11:00 AM 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. Kent Truth & Prayer witnessing, Kent Planned Parenthood
- 11/14 7:15 – 9:00 PM Nov. Legislative Advocacy meets, Conference Room (after Mass)
- 11/22 7:15 – 9:00 PM Nov. RLM meeting in Copy Room (after 6:30 PM Mass)

St. Stephen Respect Life Ministry met at 7:30 PM in St. Stephen's Copy Room.

**Attending**

Mary K., Gina, Lisa, Nancy, Bob and Joann, Bernie, and Mary S.; Rudy, Linda, and Colleen (St. John).

**Opening**

We opened our meeting with a pre-election novena prayer, for our country, addressed to the Holy Trinity through the intercession of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. Please download it from [www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/heres-a-pre-election-novena-to-mary-patroness-of-the-us-22880/](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/heres-a-pre-election-novena-to-mary-patroness-of-the-us-22880/)

We welcomed our new friends, Colleen and Nancy, with self-introductions.

**“Mother of Life” Pictures**

Recently ordered "Mother of Life" prints were distributed to all buyers present. Fr. Yu blessed them along with our newly-framed pictures at tonight's Mass.



Others have asked to order the prints. Because bulletin deadline had passed for announcing the ordering event in advance, we will take orders in the narthex on November 5-6 and 12-13. November 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> bulletin notices will announce the sale. These orders will arrive in time to be Christmas gifts.

The artist donated a generous percentage of her profit from our order to our ministry and added an 11" x 14" print of another picture entitled "Love Eternal," which we will frame. (See Spiritual Adoptions below.)

**Jason Evert Oct. 20**

SSTM's Youth Minister, Debbie, thanks us for contributing \$1,000.00 toward the cost of bringing nationally known pro-life Catholic speaker and author Jason Evert to Renton. Teens, their parents, St. Anthony teachers, and more lauded Jason's Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> presentations as excellent and thoroughly engaging. See the website, Pure Chastity <http://jasonevert.com/>

After the presentation, Lisa's 16-year old son said, "I think I can stay for a few minutes in Adoration."

Several years ago we found bringing Jason Evert to Renton was too costly, so we were pleased to contribute to the joint effort that benefitted many.

**SSTM September “Festival of Lay Involvement”**



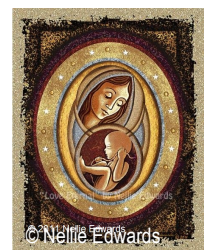
September 24-25, Respect Life and Legislative Advocacy and Gabriel Project Ministries participated in the SSTM ministry fair named Festival of Lay Involvement with displays in the narthex. All were invited. The narthex was crowded with ministries all vying for attention at the same time. Respect Life offered handouts including our then-new "Mother of Life" prayer cards, Spiritual Adoption prayer cards, lists of October and November opportunities for volunteers, and more.

The **Spiritual Adoption** prayer cards were well received and planted intended seeds of interest.

We will soon submit an evaluation form to the organizers and will offer suggestions for improving results at such ministry fairs in the future.

**Spiritual Adoptions**

The Spiritual Adoption Program is in its second month. A narthex easel displays progressing fetal development and a companion board displays parishioner participation. Once each month Lisa writes a bulletin notice with a picture and description of development. Nellie Edwards has granted permission to use her "Love Eternal" (shown here) in such a Spiritual Adoption bulletin notice.



Lisa will meet with Deacon Carl next week to complete a Charter Document for the Spiritual Adoptions program to include in St. Stephen (SSTM) parish records.

Lisa will talk with Kim to coordinate a May Pregnancy Aid baby shower with an all-parish Social (maybe a potluck).

**Innocent Lives and Truth on the November Ballot**

Many Catholics need reminding that Catholic moral Teaching insists that human Life issues be given the

highest priority, that Truth demands recognizing that marriage (possible only between one man and one woman) is essential to maintain a civilized society, and that religious freedom must be preserved, etc. We asked our SSTM clergy to speak to these teachings in their homilies during at least three of the five weekends of October, pro-life month, because **Church Teaching compels all adult Catholic U.S. citizens to VOTE according to Catholic Doctrine.**

See Father Ed's columns in October bulletins at... <http://ststephenslife.com/bulletins/20161023.pdf> and <http://ststephenslife.com/bulletins/20161030.pdf> Father Yu incorporated the topic in homilies.

<http://ststephenslife.com/legislative-advocacy> offers resources as well. Don't miss the new link to the document entitled "**Helpful Links for Investigating Policies.**" And summaries of USCCB directives to Catholic citizens regarding their responsibilities are also downloadable from <http://ststephenslife.com/legislative-advocacy>

Priests for Life 2016 Party Platform Comparison Sheet is available for download from... <http://www.priestsforlife.org/candidates/2016-platform-comparison-web.pdf>

#### Things to Ponder

- Mary K proposes we produce another set of "business cards" for our ministry, similar to our new "Mother of Life" cards. The new card will have a prayer we will pen that reflects our mission. What do we want this, our own, prayer to be?
- Thomas has offered to make a **new double-sided 72" long banner** as soon as we send him the "camera-ready" digital image for its design. The "Mother of Life" artist has given us permission to use the image on the banner. What will this new banner look like? What will it say?
- Shall we ask Thomas to make **pink and blue vinyl "flags,"** each representing a specific quantity of aborted babies? Flags are much easier to store and to transport than our pretty wooden crosses.

#### Miscellaneous

- We changed our name from Respect Life Committee (RLC) to the more descriptive Respect Life Ministry (RLM).
- Joann or Ron will be our liaison to the newly formig **Social and Human Concerns Commission.**
- Watch [www.facebook.com/StStephenProLife](http://www.facebook.com/StStephenProLife) for posts and reminders of our next-day events. (No need to "sign in" to Facebook to view this site!) <http://ststephenslife.com/respect-life> offers downloadable meeting minutes and resources of

interest to sidewalk prayer warriors and more. Our other **SSTM Respect Life Committee sites** are <https://sites.google.com/site/respectlifecommittee> and <http://ststephensrespectlife.blogspot.com/>.

- Note to 2016 **4US** donors: The 4US all-volunteer staff has been slow cashing donors' checks. Those concerned that a check was not received may verify it is in 4US possession by finding SSTM donors' names in the list at <https://app.4us.org/Fundraising/View/11769>.
- **Life Chain Sunday** brought some 45 people to Kent, including a group from a Kent Christian church and their pastor. We will invite them to first Saturday witnessing.
- Mary K joined some 130 others at the huge St. Louis Planned Parenthood when the **40 Days for Life** group touring the country came to speak and pray there. Rudy joined 200 at the Cedar River Clinics in Tacoma when the same national group arrived there to speak on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October. See photos at <https://40daysforlife.com/united/>.
- **Students for Life** <http://studentsforlife.org> and **Created Equal** [www.createdequal.org](http://www.createdequal.org) are two groups currently touring the country attending political rallies showing graphic truth about abortion and exposing Planned Parenthood realities to prospective voters.
- We will make more handout packets for our sidewalk prayer warriors. Bernie reminds us our presence is the more significant component of sidewalk prayer vigils.
- Jane has made certain a parishioner led a **Rosary** before each weekend Mass on all five weekends of the pro-life month of October. And thanks to the Rosary Makers, everyone was offered a blessed rosary.
- We will set up an easel in the narthex with a pro-life picture on a flag-print backdrop on this last weekend of this pro-life month of October.
- We will plan a **Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>** Lady of Guadalupe celebration, possibly asking Father for a morning Mass that Monday.
- We will resume study of "**Theology of the Body**" next meeting. We have read "The Pope's Thesis," the first section describing St. John Paul II's revolutionary concept of using the visible mystery of man and woman's sexuality as a sign to the invisible mystery hidden in God. See <http://www.sjcursillo.org/theology%20of%20the%20body.pdf> for a downloadable version of the work.
- Thank you to Bernie for bringing good bar snacks!
- Louise appreciates our prayers. Please continue!

#### Closing

We closed with the prayer for our upcoming elections found at <http://ststephenslife.com/legislative-advocacy>.



Next meeting 7:15 (after 6:30 PM Mass), Tuesday, Nov. 22nd, in the Copy Room

