



St. Stephen Respect Life Ministry June 27, 2017, Meeting Minutes and News

RLM July Dates

- 07/01 10:15 – 11:15 AM 1st Saturday Truth and Prayer witnessing*
07/05 7:30 – 5:30 PM 1st Wednesday Renton Cedar River Clinics Sidewalk Prayer Vigils (1-hr each)
07/07 6:00 – 7:00 PM 1st Friday Pro-Life Eucharistic Adoration (with Knights of Columbus)
7:00 – 8:00 PM 1st Friday Pro-Life Eucharistic Adoration (RLC, Gabriel Proj, Legis. Advocacy)
8:00 -10:00 PM 1st Friday Movie & Munchies (Conference Room)
07/23 Coffee & Donuts after Sunday morning Masses (promoting 4US.org)
07/25 7:15 – 9:00 PM RLM meets in Copy Room (after 6:30 PM Mass)

***NOTE: Time change July only, accommodating SSTM Fortnight for Freedom Holy Hour till 10.**

<http://ststephenslife.com/respect-life/>

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

Attending

Guest Mark Cerasuolo (Healing the Culture), Mary K., Gina, Nancy, Bernie, and Mary S. (St. Stephen); Linda (Holy Spirit), Sarah (St. Anthony), and Rudy (St. John)

Opening

Our meeting opened with the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be, asking Our Lord and the Holy Spirit to open our minds to allow Mark's presentation to enlighten us and enable us to touch hearts and minds with messages of Life.

We began with brief self-introductions.



Mark Cerasuolo, director of marketing and programs for **Healing the Culture** (www.healingtheculture.com), contacted members of our ministry. Mark asked to acquaint us with the support, resources, and programs Snohomish-based Healing the Culture offers.

Healing the Culture, founded in 2003 by Camille Pauley and Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., strives to elevate the dialogue about abortion and euthanasia and universal principals of ethics and justice through education. Their curricula include teaching reasoning and ethics along with the other essentials discussed in Father Spitzer's *Ten Universal Principles: A Brief Philosophy of the Life Issues*, a paperback Mark gave us to share from our library. The book summarizes the Healing the Culture curriculum.

Healing the Culture has produced additional teaching resources since Camille's last presentation at SSTM several years ago. Comprehensive curricula developed in recent years for high school students and college pro-life student groups (Cardinal Newman Clubs, Students for Life of America www.studentsforlife.org) has been used in locations throughout the U.S. and Canada since 2013.

Mark's presentation described the types of resources highlighted at www.healingtheculture.com; namely, "Principles & Choices," semester-long courses for high schools; "Life Advocacy Student Training (LAST)," weekend training for young adults (and college student groups); "Partner," free customizable downloads for parishes to use during Respect Life Sunday, and more. Life Principals Academy is 4-hour training for adults, usually at parishes..

Mark described additional resource materials: student books, teacher books, workbooks, audio dramas, lecture

notes, club activities, and more; that are designed to reach a variety of age groups. Curriculum for junior high students will be offered soon. Classroom curriculum for Kindergarten through sixth grades is in planning stages as well.

The group also offers speakers and/or custom help with pro-life outreach and activities on the parish level.

See www.healingtheculture.com for descriptions and details of the organization and materials along with many free downloadable ready-to-use (or customize) materials.

Mark gave us a 27-minute DVD, part of the (high school) "Principles & Choices: The Four Levels of Happiness" and a catalog of resources offered.

When the Christian youth program named "Smart Love" (<http://carenetps.org/sexual-health/#smartlove>) was brought up, Mark said he was interested in learning more.

Healing the Culture welcomes visitors and volunteers in Snohomish and, most of all prayers. Donations supplement the annual Stand Up for Life Gala and Auction event.

"Theology of the Body" Study

We will resume study of "Theology of the Body" at the start of our July 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.

Bernie volunteered to read the next section and prepare a synopsis and reflection to share during the seven minutes (maximum) we will devote to our July study time.

A downloadable version of the work is available from www.sjcursillo.org/theology%20of%20the%20body.pdf

1st Fridays at St. Stephen

We move **Pro-Life First Friday Adoration hour** from 9 until 10 pm to **7 until 8 pm**, effective immediately.

Movie Nights will begin at **8 pm, after Adoration**. If it is available to us on July 7th, we will watch "**Hush**" www.hushfilm.com, a movie about the suppression of the distribution of **correlations between breast cancer and abortion and hormones**, including those found in most contraceptives (both drugs and devices).

We will soon have several copies to view and to share, thanks to Cindy, who lives in the Seattle area and is affiliated with the **Breast Cancer Prevention Institute**.

See www.bcpinstitute.org/ for resources describing the effects of abortion and hormones on healthy breast tissue.

“Mother of Life”

We paid \$75 to “Mother of Life” picture artist Nellie Edwards last July to use “Mother of Life” image on business cards, website, and more. In addition to using the beautiful image, we profited \$337.50 from selling 11”x14” prints, as Nellie shared a portion of her profits from picture sales with us.

With this in mind, we decided to renew our \$75 agreement with Nellie for another year and will offer the prints for sale at a date that has yet to be determined.

SSTM Rose Garden

Several years ago, we adopted the patch of ground visible through the chapel window behind the altar. Joann planted rose bushes and more in memory of babies lost to abortion.

In recent years, the garden’s maintenance has been infrequent. We are now making all aware **the garden requires regular attention** by sharing a schedule and/or log online to better track the garden’s maintenance. Should this approach prove ineffective, we will either devise a different prescription for maintenance or ask Facilities and Grounds volunteers to assume responsibility for the garden.

A log file will be kept to help ensure the garden is not neglected. Everyone who works in the garden will email ststephenchooseslife@yahoo.com with a brief description of what was done and when it was done.

4US 2017

The 2017 **4US** flagship event is **August 4-5**. Our promotion and fundraising at SSTM begins mid-July. We will request a 4US promotional video be shown at Saturday vigil and Sunday Masses. A narthex display will include a donation jar with progress-toward-goal gauge, informational handouts, and details to ensure donors’ gifts are eligible for the **Knights of Columbus Matching Program**.

We will sponsor **Coffee and Donuts July 23rd**, for 4US.

Our 4US narthex display will also promote the **Knights of Columbus July 30th 4US Fundraising Breakfast**. Volunteers might offer to help at the Knights’ breakfast while wearing our “Respect Life” shirts.

Gina suggests volunteers visit with patrons during Coffee and Donuts and during the breakfast, donations jar in-hand.

All check donations to **4US** with “St. Stephen the Martyr” or “**Fr. Ed’s Team Fiat**” noted on the memo line are eligible for the **Knights Matching Funds Program** as are donations made by clicking on the (orange) **DONATE** “button” at <https://www.classy.org/team/124629/>

New Tee Shirts

We will order new tee shirts quoting Psalm 33:12: “Blest is the nation whose God is the Lord,” on the front and “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you,” on the back.



Next meeting July 25th, 7:15 PM (after 6:30 PM Mass) in the Copy Room



Pro-Life Month, October

Pro-Life October events promotion will begin with a Life Chain Sunday insert in September 24th bulletins. St. Stephen’s October 1st bulletin will have “**Life Begins**” **comic books** (<https://www.humanlife.org/product/life-begins/>) as inserts. Each comic book will have a sticker with message indicating the book is a valuable resource for families, grandparents, and friends of families with children. The sticker will include our group’s name.

Our new tee shirts will be ready in time to wear to serve **Coffee and Donuts October 1st, Life Chain Sunday**. We will request a few minutes at October 1st Masses (including the vigil Mass) for a special **pro-life speaker**, who may be one of our own using suggested “prepared homilies” available from Healing the Culture. We will also request a special **October Pro-Life Holy Hour** and/or Mass.

Miscellaneous

- Seattle Storm has announced \$5 of EVERY TICKET sold to its July 18th game will go to PLANNED PARENTHOOD! Please **Tell Seattle Storm: Don’t “Play Ball” with Planned Parenthood!** Take a minute (it IS quick, I’ve done it) to sign the online petition at http://www.createdequal.org/seattle_storm/
- **Legislative Advocacy’s** arranged **Fortnight for Freedom** prayer events continue through **July 2nd**. Download the schedule and novena prayer from the link at <http://ststephenslife.com/legislative-advocacy/>
- Pregnancy Aid of Kent sent a lovely note expressing gratitude for the **May 27-28 Baby Shower**. Parishioners donated: \$800.00; \$150 in gift cards to area stores; 36 hand-made baby blankets; and 3 carloads of items for babies and pregnant mothers. Good job, **Spiritual Adoptions Team!**
- For **easy promotion posters**: Photograph parishioners doing whatever is being promoted, then order glossy poster-size prints from Sam’s Club (cost \$20 each).
- Please watch our **SSTM Respect Life Ministry site** <http://ststephenslife.com/respect-life> for current information, archived meeting minutes, resources for sidewalk prayer warriors, photos, and more.
- 11 prayed with us May 3rd at Renton Cedar River Clinics and 5 of us stood witnessing to truth at Kent Planned Parenthood Saturday, May 6th.
- Pizza Hut’s manager told Sarah she prefers her standing in the southwest corner of Pizza Hut’s parking lot to her standing on the sidewalk in front of the restaurant. **Sarah then stood near the abortion facility on Pizza Hut’s property, with permission.**
- **Louise** appreciates our prayers. Please continue!

Closing

Gina led us in prayer for Louise and Brian and their family, beginning with the prayer for Day 1 of the Surrender Novena (online at <https://divinewilluk.com/surrender-novena>) and concluding with a Hail Mary.