

St. Stephen Respect Life Ministry July 25, 2017, Meeting Minutes and News



RLM August Dates

- 07/30 4US fundraising French Toast Breakfast sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #13374
 08/02 7:30 - 5:30 PM 1st Wednesday Renton Cedar River Clinics Sidewalk Prayer Vigils (1-hr each)
 08/04 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 (RLM, Gabriel Proj, Legis. Advocacy)
 8:00 - 10:00 PM 1st Friday Movie & Munchies (Conference Room)
 08/05 9:30 - 11:00 AM 1st Saturday Truth and Prayer witnessing
 08/22 7:15 - 9:00 PM RLM meets in Copy Room (after 6:30 PM Mass)

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

St. Stephen Respect Life Ministry met at 7:40 PM in St. Stephen's Conference Room

Attending

Mary S., Nancy, Craig, Bernie, (St. Stephen); and Rudy (St. John) met.

Opening

Our meeting opened with a Hail Mary and asking St. James, whose feast we celebrate today, to pray for us.

"Theology of the Body" Study

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

Bernie will bring a copy of the document to be sure the section studied can be ready during the August meeting.

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

1st Fridays at St. Stephen

In June, we moved **Pro-Life First Friday Adoration hour** from 9 until 10 pm to **7 until 8 pm**, effective July 7th.

Movie & Munchies Night began in the Conference Room at 8 pm, after Adoration with the most informative documentary entitled "Hush." The nearly-2-hour DVD, produced by the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute, exposes well-documented evidence of **correlations between breast cancer and abortion and hormones**, including those found in most contraceptives (both drugs and devices). See www.hushfilm.com, for more about the movie exposing the deliberate suppression of distribution of this life-saving evidence.

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.

August 4th, we will watch a 30-minute Healing the Culture DVD that our June guest speaker left with us.

New Tee Shirts



We bought new tee shirts quoting Psalm 33:12: "Blessed is the Nation Whose God is the Lord," on the front and "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you," with "Respect Life Ministry" on the back. To recover our costs, we are asking \$12.00 per shirt. They are pro-life and patriotic and pretty!

4US ultrasound machines



Our promotion and fundraising at SSTM began mid-July with bulletin notices. A narthex display was set up July 15th and will remain until August 6th, the Sunday after the **2017 4US flagship event** taking place in Lakewood August 4-5.



The narthex display includes a donation jar, a 3-foot tall "baby tower," featuring fetal models in bunnings clinging to the progress-toward-UltraSound-machine-goal gauge, and information handouts with details to ensure donations are eligible for the **Knights of Columbus Matching Program**. A 90-second 4US promotional video was shown in the church during Saturday vigil and Sunday Masses July 22nd and 23rd. We sponsored **Coffee and Donuts July 23rd** to benefit 4US. Including the \$470.77 profit from Sunday's Coffee and Donuts, donations collected at St. Stephen's total more than \$2,710.00. With the \$930.00 donated to Fr. Ed's Team Fiat online, **today's total raised is more than \$3,640.00**, more than 35% of our \$10,000.00 goal.

The **Knights of Columbus July 30th Fundraising French Toast Breakfast** will push us further toward our goal.

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/>

Pro-Life Month, October

Pro-Life October events promotion will begin with a **Life Chain Sunday** (www.lifechain.net) insert in September 24th bulletins to invite all to join a chain in either Kent or Renton from 2:00 until 3:30 on October 1st. St. Stephen’s October 1st bulletin will have “**Life Begins**” comic books (<https://www.humanlife.org/product/life-begins/>) as inserts. Each booklet will have a sticker with message indicating its value as a resource for families, grandparents, and friends with children. The sticker will include our group’s name.

We will wear our new tee shirts to serve **Coffee and Donuts October 1st**.

Father Ed stopped in to discuss options for pro-life events we might sponsor. He suggested the second (or later) week of pro-life month, October, might draw greater participation.

SSTM Rose Garden

A parishioner, who is an arborist, volunteered to design a garden that relates to the Tabernacle, just on the other side of the window next to it. Bernie invited him to submit a diagram of what he has in mind.

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.

Miscellaneous



- **Healing the Culture’s annual Stand Up for Life fundraising Gala and Auction is September 30, 2017**, in Bellevue. Details at www.healingtheculture.com
- We renewed our \$75 agreement with “**Mother of Life**” artist, Nellie Edwards, for another year and will offer the prints for sale at a date that has yet to be determined.
- **King County Board of Health** voted to adopt a new rule that requires “Limited Pregnancy Services Centers” to post notices, in the 10 most popular languages used in their communities, stating they do not provide “health care.” NOTE: The newly-opened full-service 3w medical clinic www.3wmedical.org/ in the U-District is on the Board of Health’s list as one who must comply to this onerous new rule. Listen to the public hearing held preceding the board’s vote to adopt this rule at http://king.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=4&clip_id=6529. Thank you to Erin Aboudara for providing alerts and information and to Family Policy of Washington (fpiw.org) for making it easy for many to sign an online message opposing this rule.

- **Thank you to** Missionary of Charity **Sister Isave Ho**, who gave us blessed medals of Mother Teresa of Calcutta to distribute during our meeting(s). Sister is in town visiting her family and celebrating the 25th anniversary of her profession,
- **Legislative Advocacy’s August 14th meeting** will focus on motivating citizens to visit their legislators while in Olympia during the **January 2018 March for Life**. <http://ststephenslife.com/legislative-advocacy/>
- Gina (& Sophie) stopped in briefly with Pierce County resident **Debbie Rodriguez**, a physician leading the effort to bring a USCCB-sanctioned program called **SHEPHERD** to Catholics in our area. SHEPHERD is designed to help stop human trafficking by, first, making Catholics aware of human trafficking and what to do when it is encountered. For more information see www.usccb.org/shepherd or ask Debbie@mgoretti.org.
- Kathleen stopped in briefly and requests we set aside time during next month’s meeting to discuss splitting the duty of managing the money collected for chartering the March for Life in Olympia buses to relieve the Central Deanery ACCW treasurer of handling the funds for all of the buses. Over the years, the number of buses has grown from one to six and serves many parishes.
- 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.
- Six (6) prayed with us July 5th at Renton Cedar River Clinics and 11 of us stood witnessing to truth at Kent Planned Parenthood July 1st.
- Reminder: When holding signs on the sidewalk, choose signs with messages easy to read by passing traffic. When traffic passes quickly, groups holding identical signs with no more than one or two messages will invite drivers to read them.
- Understandably, Pizza Hut’s manager does not want us standing in front of Pizza Hut, as it appears to passers-by that we find something disagreeable about Pizza Hut. Bernie suggests we follow Sarah’s example of displaying a sign: “**ABORTIONIST=====→**” that points up the driveway to Cedar River Clinics.
- **Thank you to Father Ed for stopping** to help us know options as we plan events for October, pro-life month.
- Thank you to Gina for bringing goodies to share.
- **Louise** recently celebrated her birthday with her family, including her family visiting from Chicago. She appreciates our prayers. Please continue!

Closing

The meeting closed with the St. Michael prayer and asking he protect our legislators from evil as they debate defunding Planned Parenthood and write bills that affect life issues and our medical care.



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

