

## St. Stephen Respect Life Ministry August 22, 2017, Meeting Minutes and News



"Mother of Life"

### Respect Life Ministry September Dates

- 09/01 6:00 - 7:00 PM 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Pro-Life Eucharistic Adoration (with Knights of Columbus)  
 7:00 - 8:00 PM 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Pro-Life Eucharistic Adoration (RLC, Gabriel Proj, Legis. Advocacy)  
 8:00 - 10:00 PM 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Movie & Munchies (Conference Room)
- 09/02 9:30 - 11:00 AM 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Truth and Prayer witnessing
- 09/06 7:30 - 5:30 PM 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Renton Cedar River Clinics Sidewalk Prayer Vigils (1-hr each)  
 8:45 Mass at St. Anthony and then process to Cedar River Clinics for one hour prayer vigil
- 09/24 Coffee & Donuts after Sunday morning Masses
- 09/26 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 Copy Room

### Attending

Mary K., Gina, Rowena, Kathleen, Craig, Bernie, Mary S. (St. Stephen); Sarah (St. Anthony), and Rudy (St. John).

### Opening

Our meeting opened with the St. Michael Prayer.

### "Theology of the Body" Study

We began studying "**Theology of the Body**" with reading a cover essay entitled "Freedom, Truth, Gift, Communion, Dignity, Love..." The document we began reading, "The Theology of the Body – What, Why and How?" may be downloaded from [www.jp2.info/Theology\\_of\\_the\\_Body.pdf](http://www.jp2.info/Theology_of_the_Body.pdf).

Bernie offered a brief reflection on the intro we read. By design, man finds full meaning in his life only by loving unconditionally. Our bodies, sexuality included, are designed to teach us how to reach this ultimate goal.

A downloadable version of St. John Paul II's entire "Theology of the Body" is available at [www.sjcursillo.org/theology%20of%20the%20body.pdf](http://www.sjcursillo.org/theology%20of%20the%20body.pdf)

### Sidewalk Prayer Vigils

**Only three** of us (only **one** from SSTM) **prayed August 2<sup>nd</sup>** at Renton Cedar River Clinics and **eight stood witnessing** to truth at Kent Planned Parenthood **August 5<sup>th</sup>**.

It is important that people **see** us praying on the sidewalk. Future SSTM bulletin notices of our first week sidewalk vigils will thank the (meager number of) people who came to the most recent vigils at the sites. We must let other parishioners know they are needed on the sidewalk too.

Due to recent encouragement, we will resume leading a 1<sup>st</sup> **Wednesday procession from St. Anthony church to Cedar River Clinics after St. Anthony's 8:45 am Mass.** A few years ago, dwindling participation prompted suspending the short-lived 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday processions.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Fridays at St. Stephen

At August **Movie & Munchies Night**, we watched "Messenger of the Truth," documenting the extraordinary role a courageous and inspired young Polish priest exerted on the Solidarity movement that eventually freed Poland from Communism. The DVD to be shown **after Adoration, at 8pm**, in the Conference Room has yet to be determined.

### T-Shirts for Sale



By October all on our email list will have had opportunity to buy shirts. We plan to let others buy them for the same price, \$12.00 each. 26 shirts remain as of this writing. We expect to recover the \$312.00 these shirts cost us to buy.

The navy blue T-shirts quote Psalm 33:12: "Blessed is the Nation Whose God is the Lord," on fronts and "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you," with "Respect Life Ministry" on backs. They are pro-life and patriotic and pretty!

Speak up **NOW** if you want a shirt!

### 4US ultrasound machines



Our promotion and fundraising at SSTM began mid-July with bulletin notices. A narthex display was in place from July 15<sup>th</sup> until August 6<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday after the 2017 4US event in Lakewood.

The narthex display's 3-foot tall "baby tower," featuring fetal models in buntings clinging to the progress-toward-UltraSound-machine-goal gauge, attracted more attention than we had noticed at displays in recent years. Thanks to Bernie for the tower's concept, design, and production!

**4US** accepts donations throughout the year. Donations made by clicking on the (orange) **DONATE** "button" at <https://www.classy.org/team/124629/> and all check donations made payable 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**. These checks are to be mailed directly to: 4US Donations Processing, P.O. Box 98138, Lakewood, WA 98496.

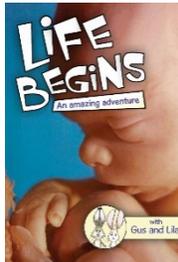
Donations made to date, both online and at St. Stephen’s total more than \$7,000.00. The Knights Matching Funds Program will apply to the total amount at year’s end.

In December a bulletin notice will remind all of these details.

### Pro-Life Month, October

Promotion begins **September 24<sup>th</sup>**, when we will wear our new shirts and our nametags to serve **Coffee and Donuts**. We’ll use this opportunity to promote the **January 22, 2018 March for Life in Olympia** and pro-life events taking place in October. Pro-life literature and a new **Respect Life Event Calendar** will be available too. A **Voter Registration** table will be in the hall (and narthex), staffed by members of Legislative Advocacy, our sister pro-life ministry. A bulletin insert will ask all to become links in an **October 1<sup>st</sup> Life Chain** ([www.lifechain.net](http://www.lifechain.net)) in **Kent or Renton from 2:00 - 3:30** o’clock.

St. Stephen’s **October 1<sup>st</sup>** bulletin will have “**Life Begins**” comic books (<https://www.humanlife.org/product/life-begins/>) as inserts. Each booklet will bear a sticker with our name and a message touting its value as a timeless resource for parents and grandparents with young children.



We want to end October with a weekend of special events, beginning **October 28<sup>th</sup>** with **8:30 AM Mass before a special 9:30 – 11:00 o’clock prayerful witness to Truth at Kent Planned Parenthood**, 240<sup>th</sup> S.E. at S. 102<sup>nd</sup>. We are checking to see if we might have someone from a clinic using ultrasound to show life in the womb to speak during or after Sunday (and vigil) Masses October 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Miscellaneous

- We are in the process of producing two **Pro-Life Events Calendars**: one for distribution to fellow Catholics at St. Stephen’s; and another for sharing with our pro-life Protestant prayer partners. <http://ststephenslife.com/respect-life> will offer both calendars for download, along with links to flyers promoting events listed on the calendars.
- With intentions of improving participation in our own sidewalk prayer campaigns in mind, Mary and Mary attended a planning meeting for the Tacoma Fall 40 Days for Life. The leaders of the Tacoma 40 Days for Life group are eager to help us by letting us adapt some of their many great resources for our use. They have observed: It is preferable for 4 pairs praying on the sidewalk 4 different hours than for 8 to pray together in one hour; the longer onsite prayer is present the better.
- **There Will Never Be Another You** is a brand new pro-life children’s book penned by Christy Higbee, one of

the Tacoma prayer partners, telling children each human life is precious because it is a gift from God.

- The National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children is **Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017**. All are invited to an **11:00 AM Prayer Service at Calvary Cemetery**, 5041 35<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Seattle, at Baby Sarah Marie’s gravesite, Guardian Angel Section 18, Lot 29. Contact Matt or Georgene for details, [mgulrichpl@gmail.com](mailto:mgulrichpl@gmail.com) or 206-546-3923.
- **Healing the Culture’s** annual **Stand Up for Life** fundraising **Gala and Auction** is **September 30, 2017**, in Bellevue. Details at [www.healingtheculture.com](http://www.healingtheculture.com)
- The recently-opened full-service **3w medical clinic** [www.3wmedical.org/](http://www.3wmedical.org/) in the U-District has a generous donor who is matching donations made to the facility through September 30. (Donations are tax-deductible.)
- **Legislative Advocacy’s September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting** will address motivating citizens to visit their legislators while in Olympia during the **January 22, 2018, March for Life**. A representative from FPIW (FPIW.org) will be at the meeting. Plans to offer postcards for people to sign asking their congressmen to support a **Conscience Protection Act** September 23-24 will be finalized too. <http://ststephenslife.com/legislative-advocacy/>
- Kathleen told us the ACCW local deaneries’ treasury will soon be managed by the Archdiocese. Therefore, the Central Deanery’s treasurer, will no longer be responsible for managing the finances for all of the March for Life in Olympia buses. Kathleen will let us know how the bus funding will be handled for the 2018 buses later this year.
- **Northwest Catholic Magazine** ([NWCatholic.org](http://NWCatholic.org)) is considering running an article on the January 22, 2018, March for Life in Olympia in December, rather than reporting on the event after it has taken place, as they’ve done in previous years.
- 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.
- Reminder: When holding signs on the sidewalk, choose signs with messages easy to read by passing traffic. Where traffic passes quickly, drivers are likely to read one sign when everyone is holding identical signs.
- Craig shared a fun book title: *Drinking with the Saints: The Sinner’s Guide to a Holy Happy Hour*.
- Thank you to Gina for sharing sweet snacks.
- **Louise** appreciates our prayers. Please continue!

### Closing

The meeting closed with St. John Paul II’s prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of Life.



Next meeting **September 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 PM (after 6:30 PM Mass) in the Copy Room**

