RESPECT FOR LIFE

WE ARE A PEOPLE OF LIFE, AND A PEOPLE FOR LIFE.

Mission

Our mission is to nourish a respect for life in our parish by proclaiming that every human life is uniquely created in the image and likeness of God; that each person who receives God’s gift of life deserves respect from the time life begins at fertilization through the point of natural death; that during this life we have responsibilities toward God, self and society to protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence.

Goal

We are all called to be good stewards of God’s gift. As stewards, we have the responsibility to respect and protect human life from conception to natural death. While recognizing the wide spectrum of human rights that comprises respect for life; we hold the right to life as fundamental. It is the basis and source of all other basic human rights. Our goal is to restore and deepen the respect for the life of every human being.

Key issues

The key issues addresses are: abortion, death penalty, embryonic stem cell research, euthanasia/physician-assisted suicide, and human cloning.

The four major areas addressed by the Respect Life group are:

- Public Information and Education,
- Pastoral Care,
- Public Policy,
- Prayer and Worship.

Activities

Public Information and Education Aspect of Plan

The purpose of Respect Life information and education is “to deepen understanding of the sanctity of human life and the humanity of unborn children, the moral evil of intentionally killing innocent human beings—whether at the beginning of life or at its end—and the mission of the Church to witness to and serve all human life” (Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities)
Promote pro-life activities sponsored by St. Odilia Respect Life group, the archdiocese and other parishes by flyers, bulletin announcements, announcements from the pulpit, materials on Respect Life table in courtyard during October/January Respect for Life Months and Social Justice table display, Respect Life table at Fall Festival (ex. Promote 40 Days for Life)

Pastoral Care Aspect of Plan

The Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities urges pastoral care “for women with problems related to pregnancy; for all who have been involved in abortion; for those who are disabled, sick, and dying, and their families and caregivers; for those who have lost loved ones to violent crime; and for those in prison sentenced to death”.

Collection of diapers, formula, baby clothes, baby toys, maternity items, (see flyer on crib) for Birthright and Total Life Care Centers—organizations that help women in crisis pregnancies. We use the crib in the church as a visible sign of our commitment to be a Community Caring for Life.

Public Policy Aspect of Plan

“The Church calls for a different kind of political engagement: one shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being, the pursuit of the common good, and the protection of the weak and the vulnerable. The Catholic call to faithful citizenship affirms the importance of political participation and insists that public service is a worthy vocation.” U.S. Catholic Bishops, Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship. 14

Inform parishioners of upcoming legislative action on bills and programs related to health care, abortion, taxpayer funding of abortion, insurance coverage of abortion, embryonic stem cell research, capitol punishment, etc. would use flyers, bulletin announcements, and pulpit announcements...

Prayer and Worship Aspect of Plan

Prayer and worship for Respect Life should be “directed to participation in the sacramental life of the Church and in programs of communal and individual prayer, that the culture of death that surrounds us today will be replaced by a culture of life and love” (Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities).
- Plan an annual Life mass at St. Odilia—first one was May, 2010 and Fr. Gjengdahl presided. It was attended by approximately 100 people
- Submit pro-life intercession for masses
- Initiate spiritual adoption program 10/11
- Participate in baby bottle blasts