

June 11, 2022

Cultural of Life Ministry Meeting

Attendees: Gerry, Margie, Diane, Chris (new), Deidre, Tony (new), Madeline (new), and Jocelyn (new)

1) Opening Prayer and Introductions of all new members

- a) Welcome all new members!

2) Discussion of Current Events

- a) The group spent some time discussing what is going on in our country, i.e., Roe vs. Wade, Ruth Sent Us, and defining abortion as Women's Health.

3) Summer Reading

- a) Gerry reminded everyone of our summer reading which will take places in lieu of our monthly meeting for July and August (no meetings during these months). We will discuss the book at our September meeting.
- b) The book is *Persuasive Pro-Life: How to Talk about Our Culture's Toughest Issue* by Trent Horn. Available at most Catholic Bookstores or on Amazon (click [here](#) for the link).

4) Brainstorming and Planning

- a) We reviewed the handout at the end of this document that covers the brainstorming process and how we will narrow down the ideas.
- b) We reviewed what we had accomplished in the last year and half. And those included:
 - i) Speakers
 - (1) Roger Lopez – Sidewalk counseling/presence in front of an abortion clinic
 - (2) Kimberly Hahn – 40 Days for Life
 - (3) Birthline Speakers – Jeanne Hansen, Michelle Twardoski, and Mary Bones
 - ii) Reviewed and discussed the Respect for Life Webinar Series. Links to the webinar series is on our Culture of Life page on Church of St. Mary Magdalene website.
 - iii) We participated in:
 - (1) 40 Days for Life
 - (2) San Diego March for Life
 - (3) Prayer vigil in front of the downtown Planned Parenthood
 - iv) Created a Culture of Life Website
- c) The group then brainstormed ideas and suggestions of things we could do as a ministry. See next page for the complete listing.
- d) **ACTION:** All committee members review the list on the next page and provide feedback to Margie/Gerry on which activities they believe are the most impactful. Please provide this feedback by the END OF JULY.
- e) **ACTION:** Core planning team (Margie, Gerry, Diane, Kristine) will then take the feedback and narrow the list down based on the criteria listed on the handout at the end of this document. This will be discussed at the September meeting.

5) Closing Prayer

Brainstorming of Ideas

Prolife/Abortion/Post Abortive Healing	Culture of Life Education	Death Penalty/ Restorative Justice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Political/Legal Speaker on California Legislature ○ COLFS ○ Rachel's Hope (San Diego) ○ San Diego Adoption Center ○ Agnes Dei group ○ International Speaker (Stephen) • Free Ultrasound Van display • Youth Ministry Baby Shower (provide help) • Women's Tea with Speaker • Field trip to Birthline • Continue with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 40 Days for Life ○ San Diego March for Life ○ Prayer Vigil ○ Monthly Birthline Mass Table 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker – once per quarter • Family Friendly Movie night that sends a message <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PureFlex – October Baby ○ Juno ○ Abby Johnson • Other movies: Gosnell • Diocese Culture of Life Speaker • Publish stories of Saints who demonstrate dignity of life. • Provide video sound bites (i.e., Fulton Sheen, Living with Passion) • End of Life Speaker/Hospice nurse • Include videos/sound bites of speakers on the website (or include a zoom link for parish talks) • October – Respect for Life – possible include resources as a bulletin insert or sent out as a flock note • Strategize by demographics – older vs. younger parishioners • Use digital art apps to reach young adults/teens – Jocelyn • Involve the school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Welcome Back to School Night (a table) ○ Weekly bulletin ○ Parents in Prayer ○ Culture of Life craft contest or create a blanket for Birthline • Place table at other walk events in San Diego to spread the message. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Larry Fulton – Prison System ○ Rise Up Industries ○ Diocesan Restorative Justice Director

Meeting Handout

I. Rules of Engagement

- i. **B: Be open** (have an open mindset; putting judgement/filters to one side; eliminate “but” and replace with “and.” Be curious.
- ii. **R: Respect each other** (everyone brings a unique blend of knowledge, expertise, experience, and skills. Listen respectfully and consider the possibility)
- iii. **A: All ideas are valuable** (you never know which idea will be a brilliant one)
- iv. **I: Invite contributions** (help each other to draw ideas from everyone; introduce important moments of self-reflection)
- v. **N: No negativity** (No judgement or criticism. Leverage the group’s collective wisdom to build on each other ideas and explore the range of possibilities)
- vi. **S: Strive for quantity** (More ideas; more choices – quantity now; quality later)
- vii. **T: Take turns talking** (One person at a time; truly listen)
- viii. **O: Originality is a plus** (Impossible ideas can stretch our imagination...they are gold dust that can unlock the unexpected)
- ix. **R: Regularly take breaks** (Build in time to refresh everyone)
- x. **M: Make it fun!** (Having fun keeps you energized)

II. Process of brainstorming

- i. Brainstorm all ideas – open, freely, quantity
- ii. Narrow down the list of ideas using set criteria,
 1. Does it fit in our area of focus?
 2. Is it feasible? Will it require additional resources/time?
What are the resources and time commitment?
 3. Will the pastor buy in?
 4. What is the end result? What would the timeline look like?