

**Culture of Life  
Meeting Minutes  
March 15th, 2025**

Attendance Sandy, Carol, Deidre Gerry.

Opening Prayer – Gerry

Open Discussion.

- Why do we not have more of an interest in the Culture of Life at our Parish
  - Education. Education. Education.
  - Invite Speakers.
  - Announce more at mass.
  - Bulletin – Culture of Life Corner every week
  
- Host the Shroud of Turin next Lent for Parishioners?
  - Hosted by Culture of Life to get our Ministry more exposure.
  - Should it be part of a retreat vs one evening? Consensus was one weekday evening vs part of an all-day retreat.
  
- Should we change the “Birthline Table from 1x month to a Campaign structure 1xyear?
  - Consensus was to keep it at 1x month due to the \$\$ donated monthly that probably wouldn’t be captured 1x year or even quarterly.
  
- Potential Speakers:
  - Kia Scott (Director of Youth Ministry) shared the following information via email for us to consider:
    1. There's a woman that we hosted last October for youth ministry who shared her personal testimony of choosing abortion almost 50 years ago when she was 19 and her healing process. She went through Rachel's Hope and had a very special experience with the Sacrament of reconciliation. She is a parishioner at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Rancho Penasquitos and has given her testimony there as well.
    2. The president/CEO of True Choice Medical Clinic. You can see their amazing story on YouTube: Beyond the Wall (2022) (youtube.com) and their website is True Choice Medical Clinics | Women's Pregnancy Center San Diego, CA .
  - Lamb of God Maternity Home caters to women who have chosen life and the gift of placing their child in an open adoption. They recently dropped off their literature which we added to our monthly Culture of Life table. We have been invited to take a tour also. The home is located in a quiet neighborhood in north San Diego County. For more information go to: [www.agnusdeifoundation.org](http://www.agnusdeifoundation.org)
  - Calendar updates were discussed: No meeting in April due to Easter. Sandy will run the May meeting as Gerry is out of town at a retreat.

- Discussed a NY Times article on Planned Parenthood that included:
- Nakara Alston's story of delivering a baby who died shortly after birth following a botched abortion at a Planned Parenthood facility is one of many complaints against the organization highlighted in a New York Times article that has prompted renewed calls to end its federal taxpayer funding.
  - The Times reported that it had reviewed multiple documents and legal filings pertaining to Planned Parenthood facilities nationwide and conducted interviews with more than 50 current and former Planned Parenthood executives and staff. The Times reported that multiple Planned Parenthood facilities are "short on cash" and operating with outdated equipment and untrained staff.
  - Pro-life advocate Abby Johnson, who previously worked at Planned Parenthood before experiencing a change of heart, remarked that the business doesn't appear to have changed since her time there. Johnson, the founder of And Then There Were None, a pro-life group that helps abortion workers leave the industry, accused Planned Parenthood of using expired medications, subjecting women to "disgusting" facility conditions, employing unqualified staff and spending huge sums of money on things unrelated to patient care.
  - Staff members at a Planned Parenthood facility in Omaha, Nebraska, recounted in interviews with the Times that last year, sewage from a backed-up toilet leaked into the recovery room, where it remained for two days. In an attempt to stop the leak, employees shoved exam table pads under the bathroom door, but women who visited the facility still vomited from the smell.
  - The Times article appeared to imply that the negligent care and poor conditions at various Planned Parenthood facilities are due to a lack of funding. As the daily newspaper noted, little of the money the organization receives from donations goes to its state affiliates. A majority of the money received from donors is directed at campaigning for abortion laws, according to the Times article, which also highlighted various states that have taken steps to prevent the nation's largest abortion provider from receiving Medicaid payments. Planned Parenthood has also raised money to campaign against President Donald Trump's plans to cut its federal funding.
  - Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, another pro-life political advocacy group, accused the organization of placing more of a priority on lobbying for abortion than caring for women. "Planned Parenthood markets itself as being the 'nation's leading provider and advocate of high-quality, affordable sexual and reproductive health care for all people,'" the pro-life group stated on its website. "In reality, it is the nation's leading provider & advocate of abortion on demand."
  - According to Planned Parenthood's annual reports, over the last few years, the number of abortions performed has continued to increase while adoption referrals and legitimate health services have declined.
  - Students for Life President Kristan Hawkins commented on the article, stressing the importance of the Times covering the problems at the nation's largest abortion provider. "When even the 'New York Times' says Planned Parenthood is bad at their inhumane 'job' of killing people for money, you know it's time to get fired," Hawkins wrote. "President Trump, it's time to defund & debar your political adversaries. The only thing they seem good at these days is attacking the GOP."

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- **40-Days for Life:** Spring 2025 Campaign started on March 5 and ends April 13.  
**ACTION:** April 5<sup>th</sup> - First Saturday procession to Planned Parenthood.  
  
Our Lady of the Rosary Mass 7.30am (Optional)  
Start Walking to Planned Parenthood at 8.30am  
Planned Parenthood: 8.45am\*  
Rosary (1 hour)  
Walk back to Our Lady of the Rosary at 9.45am  
Our Lady of the Rosary: 10.00am  
Little Italy Street Market! (Bonus)  
\*You can also drive directly to Planned Parenthood – 2017 First Ave. 92101
- **40 Days for Life Sign** in front of Our Mother of Confidence Church: “Pray to End Abortion” **ACTION:** Ask Fr Ed if we can do at St Mary Magdalene?
- **Shroud of Turin** **ACTION:** Ask Fr Ed if we can host during Lent next year. Also, follow up with speaker on availability?
- **Kitchens for Good** ([kitchensforgood.org](http://kitchensforgood.org)) Donation of unused or pre-loved kitchen items, proceeds from every sale supports their nonprofit programs: 1. Offer California State-Certified apprenticeship training in Culinary Arts, Baking, and Customer Service designed to help individuals facing barriers to employment gain the skills needed to create sustainable careers. 2. Kitchens for Good Food Business Accelerator (FBA) helps create a more inclusive and robust food system in San Diego by supporting individuals from diverse backgrounds as they build and grow small businesses. Kitchens for Good’s FBA connects low-to-moderate-income San Diego residents to the critical support they need to succeed. **ACTION** Sandy presented to the school as an idea for their monthly service projects. She will let us know if it is scheduled.
- **Parish Education (past/ongoing):** Need to get the word out about our Ministry and Message! Utilize the Bulletin with a “Did you know?” Section weekly. **ACTION:** Everyone writes a paragraph as ideas come to them, so we have a backlog of inserts for the Bulletin every week. Gerry to send a sample example.
- **Parish Liaison (past/ongoing):** Advertise our monthly meetings with other Parishes to encourage them to join us. **ACTION** Gerry to share the email distribution list so personal invitations can be made. Other suggestions: Exhibition table at the Walk for Life. Encourage signups at the Birthline Table.
- **Added after the meeting:** St Mary Magdalene will host a Ministry Fair after all Masses May4/5<sup>th</sup>. **ACTION:** We will have a table that will need to be covered.

The next COL “Coffee” meeting will be on May 17th at 9.30am in the conference room.

Closing Prayer: Sandy. The meeting ended at 11 AM.