

**Culture of Life
Minutes October 18, 2025**

Attendance: Sandy, Diane, Stephen, Deirdra

**Opening Prayer
A Prayer for Hope**

Heavenly Father, in the sacrament of Baptism, you have given us the gift of new life. Through your son our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you have made us your own.

Help us to recognize the gift of human life as a sign of hope in our world.

Reveal to us the places where your precious gift of life is most in need of protection and strengthen us to defend life in all stages and circumstances, from the child in the womb to the elderly and dying.

Guided by your Holy Spirit, guard us from discouragement and give us the grace to be messengers of hope, filled with confidence that nothing can separate us from your love.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Completed Gerry to updated Calendar and sent out evites for meetings four times a year from 9:30-10:30

- Oct 18th, 2025
- Jan 17th, 2026
- April 18th, 2026
- June 20th, 2026 (Planning meeting)
- Oct 17th, 2026

COL Slide Presentation:

Slides with links were presented to show:

- Diocesan website's *Life, Peace, and Justice Office* webpage with the area, *Culture of Life*, and how its focus is Beginning of Life, End of Life, and Post-Abortion healing.
- SMM COL website
 - Unfortunately the SMM website was altered by the parish with items removed based on a policy that no links except to our parish, the diocese, or USCCB could be included. Therefore, the pillars of our ministry are no longer there. Diane will work on the website to get items approved.
 - *Caring for the Whole Person Initiative*: a table with information was organized by Mary on the weekend of Oct 11 & 12. It was suggested that a

- link or blurb be placed on our website to help promote this initiative.
- Monthly Education Initiative bulletin inserts were also highlighted in the slides, and it was suggested that those blurbs also be put on our website. Thank you Diane and Stephen for working on this.

Birthline Table: We will continue with the Birthline Table and donations on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Suggestion was made to move the table between the church doors.

Speaker Series. ACTION Gerry will coordinate with other ministries in the Parish to encourage a speaker series for the Parish to include a Culture of Life speaker. Since Gerry couldn't be at this meeting, no info provided

School outreach initiatives. Sandy shared that the school will now post school fundraising activities in the bulletin. Last month there was a shoe drive, and many parishioners participated with donations. It was a great success. A September service project did not involve parishioners, but it was shared that all students at SOM made beaded prayer bracelets and sent them to a school in Texas that was affected by the flooding this summer. The school in Texas sent a thank you and pictures to show how excited the students were to receive the bracelets and to know that our school was praying for them. In October, the students are wearing pink on Thursdays and collecting money for Breast Cancer Awareness and charities. Nov. will be the traditional Thanksgiving Feast baskets for a local charity. I think it's Casa de las Pobres

Kitchens for Good (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. **ACTION** Alex and Jocelyn to look into doing a Parish donation drive of pre-loved kitchen items. No info at this time.

40-Days for Life: Fall 2025 Campaign: Sept 24 – November 2nd, 2025,
Oct 3rd - First Saturday procession to Planned Parenthood. Gerry, Deirdra, and Sandy attended

The next rosary and procession is November 1st

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.

Stephen shared a post from the 40 Days for Life international daily email that highlighted some of the 1st Saturday prayer warriors from the San Diego Planned Parenthood.

Another shared story from the "Helper's of God's Precious Infants" newsletter/email (the group that does the 1st Sat. rosary procession):

I'm not making this up. Two days ago on the morning before the official start of the 40 Days for Life Fall campaign I was standing on the sidewalk in front of the downtown PP handing out flyers to the women going in. Nearby there were about 20 people and a priest praying the Rosary. A young woman walking a stroller had an infant (+/- 6 months), and a toddler about two years old. They had walked by me several times from the parking lot. It appeared she was either waiting for someone inside, or perhaps waiting for an appointment. She ended up sitting on the bench next to the front entrance to PP. Her 2-year old girl walked over to the next bench and picked up a flyer that I had given to another woman who had left it there. The little girl then walked over to her mom, unfolded the flyer, and held it open with both her hands for her mom to read. The mom took it and started perusing it. The toddler then walked back to the bench and picked up the bookmark picture of a 6-week embryo and held the picture up to her mom, who briefly looked at it, and then placed both in the stroller. A short while later they walked to the back parking lot, where I lost track of them.

San Diego Walk for Life 2026 ACTION: Walk will be held Jan 24th, 2026. Suggested that we print up flyers from the *Diocesan Walk for Life* website for our table in December. Diane will make a "stand-up" sign and we can have a clip board to get sign-ups for the walk.

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. No new info.

Stephen shared that one of the organizations that he works with "Light and Life" is having a benefit dinner/Gala/fundraiser at St. Therese of Carmel on December 12, on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Stephen has invited us to be his guest at no charge. He will send out more information. They are also looking for silent auction items if you have any connections.

Final Prayer and adjournment at 10:25

