



UDIOCESE OF METUCHEN DEPARTMENTAL PASTORAL PLANS

Office

Office of Respect for Life

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Office of Respect for Life is to build a culture of life in the Diocese of Metuchen by means of education, pastoral care, advocacy and prayer, thus helping to bring about a conversion of hearts and minds for a true appreciation and deepened respect for the life of every human being, at every stage and in every condition.

Vision Statement

The Office of Respect for Life empowers all people of good will in the Diocese of Metuchen to serve as advocates for life, recognizing that human life is a precious gift from God, which must be protected and nurtured at all stages and in every condition.

Three-Year Goals

- 1 Continue to educate the public and the Catholic Community with regards to Church teaching and the new and ongoing threats to human life.
- 2 Increase youth involvement in pro-life activities within the diocese by providing and engaging them in new and creative opportunities to increase their awareness of pro-life issues.
- 3 Strive to embrace unity within our diversity by reaching out to the Hispanic Community and to other cultures.
- 4 Collaborate with other diocesan offices and ministries to increase awareness of pro-life issues with diocesan and parish leaders and staffs.
- 5 Continue to develop programs and services which reach out to those in need such as those living with disabilities, the deaf community and those facing unplanned pregnancies.

** Note: The highlighted Goals & Objectives support the Diocesan effort to “Embrace Unity in our Diversity”.*

One Year Objectives

Goal 1: Continue to educate the public and the Catholic Community with regards to Church teaching and the new and ongoing threats to human life.

	Objective	Person Responsible	Date Due
1	Conduct an annual conference to gather clergy, educators, healthcare professionals, students and volunteers – inviting expert speakers to address a variety of life issues.	Jennifer Ruggiero	Oct 29, 2011
2	Offer and conduct six educational programs in parishes and schools as requested. Seminars/workshops include: Parent Information Sessions; The Gift of Life and Threat of Abortion (8 th grade); The Awesome Gift of Life (5 th -6 th grade).	Jennifer Ruggiero	June 30, 2012
3	Offer “Welcome to My World” Workshop once per year for schools and parishes.	Jennifer Ruggiero	Oct 31, 2011
4	Meet with Education Committee twice a year to explore new and creative ways to promote the pro-life message in the schools/parishes, using the Truth Booth, newsletters and other creative means.	Jennifer Ruggiero	Aug 31, 2011 Dec 31, 2011
5	Continue to work with Youth Ministry, Family Life and Education offices to encourage advocacy for Catholic issues as they arise.	Jennifer Ruggiero	Sep 30, 2011
6	Continue to expand Speakers Bureau by identifying and training at least 2 new speakers.	Jennifer Ruggiero	Oct 31, 2011
7	Hold 4 regional and/or deanery meetings for parish pro-life representatives as well as diocesan meetings to help develop parish based programs and to foster fellowship.	Jennifer Ruggiero, Angela Marshall	Sep, Nov, Mar, June 2011-2012

Goal 2: Increase youth involvement in pro-life activities within the diocese by providing and engaging them in new and creative opportunities to increase their awareness of pro-life issues.

	Objective	Person Responsible	Date Due
1	Hold annual Teen Outreach Program to address chastity with 8 th graders and youth groups throughout the diocese.	Jennifer Ruggiero	Mar 31, 2011

2	Meet annually with and expand Pro-Life Clubs in each of the 5 Catholic High Schools of the Diocese and engage them in pro-life activities (Teen Outreach, March for Life, Student Ambassador for Life Program, Respect Life Mass).	Jennifer Ruggiero	Oct 31, 2012
3	Hold annual Respect for Life Contests (Grammar School and High School) to foster discussion about specific life issues. Explore new ideas for contest expansion.	Jennifer Ruggiero	May 31, 2011
4	Hold Student Ambassador for Life Program for High School student leaders to encourage leadership and advocacy. Evaluate the program.	Jennifer Ruggiero	May 31, 2011

Goal 3: Strive to embrace unity within our diversity by reaching out to the Hispanic Community and to other cultures.

	Objective	Person Responsible	Date Due
1	Work with Youth Ministry to offer a bilingual disabilities awareness workshop for youth ministers and youth groups. Offer a bi-lingual workshop for youth ministers.	Jennifer Ruggiero	Feb 28, 2011
2	Provide clergy with Spanish resources to assist them in addressing life issues, i.e.: prayer services, pregnancy resources materials, post abortion healing materials, homily helps as developed by the USCCB.	Jennifer Ruggiero	June 30, 2012
3	Support and promote awareness of Rachel's Vineyard Retreat – Post Abortion Healing Spanish – Help to build up retreat team. Hold training for new retreat team members. Hold a Spanish retreat serving the entire province.	Jennifer Ruggiero	June 30, 2012
4	Appoint two representatives from the Hispanic Community to serve on the diocesan Commission for Pro-Life Action.	Jennifer Ruggiero	Apr 30, 2012
5	Work with the Commission to identify a Spanish speaking pro-life speaker for the Speakers Bureau.	Jennifer Ruggiero	Dec 31, 2011

Goal 4: Collaborate with other diocesan offices and ministries to increase awareness of pro-life issues with diocesan and parish leaders and staffs.

	Objective	Person Responsible	Date Due
1	Continue to collaborate with diocesan offices (Family Life, Youth Ministry & Education) on such projects as: Legislative Dialogue, Teen Outreach, Disabilities workshops. Meet with diocesan offices (listed above) annually to explore new areas of collaboration (i.e.: Theology of the Body for Teens and Middle School).	Jennifer Ruggiero	Nov 30, 2011
2	Continue to work with NJ Respect Life Directors on statewide initiatives as they arise. Encourage collaboration with other statewide networks (Family Life, Catechesis and Education) regarding advocacy and education (i.e. Planned Parenthood Family Life Education Conference).	Jennifer Ruggiero	Oct 31, 2011

Goal 5: Continue to develop programs and services which reach out to those in need such as those living with disabilities, the deaf community and those facing unplanned pregnancies.

	Objective	Person Responsible	Date Due
1	Mentor Office Program Coordinator to develop disabilities ministry by helping to develop leadership skills. Model how to conduct effective meetings and how to establish action items.	Jennifer Ruggiero	May – Nov, 2011
2	Form an advisory committee or commission to assist in developing this area of ministry further.	Jennifer Ruggiero, Angela Marshall	Nov 30, 2011
3	Work with and support Pregnancy Help Centers in their efforts to reach out to women facing unplanned pregnancies. Meet with Pregnancy Help Center Directors twice yearly to encourage greater collaboration with the diocese and parishes.	Jennifer Ruggiero	Sep 31, 2011
4	Convene annual meeting with K of C and pregnancy help centers to discuss ultrasound initiatives that include fundraising and purchasing of new ultrasound equipment.	Jennifer Ruggiero	June 30, 2012