

May 2008

TO: Bulletin Secretaries

FROM: Ann Bierschenk, Director
Office of Pro-Life Activities

RE: May Word of Life Series and other Pro-Life Activities

The WORD OF LIFE SERIES for the month of May is enclosed. Please use these resources in your bulletin and in the General Intercessions of the May Masses to raise awareness at the parish level towards respect life issues. These are published monthly in English and Spanish by the Pro-Life Secretariat of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for parish use. To copy and paste, please go to the following website: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/wolarchive.htm>

Bulletin Blurbs have been written for your convenience and are enclosed.

May is the month of Mary and May 11th is Mother's Day. A word of thanksgiving and appreciation to all mothers in the parish bulletin would be a very nice way to acknowledge all mother's of the parish.

Flyers for the **Pro-Life Activities scheduled for May** are enclosed including the May Prayer Vigils in Austin and Killeen.

A flyer advertising the Benefits Banquets for Annunciation Maternity Home is enclosed. Please feel free to place this on the parish bulletin board and distribute in the parish bulletin.

Please use the **Project Rachel** bulletin announcements included to advertise the upcoming Project Rachel Retreat on the Weekend of June 13 – 15. Many of the calls for help that we receive are from individuals who saw the Project Rachel Announcement in the parish bulletin.

The Texas Catholic Conference now has an e-newsletter called *The Texas Catholic Voice* which is educational, informative and inspiring. Please use the enclosed bulletin blurb to let parishioners know that it is free to all Catholics and to sign up to receive it.

Thank you for helping to promote the Gospel of Life!

Bulletin Announcements for May 2008

Pro-Life Activities:

For the Weekend of May 3 & 4

Gabriel Training. A Gabriel Training will be held on Saturday, May 10 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Gabriel Project Life Center in Austin located at East 6th Street and Chicon in the Catholic Charities Building for all those who have an interest in volunteering or becoming a Gabriel Angel. Please contact Amy Chestnut for more information or to RSVP at 512-990-9234 or the Pro-Life Office at 512-238-1756.

Annual Benefit Banquets for Annunciation Maternity Home in

Georgetown. This year two banquets will be held to benefit Annunciation Maternity Home. On Thursday, May 8th the first banquet will be hosted at St. Louis Catholic Church in Austin and will feature guest speaker Bishop Gregory Aymond. On Thursday, May 22 the second banquet will be hosted at St. Helen's Catholic Church in Georgetown and will feature Bishop Grahmann of the Diocese of Dallas. Every one is encouraged to attend one of these banquets to support the good work of Annunciation Maternity Home. Individual tickets are \$35 and table sponsorships are available. For more information, contact the home at 512-864-7755.

Is there an abortion in your past? Project Rachel offers hope and healing to those who are suffering from a past abortion. A Project Rachel Retreat is scheduled for the weekend of June 13 – 15, 2008. For confidential and compassionate help or for information on the retreat, call 1-877 We Care 2.

***Texas Catholic Voice* email newsletter.** The Texas Catholic Conference is the association of the 15 Roman Catholic dioceses of the State of Texas and is an official organization of the Church hierarchy. All Catholics of the Diocese of Austin are invited to subscribe to the *Texas Catholic Voice* newsletter today to start receiving news on the Church in Texas. To register, visit the Texas Catholic Conference web site at www.TXcatholic.org

For the Weekend of May 10 & 11

May 11th is Mother's Day! Our parish acknowledges and thanks all the Mother's of our parish today and asks God to abundantly bless them!

Killeen May Prayer Vigil - The Killeen May Prayer Vigil is scheduled for Saturday, May 24th. The Prayer Vigil will begin with Mass at 8:30am at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 2903 E. Rancier Ave., Killeen followed by a car caravan and procession at 9:45 am to pray the Mysteries of the Rosary at Killeen Women's Health Center, 3106 S.W. Young Dr, Killeen from 10 am to 11 am. All will return to St. Joseph Church for closing and fellowship at 11:15 am. For more information, 254-986-1134 contact Karen Hinze.

Annual Benefit for Annunciation Maternity Home in Georgetown. On Thursday, May 22 a benefit banquet will be hosted at St. Helen's Catholic Church in Georgetown and will feature Bishop Grahmann of the Diocese of Dallas. Every one is encouraged to attend one of these banquets to support the good work of Annunciation Maternity Home. Individual tickets are \$35 and table sponsorships are available. For more information, contact the home at 512-864-7755.

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For the Weekend of May 17 & 18

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Austin May Prayer Vigil – The Austin May Prayer Vigil is scheduled for Saturday, May 31st at St. Williams Catholic Church in Round Rock. Fr. Joel McNeil will be the main celebrant at the Mass which will begin at 7:00 am. Following Mass adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be in the church and a car caravan will travel to Whole Women's Health at 8401 N IH 35 (at Fenelon Street) in Austin where the Mysteries of the Rosary will be prayed at the site from 8:10 – 9:50 a.m. Benediction will follow at St. Williams Church at 10:30 am with refreshments served afterwards. All are invited to attend. Call the Office of Pro-Life Activities for more information at 512-238-1756.

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For the Weekend of May 24 & 25

Is there an abortion in your past? Project Rachel offers hope and healing to those who are suffering from a past abortion. A Project Rachel Retreat is scheduled for the weekend of June 13 – 15, 2008. For confidential and compassionate help or for information on the retreat, call 1-877 We Care 2.

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Intercessions for Life

May 2008

May 4th Seventh Sunday of Easter/Ascension of the Lord

For our Holy Father:
in thanksgiving for his devotion to the Gospel of life;
We pray to the Lord:

May 11th Pentecost Sunday

For doctors, nurses, and all health-care professionals:
that they might receive the grace
to resist all cooperation with the Culture of Death;
We pray to the Lord:

May 18th Most Holy Trinity

For those who care for the sick and the dying,
that God might reward them for their dedication
to the infinite value of every human life;
We pray to the Lord:



May 25th Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

For every mother who this week aborts her child,
and for her husband:
that God might bring them repentance, healing, and peace;
We pray to the Lord:

*God has sent his Only-begotten Son into the world,
that we may live through him.*

from the Roman Missal

The use society hopes to make of biomedical science must constantly be measured against robust and firm ethical standards. ... Foremost among these is the dignity of human life, for under no circumstances may a human being be manipulated or treated as a mere instrument for experimentation.

Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Holy See, Oct. 11, 2007

A society unable to accept its suffering members and incapable of helping to share their suffering and to bear it inwardly through "com-*passion*" is a cruel and inhuman society" (*Spe salvi*, 38). ... More and more lonely elderly people exist in big cities, even in situations of serious illness and close to death. In such situations, the pressure of euthanasia is felt, especially when a utilitarian vision of the person creeps in. In this regard, I take this opportunity to reaffirm once again the firm and constant ethical condemnation of every form of direct euthanasia, in accordance with the Church's centuries-old teaching.

Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Congress Organized by the Pontifical Academy for Life, Feb. 25, 2008

When God wants an important thing done in this world or a wrong righted, He goes about it in a very singular way. He doesn't release thunderbolts or stir up earthquakes. God simply has a tiny baby born, perhaps of a very humble home, perhaps of a very humble mother. And God puts the idea or purpose into the mother's heart. And she puts it in the baby's mind, and then – God waits. The great events of this world are not battles and elections and earthquakes, and thunderbolts. The great events are babies, for each child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged with humanity, but is still expecting goodwill to become incarnate in each human life.

Edmond McDonald

Compared with women with no history of abortion, women who had one abortion were 2.8 times more likely to have a low birth weight (LBW) baby. Those with two abortions were 4.6 times more likely to have a LBW baby, and those with three abortions were 9.5 times more likely to have a LBW baby. The risk for preterm birth was 1.7 times, 2 times and 3 times, respectively for women with one, two or three abortions.

J.S. Brown, Jr. et al., "Previous Abortion and the Risk of Low Birth Weight and Preterm Births," *J. Epidemiol Community Health* (2008) 62:16.

Intercesiones por la Vida

Mayo de
2008

4 de mayo **7º Domingo de Pascua/ Ascensión del Señor**

Por nuestro Santo Padre:

en agradecimiento por su devoción al Evangelio de la Vida;

Roguemos al Señor:

11 de mayo **Domingo de Pentecostés**

Por los médicos, enfermeras y todos los profesionales de la salud:

para que reciban la gracia de oponerse

a toda cooperación con la Cultura de la muerte;

Roguemos al Señor:

18 de mayo **Santísima Trinidad**

Por quienes cuidan a los enfermos y moribundos:

para que Dios los recompense por su dedicación

al valor infinito de cada vida humana;

Roguemos al Señor:



25 de mayo El Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo

Por cada madre que esta semana abortará a su hijo,

y por su esposo:

que Dios les dé arrepentimiento, sanación y paz;

Roguemos al Señor:

*Dios... envió a su Hijo unigénito
para que vivamos por él.
del Misal Romano*

El uso que la sociedad espera hacer de la ciencia biomédica debe medirse constantemente con sólidos y firmes modelos éticos. [...] El más importante de ellos es la dignidad de la vida humana, por la cual de ninguna manera se puede manipular o tratar un ser humano como un mero instrumento para la experimentación.

Papa Benedicto XVI, Discurso al Embajador de la República de Corea ante la Santa Sede, 11 de octubre de 2007.

“Una sociedad que no logra aceptar a los que sufren y no es capaz de contribuir mediante la compasión a que el sufrimiento sea compartido y sobrellevado también interiormente, es una sociedad cruel e inhumana” (*Spe salvi*, n. 38). [...] En las grandes ciudades hay cada vez más personas ancianas y solas, incluso en los momentos de enfermedad grave y de cercanía de la muerte. En estas situaciones es fuerte la tentación de recurrir a la eutanasia, sobre todo cuando se insinúa una visión utilitarista en relación con la persona. A este respecto, aprovecho la ocasión para reafirmar, una vez más, la firme y constante condena ética de toda forma de eutanasia directa, según la enseñanza plurisecular de la Iglesia.

Papa Benedicto XVI, Discurso al Congreso organizado por la Academia Pontificia para la Vida, 25 de febrero de 2008.

Cuando Dios quiere que se haga algo importante en este mundo o que se corrija un mal, lo emprende de una manera muy singular. No manda rayos ni provoca terremotos. Dios simplemente hace que nazca un pequeño bebé, tal vez de un hogar muy humilde, tal vez de una madre muy humilde. Y Dios pone la idea o propósito en el corazón de la madre. Y ella, en la mente del bebé, y luego, Dios espera. Los grandes hechos de este mundo no son las batallas ni las elecciones ni los terremotos, ni los rayos. Los grandes hechos son los bebés, porque cada niño viene con el mensaje de que Dios aún no está desanimado por la humanidad, pero todavía está esperando que la benevolencia se encarne en cada vida humana.

Edmond McDonald

Comparadas con las mujeres que no tuvieron abortos, las que tuvieron un aborto tenían 2,8 veces más probabilidad de tener un bebé de bajo peso al nacer. Las que tuvieron dos abortos tenían 4,6 veces más probabilidad de tener un bebé de bajo peso al nacer, y las que tuvieron tres abortos tenían 9,5 veces más probabilidad de tener un bebé de bajo peso al nacer. El riesgo de nacimiento antes de término era 1,7 veces, 2 veces y 3 veces mayor, respectivamente, para mujeres con uno, dos o tres abortos.

J.S. Brown, Jr. et al., “Previous Abortion and the Risk of Low Birth Weight and Preterm Births”, *J. Epidemiol Community Health* (2008) 62:16.

RACHEL'S REFLECTIONS

Weekend of May 4 and 5

“Post traumatic suffering is the untold story of abortion. There are literally millions of women and men who, alone and abandoned, suffer some of the most serious psychological and spiritual consequences of contemporary society’s disregard for the sanctity of human life and the sacredness of human sexuality.”

-Sisters of Life

If you or someone you know has experienced and abortion, we can help. Please call Project Rachel at 1-877- WE CARE 2.”

Weekend of May 11 and 12

“There are many post-abortive women and men in our churches who live in silent torment. They believe that if their friends knew what they had done, they would reject or condemn them. Let us reach out in truth, love, and mercy, and bring the good news of Christ’s forgiveness and healing to these hurting women. If you or someone you know has experienced and abortion, we can help. Please call Project Rachel at 1-877- WE CARE 2.”

Weekend of May 18 and 19

“It is Jesus who heals the heart. It is Mary, our heavenly Mother, the mediatrix of all graces, who takes us by the hand and leads us to her Son. As the Mother of Jesus and as our own mother, she knows the joys and sorrows of motherhood. Who better than Mary to help those on the journey of building a relationship with Jesus and with their children lost through abortion.”

-Sisters of Life

If you or someone you know has experienced and abortion, we can help. Please call Project Rachel at 1-877- WE CARE 2.”

Weekend of May 25 and 26

“In the case of ministering to the abortion-affected that means we must do whatever is within our ability - by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit - to create a safe environment within our churches.”

-Mary Comm, Secret Sin: When God’s People Choose Abortion

If you or someone you know has experienced and abortion, we can help. Please call Project Rachel at 1-877- WE CARE 2.”

REFLEXIONES DE RAQUEL

Fin de Semana del 4 y 5 de mayo.

“El sufrimiento post-traumático es el relato no revelado del aborto. Existen literalmente millones de mujeres y hombres quienes, solos o abandonados, sufren algunas de las más serias consecuencias espirituales y psicológicas de la indiferencia de la sociedad contemporánea por la santidad de la vida humana y lo sagrado de la sexualidad humana”.

-Hermanas de Vida

Si usted o alguien que conoce ha experimentado un aborto, nosotros podemos ayudar. Por favor llame a Proyecto Raquel al 1-877- WE CARE 2.

Fin de Semana del 11 y 12 de mayo.

“Existen muchas mujeres y hombres en nuestras iglesias que experimentan las consecuencias del aborto, quienes viven un suplicio tormentoso. Ellos creen que si sus amigos supieran lo que hicieron, los rechazarían o condenarían. Permítanos acercarnos verdaderamente, con amor y misericordia y llevar las buenas nuevas del perdón y sanación de Cristo a aquellas dolidas mujeres. Si usted o alguien que conoce ha experimentado un aborto, nosotros podemos ayudar. Por favor llame a Proyecto Raquel al 1-877- WE CARE 2.

Fin de Semana del 18 y 19 de mayo.

“Este es Jesús que cura el corazón. Esta es María, nuestra Madre celestial, mediadora de todas las gracias, quien nos lleva de la mano y nos guía hacia su Hijo. Como Madre de Jesús y como nuestra propia madre, ella conoce las alegrías y penas de la maternidad. Quien mejor que María para ayudar a aquellas personas que buscan edificar una relación con Jesús y con los hijos que perdieron a través del aborto”.

-Hermanas de Vida

Si usted o alguien que conoce ha experimentado un aborto, nosotros podemos ayudar. Por favor llame a Proyecto Raquel al 1-877- WE CARE 2.

Fin de Semana del 25 y 26 de mayo.

“En el caso de asistir a los afectados por un aborto, debemos hacer cualquier cosa dentro de nuestras posibilidades – por el poder del Espíritu Santo -- para crear un ambiente seguro dentro de nuestras iglesias”.

- Mary Comm, Pecado Secreto: Cuando la gente de Dios elige el aborto

[*Mary Comm, Secret Sin: When God's People Choose Abortion*]

Si usted o alguien que conoce ha experimentado un aborto, nosotros podemos ayudar. Por favor llame a Proyecto Raquel al 1-877- WE CARE 2.