

**St. John XXIII Parish Respect Life Ministry** October is Respect Life Month and October 1 is Respect Life Sunday nationally. Here's some information about the Respect Life Ministry at our parish.

**What is it?** It's an apostolate (aka ministry) which seeks to protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence. It's led by Respect Life coordinators appointed by our pastor. Under his direction, the coordinators champion respect for the human person through catechesis, programs and projects.

The work must align with the Deposit of Faith (composed of Sacred Scripture and the *Magisterium*) as explicated by the Church over the last 2000 years. As with all parish endeavors, the apostolate must also be a force for evangelization, advancing our pastor's vision. (See the April 2, 2023 Parish Bulletin)

**Who are the coordinators?** Jane and Don Colleton are the St. John XXIII Respect Life Coordinators. They can be reached at [dpcolleton@gmail.com](mailto:dpcolleton@gmail.com), [jccolleton@gmail.com](mailto:jccolleton@gmail.com) or (847) 866-8445.

**Examples of the apostolate's work?** Here're several:

- **The Recently Concluded Baby Bottle Campaign**
  - Through the generosity of our parishioners, the Campaign raised more than \$5,200 for three local crisis pregnancy centers dedicated to the material, psychological and spiritual care and wellbeing, both before and after delivery, of moms with crisis pregnancies and their babies.
- **Bulletin Stories**
  - Such as this June's stories on physician assisted suicide and last October Respect Life Sunday story exploring current obstacles to conversations about life issues.
- **Respect Life Portion of the Parish Website**
  - It's currently under construction. <https://www.stjohn23evanston.org/respect-life.html> When fully operational it will serve as a venue for catechesis (i.e., teaching), reflections on Church teaching, select bulletin stories from the last 27 years and links to other relevant resources. The site will also offer contacts for those in need of help on matters involving human dignity, e.g. domestic violence, addiction to pornography or an unexpected pregnancy.
- **Participation in Events Across the Spectrum of Life Issues**
  - The coordinators, on occasion with the pastor present, have led or accompanied groups participating in and/or attending the National Marches for Life in Washington, D.C., Cardinal O'Connor Conferences for Life at Georgetown University, Vigil Masses for Life at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Life Issue Conferences at Mundelein Seminary, Chicago Marches for Life and National Black Catholic Congresses. The coordinators have also attended educational conferences sponsored by the Chicago Archdiocese.
  - Conference speakers have provided catechesis on such life issues as pornography, human trafficking, abortion, post abortion healing, discrimination against persons with disabilities, genocide, euthanasia, marriage, family and parental rights, the right to present Church teaching in the public square and the right to be free from governmental coercion of actions which violate sincerely held religious beliefs.

Feel free to contact the coordinators if you're interested in supporting this apostolate.