



Lifelines

The Respect Life Committee at St. Francis is an Apostolate that is totally committed to defending the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.
www.stfrancisparish.org/respectlife.htm

St. Francis of Assisi
Respect Life Committee

August 2009

Mary's House

Offering Hope and Help to any pregnant woman

Mary's House held its first training session on

August 15, 2009

There couldn't have been a more fitting day to take a time out from my daily obligations in order to attend the Mary's House training session (thank you to my dear husband for taking care of our children so I could be gone all day). It was the feast day of the Assumption. With a break in the day for mass, further reflection afforded me the opportunity to be so grateful for this new ministry at St. Francis. I never cease to be amazed at how God chose to come into this world through a woman, and yet so many people think that the Church does not hold women in high esteem. Pope John Paul II clears up any misconceptions about the dignity and vocation of women in his apostolic letter entitled *Mulieris Dignitatem* (1988). How I wish more women would read this beautiful document before making negative statements about the Catholic Church for not wavering on issues such as birth control and abortion! These hard issues are what separate us from the mainstream culture but these hard issues are also what make me proud to be a Catholic woman exercising my God-given ability to be a wife and mother.

Explaining difficult moral issues can be quite daunting,

which is why Fr. Burt started off our day of training with the loaded responsibility of answering the question, "Why are we pro-life?"

August 29-30
Respect Life
2nd Collection
To benefit women in crisis pregnancies.
Please give generously.

He did a great job explaining the basis of our Catholic pro-life beliefs. He discussed the meaning of sexual union, why contraception is wrong, how politicians try to get around the issue and how beneficial chastity and purity are for disciplining and perfecting the self. And this was just in the first five minutes! We all took good notes.

Kristi Walsh gave a wonderful talk about the foundational principles that guide Mary's House. We were reminded of the parable of the sower from Matthew 13:3-8. Some of our assistance to women will fall on rocky and thorny ground. However, some of our words and actions may fall upon rich soil and thus bear fruit to help build up the kingdom of God. However our words and actions are received, it is ultimately up to the woman and to the Holy Spirit to do His work. The important thing is to do it all with genuine love and gentleness of heart.

Melissa Mello gave valuable information and direction about the important qualities of a mother mentor. Karen Adams furthered the discussion by helping us to work on effective communication skills. I found this part of the day to be so beneficial because I learned a great deal about how to keep my own thoughts, attitudes and expectations at bay while really trying to focus on the needs of the mother and meeting her in her current situation, whatever that may be.

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St. Gerard's Column

Congratulations to Heather Glymph who delivered her twins July 30th!

Please pray for these expectant moms:

Katie Julian Overby
(due Aug)

Analia Anniballi
(due Sep)

Noreen Brennan

Maria (Fornadel) Beck
(due Nov)

Samantha A.
(due Dec)

Shelley Haug
(due in Jan)

Anna Ridenour
(due Apr)

Please pray for all moms who recently have experienced the loss of their unborn child.

Please pray for the intentions of women who desire the gift of motherhood but who are experiencing the pain of infertility including:

Gertrude*
Mary Street Moore

Contact Monica Wirth at 886-6644 to add someone to the St. Gerard prayer list.

Spiritual direction began the day and fittingly ended it, as well. Melissa Mello read from *Deus Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict XVI first encyclical letter. We were reminded of our Blessed Mother and what a wonderful example she can be for us. Keeping spiritually fit is the key to being successful in any church ministry.

In the conclusion of his apostolic letter, *Mulieris Digni-*

tatem, John Paul II states: "During the Marian Year the Church desires to give thanks to the Most Holy Trinity for the "mystery of woman" and for every woman - for that which constitutes the eternal measure of her feminine dignity, for the "great works of God", which throughout human history have been accomplished in and through her. After all, was it not in and

through her that the greatest event in human history - the incarnation of God himself - was accomplished?"

Every woman deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Mary's House is just such a place to bring the Gospel message to life. Thank you to everyone involved for stepping forward and devoting your time to such a valuable and worthwhile cause.

Lorraine Petty is wife to George and mother of two young children. She has volunteered to be a Mother Mentor with the Mary's House ministry.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Respect Life Garden

A work in progress



Jul 11
Parishioners and Boy Scouts clear the site



Jul 14
Jim Roepke, Master Stone Mason, digs the foundation



Jul 18
Foundation is framed



Jul 11
The original site



August 18th . . . the grotto nears completion



Jul 22
Footers are poured and block is laid



Aug 4
More stone is added and the arch is about to get the key-stone



Jul 28
The archway gives the grotto its signature shape



Jul 24
The structure begins to take shape