

Good morning all,

Consider this our Summer meeting! I have attached our opening prayer if you want to say it to yourself.

1). First, would anyone like to do a Rosary in the chapel some time this summer, or maybe a little field trip like we did a couple years ago to a nearby Marian Shrine? I was thinking maybe the one up in Des Plaines.

We also had talked about maybe doing a little Respect Life thank you at Culver's like we did, also a couple years ago.

2). Baby bottles. I hope we will be able to do them this year, obviously we are all keeping an eye on things. The Women's Center has asked us to distribute them October 3rd and collect them October 24th. I hope everybody can pitch in. We raise thousands to protect unborn babies every year, but we have to put our nose to the wheel to do it.

3). Respect Life Month. October, of course. Suggestions? I think the Baby Bottle project is our "centerpiece," but I would like to again tilt at a couple of windmills:

A). Two presentations - One on Suicide and one on Drug Overdoses. I have seen and heard different numbers, but I feel pretty confident saying that, in 2020, deaths in both of these categories increased nationally about 33% and in Cook County they may have doubled. What is shocking is that deaths in both of these areas actually been on the rise since about 2012, so that increase in the last decade has been even higher. It has led to actual real declines in life expectancy for all demographic categories. While the numbers of people who die from these two causes don't rival those of abortion, I think they are probably the second highest numbers of what I would call "anti-life" deaths. So I would like to have them be a sort of secondary and tertiary focus of our group and would like to try to promote awareness during October.

B). Recruitment - I would like to try to do some sort of September recruitment push. I think that there are a lot of younger parishioners who would be very interested in helping with our activities, and I want them to help with the baby bottles!

C). Respect Life Sunday - This will be when we are handing out the baby bottles, I think. I will share USCCB materials with Father Paul.

Thanks for reading. I also have attached our closing prayer options if you want to pray them.

God bless you all,

Paul

## **Opening prayer**

### ***Option A***

Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life,  
And for the lives of all my brothers and sisters.

I know there is nothing that destroys more life than abortion,  
Yet I rejoice that you have conquered death by the Resurrection of Your Son.

I am ready to do my part in ending abortion.  
Today I commit myself  
Never to be silent,  
Never to be passive,  
Never to be forgetful of the unborn.

I commit myself to be active in the pro-life movement,  
And never to stop defending life  
Until all my brothers and sisters are protected,  
And our nation once again becomes  
A nation with liberty and justice  
Not just for some, but for all.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen!

### ***Option B***

God of life and love, you created us in your image and sent your Son to bring us life.  
Instill in us a respect for all life, from conception to natural death. Empower us to work for justice for the poor. Nourish us that we may bring food to the hungry. Inspire us to cherish the fragile life of the unborn. Strengthen us to bring comfort to the chronically ill. Teach us to treat the aging with dignity and respect. Bring us one day into the glory of everlasting life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Closing prayer

### *Option A*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You are the Author of Life,  
Who died and now lives forevermore.

May we who work and pray  
That children in the womb may be  
protected

Always draw strength, confidence, and joy  
From Your victory over death,

For you are Lord forever and ever. Amen.

### *Option B*

O Mary bright dawn of the new world,  
Mother of the living, to you do we entrust  
the cause of life: Look down, O Mother,  
upon the vast numbers of babies not  
allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives  
are made difficult, of men and women who  
are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly  
and the sick killed by indifference or out of  
misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe  
in your Son may proclaim the Gospel  
of life with honesty and love to the people of  
our time. Obtain for them the grace to  
accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the  
joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout  
their lives and the courage to  
bear witness to it resolutely, in order to  
build, together with all people of goodwill,  
the civilization of truth and love, to the  
praise and glory of God, the Creator and  
lover of life.