

**Gospel of Life Committee
Minutes
September 20, 2018**

Present were: Deacon Nick Nichols, Fr. Fid Levri, David and Nancy Wolfe and Richard Murphy.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

Minutes from the 5-17-18 meeting were accepted as published.

Old Business:

1. Billboards for Life Report: Deacon Nick reported that the June appeal for funds was the second highest amount ever received for \$5100. There were 111 that responded to the appeal to about 700 people.

Access to speaking engagements in the Parishes were becoming harder and harder to obtain. Many Parishes have instituted policies that require those seeking outside collections to first go through the Finance Committee of the Parish to be approved. Some Parishes utilize a particular giving envelope in the Parish monthly giving packet to provide for the collection. Some long time contributors have discontinued the in church appeal.

On the expense end of the operation, there is now only one provider for public billboards. The cost has not gone up for the first year of operation but it will for the next year of operation. This will likely necessitate a cut back on the number of billboards for 2019. There may be donors that will consider increasing their contributions before that is required.

There are still some Parish appeals that are made face to face with the people. Volunteers would be much appreciated for these talks, especially in their own Parishes.

2. Face Book Page Report: there was not a report available at this meeting.

3. Opportunities for Life Update: there was not a report available at this meeting.

4. Life Chain Update: there was not a report available at this meeting.

5. Catholic Medical Association Formation & White Mass 10-21-18: Plans were underway for this celebration. The Office of Communications has assisted the Committee in producing an advertising flyer and also assisted with advertising to the general public with monthly newsletter advertising. The Office of Worship has prepared a wonderful liturgy with a worship aid and hired musicians. Lourdes Hospital staff has been notified and Fr. Richard Cash has

assisted in promoting it in the Owensboro Health system. It remains to be seen who might be able to attend this first time event in the Diocese.

6. Need for a Secretary: Minutes are taken at each meeting and it would be a great help to have assistance with part of the work. Please let Richard know if that will work for you.

7. Adult and Youth Trips to March for Life 2019 – Report: There are 165 youth and adults planning on attending the March for Life from our Diocese. Efforts will be made to obtain tickets for the Youth Rally and Mass at the Capitol One Center in DC on 11-6-18.

The adult only trip appears to be cancelled. There were only a handful of folks that signed up by the deadline of 9-15-18. All preregistration fees will be returned.

New Business:

1. Issues Committee Members Wish to Raise: Committee members expressed concern about the recent sexual abuse scandals, including the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report and the Cardinal McCarrick disclosures. The Listening Sessions that the Bishop has proposed were seen as a positive approach to these disclosures. It made a clear statement about the Church's desire to hear what people are saying and to get the correction in place for these types of issues.

2. Catholic Pro Life Conference July 29 to August 1, 2018: Richard was able to attend this National conference with the help of a grant received by a national group. He shared a recent statement from Bishop Olmstead given at the event with the Committee.

3. Regional Life Issues Group Meeting 8-29-18: Eric Girtten, Director of Life and Family Issues for the Diocese of Evansville was able to call together a number of Life groups in the two Dioceses to begin collaborating on life issues. There will be quarterly meetings of this newly formed group.

4. Respect Life Program 2018-2019: The respect life materials have been mailed out to every Parish in the Diocese of Owensboro. The offices of Social Concerns and Family Life collaborated to finance this operation.

5. Supreme Court- Appointment Status: The Committee had a short conversation about this ordeal. Most believed that Judge Kavanaugh would eventually be confirmed.

6. Staff Sharing of Resources: tabled.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Future Meeting Date: **11-15-18, 1-17-19, 3-21-19, and 5-16-19** at 6:30 PM at the MCC.