

Diocese of Owensboro
Gospel of Life Committee
Minutes
January 17, 2019

Present were: Deacon Nick Nichols; Fr. Fid Levri; Sheila Howard and Richard Murphy

The meeting opened with a prayer.

Minutes from the September 20, 2018 meeting were accepted as published.

Old Business:

1) Opportunities for Life Update: The Bishops of Kentucky have decided to close down the program the beginning of January 2019. The hotline has now closed, however the website is still viable and will be redesigned to offer info on Kentucky Crisis Pregnancy Services. The program is being rapped up with an effort to get materials on the program to Archdiocesan Archives in Louisville Ky.

2) Billboards for Life Report: Deacon Nick reported that Opportunities for Life phone line closed on December 31st. Other options for numbers to replace that number on the billboards were discussed. One option that was under consideration is Option Line, that may have some issues related to policies not clearly approved in Catholic Social Teaching. There are other options for which prolife counseling service to use, and these are under current scrutiny. There are about 40 billboards that will need to be outfitted with new telephone numbers in this Diocese. How that funding would be arranged was also still under consideration, and this might possibly include seeking money from any funds that might be remaining in the Opportunities for Life coffers.

3) Facebook Page Report: 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: The Mass was attended by 70 people. Potential recruits for the Catholic Medical Association were discussed. Each committee member present agreed to contact one of the doctors named to let them know about the organization and its purpose.

6) Need for more members: Members present discussed potential new members for GOL committee and members will reach out to potential recruits.

7) Need for secretary: Sheila Howard will become the new secretary

8) Adult and Youth trips to March for Life 2019: 165 people from the diocese of Owensboro are going to the March for Life this this year: 56 from OCHS; 54 from OC Middle School and 55 from Trinity High School. They will be participating in the Rally for Life and the March for Life.

New Business:

1) Fr Fid discussed a “Survivors” group in California that will be marching in Washington the day after the women's march. This group proclaims the Right to Life message and many of them are college students.

2) Sheila Howard discussed a pro-life nurse who has a website and does speaking engagements on many pro-life topics such as abortion as well as end-of-life issues. She is a former critical care and hospice nurse. Her name is Nancy Valko, RN.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Future meeting date: 3-21-19 & 5-16-19 at 6;30 PM at the MCC.