

Synod Norm # 41 – Status Report 1/29/10

Submitted by: Jennifer Ruggiero, Director, Office of Respect for Life

Synod Norm Strategic Plan

Norm Number: 41

Norm Description: Each pastor is to reaffirm his commitment to support and promote respect for life by assuring the implementation of the diocesan Respect Life program within the parish. Pastors are to appoint a parish representative to assist with the implementation.

Department or Office Primary Responsibility: Office of Pro-Life Activities

Department of Offices with Secondary Responsibility: Commission for Pro-Life Action, Department of Pastoral Life, Pastors

Person Submitting Plan: Jennifer Ruggiero

Goal: Each pastor is to reaffirm his commitment to support and promote respect for life by assuring the implementation of the diocesan Respect Life program within the parish. Pastors are to appoint a parish representative to assist with the implementation.

The plan to implement this norm:

- a. The Office will inventory all parishes to determine those who currently have active parish pro-life representatives. *This was completed by March, 2009.*
- b. The pastors of parishes who have active representatives will be asked to reaffirm their commitment by reappointing those representatives by June, 2009. *Completed.*
- c. Those parishes without active parish pro-life representatives will be asked to affirm their commitment by appointing a parish pro-life representative to help implement the Respect Life program by June, 2009. *Completed.*
- d. In parishes where the pastor cannot appoint a volunteer, the Office will evaluate the possibility of having a regional/deanery representative by June, 2009. This will be accomplished by personal contact with the pastors and/or deanery meetings.

Six parishes are currently without representatives and in these parishes the pastors have agreed to help implement Respect Life initiatives.

A diocesan meeting was held in September and 40 + parish representatives attended. There were 10 new representatives in attendance. Many representatives also attended the Critical Life Issues Conference in October.

The next diocesan parish rep. meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2010.