

Nine Parish Goals (2013-2016)

**“To promote respect for life: the unborn, the ill and infirm,
and those in the final stages of life.”**

Committee for Respect Life Initiatives

PURPOSE OF COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Committee for Respect Life Initiatives is to discern the areas of focus to help St. Mary Parishioners appreciate the teachings of the Catholic Church on respect life issues, as well as plan the implementation of respect life initiatives, so that parishioners will be encouraged to fulfill their responsibilities as Catholics to foster respect for human life from conception to natural death.

KEY RESPONSIBILITY AREAS

- Study church teachings as regards respect for human life including abortion, end of life issues, and capital punishment.
- Determine appropriate ways to inform parishioners of what the church teaches as regards respect for human life.
- Determine and oversee the implementation of periodic parish programs and activities as regards respect life issues in which parishioners might participate.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Louis “Buzzy” Hebert (Chairman), Bubba Carlin, Michael Crain, Dud Lastrapes, Caroline Mader, Stephen Pellessier, and Karl Schott.

AREAS OF CONCERN

The areas of Catholic Teaching on Life Issues include numerous topics, including the following (*in alphabetical order*).

- Abortion
- Assisted suicide
- Artificial contraception
- Capital punishment
- Chastity
- Euthanasia
- Human cloning
- Infertility
- Nutrition (*at end of life*)
- Post abortion aftermath
- Sterilization

2015-2016 FOCUS: END OF LIFE ISSUES

It has been determined that the Committee will focus one area each year. During this, the Committee’s first year of existence, the Committee will provide helpful information on “End of Life Issues” such as assisted suicide and euthanasia. This will be done by means of bulletin inserts as well as a major presentation in January 2016.

**Major Presentation “End of Life Matters,” by Fr. Keith LaBove
Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 6:30 PM**

How do I know when it's okay to withdraw medical treatment for a loved one? Why is "pulling the plug" not the same things as euthanasia -- or is it? What is a DNR, and why would I want one? These questions and others, including those surrounding assisted nutrition and hydration as well as advanced directives, will be addressed in the context of the tradition of Catholic teaching on the dignity of human life and the ethics of medical care at the end of life.

Fr. Keith LaBove, pastor of St. Patrick Church in Lafayette, also serves as chaplain at Women & Children’s Hospital and Heart Hospital of Lafayette.