



NEWSLETTER



RICHARD NEAL
FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR
1755 C.R. 205
CALDWELL, TX 77836
PHONE: 979-272-8944

Knights of Columbus

Msgr. Francis D. Urbanovsky #2587
Somerville, Caldwell, and Rockdale

MARTIN ELMAN
FAITHFUL COMPTROLLER
3098 SOUTH HGY. 77
ROCKDALE, TX. 76567
(512-446-6699)

OCTOBER 2011

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2	3	4	5	6	7 <i>OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY</i>	8
9	10 <i>MEETING SOMERVILLE 7:00 P.M.</i>	11	12	13	14	15
16 <i>FALLOUT SOMERVILLE 9:00 MASS</i>	17	18	19	20	21	22
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NEWS

Our next meeting will be in Somerville on Monday, October 10. The meal will be at 7:00 P.M., with the meeting to follow.

The next fallout will be at St. Ann's in Somerville at the 9:00 A.M. Mass. Please be there by 8:30 A.M.

The 40 Days For Life Campaign has begun. Please try to make some time to stop by the Planned Parenthood Clinic when you are in Bryan, to pray for an end to abortion.

Marty Elman will start accepting our 2012 dues at our November meeting. You can bring them to our meeting or mail them to Marty at the address on the top right hand corner of this newsletter.

Thanks to all the K. C. members that attended our Festival at Holy Rosary on Oct. 2. We hope you enjoyed the music and food at our annual picnic.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The United States House of Representatives has started an investigation into the activities of the Planned Parenthood Organization. Congressman Cliff Stearns (R-Florida), head of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations for the House Energy and Commerce Committee, will head up the investigation. He is requesting 13 years of records relating to alleged abuses by the organization. Please pray that the truth will come out in these investigations, resulting to an end of the abortions provided by this organization.

The past year has been the driest year on record in the state, while the past summer was also the hottest on record, according to the National Weather Service. With no end in sight for these conditions, we need to continue to pray for an end to the drought that we are now experiencing.

STATEMENT FOR RESPECT LIFE MONTH
Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo
Chairman, Committee on Pro-Life Activities
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
September 26, 2011

This October the Catholic Church throughout the United States will observe Respect Life Month, an annual tradition now in its fortieth year. Beginning on October 2, 2011—Respect Life Sunday—Catholics across the nation will join together to witness to the inherent equality and transcendent value of every human being.

In countless liturgies and events we will give thanks to God for the gift of human life, and pray for his guidance and blessings on our efforts to defend the most vulnerable members of the human family.

We will voice our opposition to the injustice and cruelty of abortion on behalf of those victims whose voices have been silenced. At the same time, we will remind the living victims of abortion—the mothers and fathers who grieve the loss of an irreplaceable child—that God’s mercy is greater than any human sin, and that healing and peace can be theirs through the sacrament of reconciliation and the Church’s Project Rachel Ministry.

The theme chosen for this year’s Respect Life Program is *I came so that all might have life and have it to the full*. In this brief explanation of his mission (cf. John 10:10), Jesus refers both to our hope of *eternal* life, to be restored through his death and resurrection, and to our life *in this world*.

By following Jesus’ new Commandment of unselfish love, our lives can be richly fulfilling, and marked by joy and peace. In contrast, treating others as either means or obstacles to one’s self-serving goals, while never learning to love generously, is an impoverished way to live.

Viewing life as a “zero sum” game, in which advancing one’s interests requires putting aside the needs of others, can lead to callous unconcern for anyone who is especially weak, defenseless, and in need of our help. The unborn child, the aging parent who some call a “burden” on our medical system, the allegedly “excess” embryo in the fertility clinic, the person with a disability, the cognitively impaired accident victim who needs assistance in receiving food and water to live—each today is at risk of being dismissed as a “life unworthy of life.” Jesus’ promise of “life to the full” is especially poignant today, when our culture and sometimes our government promote values inimical to the happiness and true good of individuals and society. We face increasing attempts to expunge God and religious discourse from public life. This promotes the dangerous proposition that human beings enjoy no special status by virtue of their God-given humanity. Some now even seek to eliminate religiously motivated people and organizations from public programs, by forcing them to violate their moral and religious convictions or stop serving the needy.

The same forces, aided by advertising and entertainment media, promote a selfish and demeaning view of human sexuality, by extolling the alleged good of sexual activity without love or commitment. This view of sex as “free” of commitment or consequences has no place for openness to new life. Hence contraceptives are promoted even to young teens as though they were essential to women’s well-being, and abortion defended as the “necessary” back-up plan when contraceptives fail. And fail they do. Studies report that most women seeking abortions were using contraception in the month they became pregnant. Again and again, studies show that increasing access to contraception fails to reduce rates of unplanned pregnancies and abortions.

Both these trends—a distorted view of sexuality and a disdain for the role of religion—are exhibited by the Department of Health and Human Services’ recent decision on the “preventive services” to be mandated in virtually all private health plans under the new health care law. The Department ruled that such mandated services will include surgical sterilization and all FDA-approved contraceptive drugs and devices—including the abortifacient drug “Ella,” a close analogue to the abortion pill RU-486.

The decision is wrong on many levels. Preventive services are aimed at preventing diseases (e.g., by vaccinations) or detecting them early to aid prompt treatment (e.g., screening for diabetes or cancer). But pregnancy is *not* a disease. It is the normal, healthy state by which each of us came into the world. Far from preventing disease, contraceptives can have serious health consequences of their own, for example, increasing the risk of acquiring a sexually transmitted disease, such as AIDS, increasing the risk of breast cancer from excess estrogen, and of blood clots that can lead to stroke from synthetic progestin. Mandating such coverage shows neither respect for women’s health or freedom, nor respect for the consciences of those who do not want to take part in such problematic initiatives.

The “religious employer” exemption offered by the Department is so extremely narrow that it protects almost no one. Catholic institutions providing health care and other services to the needy could be forced to fire their non-Catholic employees and cease serving the poor and vulnerable of other faiths—or stop providing health coverage at all. It has been said that Jesus himself, or the Good Samaritan of his famous parable, would not qualify as “religious enough” for the exemption, since they insisted on helping people who did not share their view of God. All these misguided efforts to foster false values among our youth, to silence the voice of moral truth in the public domain, and to deprive believers of their constitutionally-protected right to live according to their religious convictions, must be resisted by education, public advocacy, and above all by prayer.

The founders of our nation understood that religion and morality are essential to the survival of a freedom-loving society. John Adams expressed this conviction, stating: “We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our Constitution was made for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other.”

Catholics must not shrink from the obligation to assert the values and principles we hold essential to the common good, beginning with the right to life of every human being and the right of every woman and man to express and live by his or her religious beliefs and well-formed conscience.

As Pope Benedict XVI reminded us last year in one of his *Ad Limina* addresses to visiting bishops, “a society can be built only by tirelessly respecting, promoting and teaching the transcendent nature of the human person.” That common nature transcends all accidental differences of age, race, strength, or conditions of dependency, preparing us to be one human family under God.

During this Respect Life Month, as we celebrate God’s great gift of life, let us pray and reflect on how each of us might renew our commitment and witness to “respecting, promoting and teaching the transcendent nature of the human person,” thereby shoring up the foundations of a society sorely in need of this guidance.

Faithful Friar			Faithful Scribe	Tommy Grimes	512-446-4131
Faithful Navigator	Richard Neal	979-272-8944	Inner Sentinel	Robert Zapata	512-760-5839
Faithful Comptroller	Martin Elman	512-446-6699	Outer Sentinel	Frankie L. Wolf	979-567-7447
Faithful Captain	Hubert Polansky	979-567-3508	One Year Trustee	John F. Vollentine	979-272-8711
Faithful Admiral	Ignac G. Korenek P.F.N.	512-446-4159	Two Year Trustee	Jimmy Urbanosky	979-567-4534
Faithful Purser	Lawrence A. Vavra	979-535-7557	Three Year Trustee	Pat Morgan	979-535-8234
Faithful Pilot	Jose Mancha	512-455-2123	Faithful Commander	Lawrence A. Vavra	979-535-7557