



RESPECT FOR LIFE COMMISSION

CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF SALT LAKE
CITY

Diocesan Respect for Life Commission Chair

The Diocesan Respect for Life Commission Chairperson coordinates with the Office of Marriage and Family Life Director in planning and organizing activities of the pastoral plan within the diocese. The Chairperson plays a vital role in keeping the commission on mission.

The Respect for Life Commission partners with the Office of Life, Justice and Peace, and receives spiritual direction from the Bishop-assigned Spiritual Director for the commission. The chair, through the Diocesan Family Life Office Director, will receive information and guidance from the Diocesan Bishop, and the USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

The Chairperson's primary objectives are to act as the commissions leading representative, to ensure the commission is following the Diocesan Pastoral Plan as it relates to respect for life programs and activities, and ensure proper and effective communication with and to:

- The Diocesan Bishop
- Office of Marriage and Family Life Director
- Commission members
- Commission Spiritual Director
- Deans
- Parish Respect Life Coordinators/Committees

Commission Chairperson Objectives:

- Work with the Family Life Office in managing and sourcing commission members.
- Guide the Commission in the planning and implementation of activities, events and programs.
- Plan and organize roles within the Commission. (Deanery reps, etc.)
- Plan and host a quarterly commission meeting. (Agenda, minutes, assignments, etc.)
- Lead in the coordination of diocesan and parish respect for life programs, information, resources and educational programs.
- Lead the effort in providing educational opportunities and time for sharing program information among members of parish respect for life committees.
- Ensure activities support local programs that counsel and assist women with problems related to pregnancy; promote establishment of new programs where needed.
- Lead the effort to encourage and support diocesan-wide support for pregnant and parenting moms and post-abortion ministries (Project Rachel, Walking with Moms in Need)
- Lead the effort to encourage and support local programs that provide care for the sick, aging and dying.
- Lead the effort to encourage and coordinate programs of prayer and worship that focus on the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death.
- Lead the effort to maintain working relationships with local respect life groups (including respect life alternatives to the death penalty, poverty relief, commission for the disabled and other entities) and encourage the development of local respect life lobbying networks.
- Lead the effort to maintain a local public information program that monitors print and broadcast media's treatment of respect life issues, and prepare appropriate responses in conjunction with the diocesan director of communications.
- Help to develop responsible and effective communications with elected representatives: getting to know them personally through one-on-one visits, telephone calls, letters, and e-mail in conjunction with the diocesan Office of Life, Justice and Peace.
- Collaboration of ministry activities across deaneries, parishes and Catholic schools in order to increase the effectiveness and maximize the benefit of shared resources in support of the universal mission of the Church and the Diocesan Pastoral Plan.
- Help in the planning and facilitation of annual diocesan-level activities and events.
- Consultation with parish pastoral leaders to assist with development of parish ministries, the provision of timely ministry-specific information and relevant resources and materials.

- Report periodically to the Diocesan Bishop on the status of implementation of the pastoral plan.
- Provide quarterly report to the Diocesan Bishop, the Vicar General and Deans.

Note: All outside groups, organizations, programs must be vetted and approved by the Director's of the Offices of Marriage & Family Life, Life Justice and Peace, and Faith Formation.