

VARIOUS CONSULTATIVE BODIES

IX-F: THE DIOCESAN RESPECT LIFE COMMISSION

A. Introduction

1. Respect for LIFE is basic to all religions. In the Christian religion, respect for LIFE is grounded in the Scriptures, both the Old and the New Testaments. Teaching and insisting on respect for LIFE, therefore, is an integral part of the mission of the Church.
2. This Commission shall be concerned for all LIFE, from conception to natural death: the unborn, the handicapped, the elderly--those most immediately threatened with death by judicial fiat, and whose defense is not the primary concern of any other Diocesan Commission.
3. This Commission shall heighten awareness of the basic human right, the right to live, in justice to all the people of the Diocese.

B. Nature of the Respect Life Commission

1. This Commission is advisory to the Bishop and Diocesan offices.
2. It is accountable to the Bishop through the Pastoral Office of Christian Service.

C. Membership of the Respect Life Commission

1. This Commission shall have not less than seven members.
2. The members will represent geographical areas and various LIFE concerns.
3. This Commission shall have a Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.
4. Recommendations for membership will be made by Commission members to the Bishop for his appointment.

D. Term of Membership

1. Term of membership shall be three years, with re-appointment permitted once.
2. Terms should be staggered so that continuity is assured.
3. If a member leaves the Commission for any reason, a new member shall be recommended for appointment by the

VARIOUS CONSULTATIVE BODIES

Bishop.

E. Duties of Each Member of the Commission

1. It is the duty of the Chairperson to call meetings, to notify members and liaison personnel of meetings, to be liaison to local pro-life groups, to be ready to assist any member and help run seminars.
2. It is the duty of the Secretary to keep minutes and send minutes to members, and to be ready to assist any member and help at seminars.
3. It is the duty of the Treasurer to keep books and report at meetings, to do banking and pay bills, to buy necessary items for all Commission members, to help prepare a budget to be presented to the Diocesan Finance Council, and to plan and implement ways to raise funds.
4. All members are to be available for speaking when called upon, for helping to run seminars, for recruiting and training others to be speakers and run seminars, for helping to organize "Pastoral Council" committees for respective concerns e.g. unborn, handicapped, elderly.

F. Meetings of the Commission

1. The Commission will meet at least three times annually at a place to be determined by the members.
2. The meeting shall include prayer, reading of minutes, reports of chairperson, treasurer, liaison persons, and other members, plans for the coming months, any other business, and prayer.
3. It is desirable that other Commissions of the Diocese receive notice of the meetings.

G. Finances

1. Members shall receive no salary.
2. A detailed budget for basic needs is to be presented to the Diocesan Finance Council annually.

H. The Work of the Commission

1. The Commission will be a resource to the Diocese for talks, seminars, ideas.
2. The Commission will serve as an instrument of education.
 - a. It will educate itself through reading, tapes,

VARIOUS CONSULTATIVE BODIES

seminars, MCCL convention, NCCB publications, etc.

- b. It will help educate parishioners throughout the Diocese by helping to organize parish "Respect LIFE" groups and by encouraging talks, seminars and Reverence for LIFE and family programs.
 - c. It will promote Respect LIFE Sunday and month (October) and January observances, and be a resource at CYO Rally, gathering days, etc.
3. It will advise the Resource Center in regard to RLC programs, books, tapes, pamphlets, speakers, etc.