

RESPECT LIFE

respect · love · protect

We, the Respect Life Committee of St. Francis deSales, are a pro-life, pro-family organization committed to the sanctity of all human life, from conception to natural death. As Catholics, we believe that every person is created in God's image, and we must therefore protect the right to life for all God's children, particularly the most vulnerable.

Some of the activities we are involved with include:

- ✠ **Life Ad** ~ an ad published in the Reading Eagle yearly on the anniversary of Roe v Wade, January 22nd, which members of our parish join other parishes and organizations in expressing their opposition to abortion by signing up and making a nominal donation. Proceeds from the Life Ad go to support Mary's Shelter, which provides residential care and support for young mothers and babies.
- ✠ **March for Life** ~ the largest annual pro-life rally in the United States held in Washington, D.C. and in cities across the US and the world. It began in January, 1974, the year after the Supreme Court's Roe v Wade decision legalized abortion nationwide. The central goal of the march is to protest abortion and advocate for the legal protection of unborn fetuses. Several of our local parishes provide transportation to and from this important event.
- ✠ **Respect Life Sunday** ~ this event is held annually in October at the Berk's County Life Chain on Penn Avenue in Reading. Supporters participate with other parishes to take a public stance in support of LIFE!! There is also a prayer walk held on the Saturday before to ask God's blessing on the chain, which begins at St. James Church in West Reading. We must pray together for God to change hearts and minds.
- ✠ **Giving Tree** ~ Annual collection each December to help families in need for the holiday. A tag is selected from the Giving Tree hung in our church for new, unwrapped gift of baby clothing, diapers, formula, and other essential baby items and placed under the tree to be delivered to the Lifeline of Berks County.

We encourage you to prayerfully consider joining us in this very important ministry. There is no form or test; just simply the desire to make a difference and help us honor the sanctity of life.