

*March for Life*  
Helpful Hints from Fellow Coordinators

**1. The Annual March for Life ~ *The Pilgrimage Notion***

As part of building a culture of life it is our calling as pro-lifers, to reframe the cultures' vision of what it means to call oneself 'pro-life'. A concrete example of this would be the general public's misconception of the March for Life as a loud, potentially violent "protest". It is partly fueled by the media; also the whole notion of Marches on Washington for many harkens back to images of the 70's war protests. By our language we can literally change people's minds and open their hearts to live the Gospel of Life more fully. Please consider changing your wording as you describe and advertise the March for Life among your communities. Some suggestions that convey the actual experience of the March:

- **A Pilgrimage**
- **A public, communal witness of solidarity; standing/marching in solidarity**
- **A prayerful public/communal intercession on behalf of all those victimized by the 1973 decision, esp. the unborn and their parents, families**

**2. To encourage greater participation in the March:**

- **See if it is possible (ask permission of your pastor) to man a table** set up at the back of Church on each of the Sundays in January, advertising the March and giving people the opportunity to sign up *or financially sponsor someone else in parish (i.e. youth) to attend for free*
- **Invite other parish groups to consider going** (parish council, youth ministry, schools...or again sponsoring others)
- **Advertise in Parish Bulletin** with note about sponsoring others

**3. For the Bus Ride down/back:**

- **Good hand out educational information** on the sacredness of human life and current issues associated with it (post-abortion, crisis pregnancy outreach, fetal development, stem cell research, IVF, sacredness of marriage/human love, theology of the Body, natural family planning, adoption). The tone of this literature should be life-giving, positive, uplifting, soul, touching. **The Respect Life Office (516) 678-5800 Ext 626 can provide you with info on good literature, if needed.**
- **Movies or Educational Films** ~ Culture of Life or Culture of Death with a hope-filled ending. Films can go a long way in filling your fellow pilgrims with new energy and enthusiasm. Some pilgrims have video taped the Vigil Mass from the Basilica at Washington DC (see EWTN for time and date of presentation).
- **Prayer Time** ~ many pray the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and others have begun using the Liturgy of the Hours of the Church (Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer). The Magnificat (1-866-273-5215 [magnificat@magnificat.com](mailto:magnificat@magnificat.com)) contains these prayers in short form.

**4. For at the March Speakers Rally**

- **Consider buying portable radios** (one coordinator says he gets a bunch from Duane Reade so you and your fellow pilgrims can "tune in" to the Rally (which is always broadcast on a local DC station you can search for once you arrive). This way, no matter where you are standing at the Rally, you will be able to hear the inspiring speeches from the pro-life leaders in our country.

