Prayer

Spiritan Campus Ministry encourages all of us to pray for life intentions including abortion, euthanasia, stem cell research, poverty, war and capital punishment.

“All of us must care for life, cherish life, with tenderness, warmth…to give life is to open (our) heart, and to care for life is to (give oneself) in tenderness and warmth for others, to have concern in my heart for others.

Caring for life from the beginning to the end. What a simple thing, what a beautiful thing…So, go forth and don’t be discouraged. Care for life. It’s worth it.”

—Pope Francis

A Catholic Approach to Life Issues

Spiritan Campus Ministry embraces the concept of a consistent ethic of life, beginning in our university community and radiating out to the global community. We raise awareness and provide education on issues affecting human kind from conception to natural death. We work to promote positive action toward worldwide solidarity, compassion and justice. In collaboration with other organizations and departments, we strive to enhance the quality of life on physical, emotional and spiritual levels.
Spirit of Justice

What is CEL?

CEL has a dual meaning. It represents the smallest unit of human life and stands for “consistent ethic of life.” What is a consistent ethic of life? The concept is rooted in Catholic social teaching. The term itself was coined by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin in the early 1980’s as he worked to bring together American Catholics on life issues, from abortion to nuclear war. His understanding of the term “pro-life” included several critical issues. Then the head of the U.S. Bishops Conference Pro-Life Committee, Bernardin spoke out in defense of life from the moment of conception to anything that attacks one’s human dignity and the ability to live a healthy life until one is naturally called home to God.

While this understanding of ministry and promoting a consistent ethic of life is rooted in our Catholic tradition, a CEL vision embraces people of all denominations and all faith traditions, recognizing that there is a similar call in many other religious traditions to serve the poor and disadvantaged.

A CEL Philosophy encourages and supports life in all of its stages—from conception to natural death, addressing issues of:

- Stem cell research
- Abortion
- Poverty
- Capital punishment
- Children’s issues
- AIDS
- War

Responsible Action

Spiritan Campus Ministry sponsors two annual advocacy experiences that promote dialogue with our elected officials in regard to current issues affecting the dignity of human life.

- March for Life is held each January in Washington, DC. March for Life is a gathering of pro-life groups from across the United States that work to change the decision of Roe V. Wade that was passed in 1973, legalizing abortion.
- Advocacy for Life experience, also in Washington, D.C., is an opportunity for small groups of students to research legislation affecting the protection of human life and the dignity of the human person and that is about to be voted on in Congress. Students prepare two-minute presentations for members of Congress, explaining why they should support or denounce the legislation. This experience is a testament to the power of a small group of dedicated citizens to effect change.

Education

Responsible action is vital to the CEL philosophy of a mission to protect and celebrate life. Equally important is time spent together in learning about a consistent ethic of life and praying for life issues. Throughout the year, Spiritan Campus Ministry provides opportunities to read and reflect on specific justice issues or documents and responds to the requests of students for further education on life issues.

“If one contends, as we do, that the right of every fetus to be born should be protected by civil law and supported by civil consensus, then our moral, political and economic responsibilities do not stop at the moment of birth. Those who defend the right to life of the weakest among us must be equally visible in support of the quality of life of the powerless among us: the old and the young, the hungry and the homeless, the undocumented immigrant and the unemployed worker.”

— Cardinal Joseph Bernardin

And lest it be forgotten, the pro-life position covers a wide range of issues in addition to abortion—encompassing opposition to capital punishment, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, war and violence of any kind—to name but a few.”

— Bishop David Zubik, Diocese of Pittsburgh

www.duq.edu/campus-ministry