

**St. Mary Student Parish**  
Presents the 2009-2010 Social Justice Theme

# **“The Consistent Ethic of Life”**

## **Promoting the Dignity of Human Life from Womb to Tomb**



### **The Consistent Ethic of Life**

In 1983 Joseph Cardinal Bernardin called for a broad vision among US Catholics that links the many social justice issues from “womb to tomb.” This vision calls for strong opposition to a wide spectrum of evils, from abortion to nuclear holocaust to genocide and euthanasia. At the same time, a consistent ethic of life demands support for a wide range of positive social programs, from health care access to affordable housing to care for immigrants.

Cardinal Bernardin recognized that Catholics were divided over these and many other social justice issues. He therefore called for an “American-Catholic dialogue,” that would bring Catholics of differing opinions to the same table for the goal of reaching common ground. A quarter of a century later, that dialogue continues.

During the course of this academic year, St. Mary’s will offer various programs addressing a variety of social issues, all related to the Consistent Ethic of Life. Each presentation will be accompanied by a follow up opportunity for dialogue, called “Common Grounds Conversation” at a nearby coffee shop.

*“...At its most basic level, peace will come when all of us, as individuals, take responsibility for the fate of others. In order to move toward global peace and lasting justice, we must engage in a spirituality that reconnects us to the ‘truth’ of the inherent dignity of every person created in God’s image.”*

– Jesuit Conference Address to the United Nations

For more information, contact Fr. Dan Reim, S.J., at  
[dreim@umich.edu](mailto:dreim@umich.edu) or (734) 663-0557

**The Consistent Ethic of Life:**  
**“Promoting the Dignity  
of Life from Womb to Tomb”**  
**Fr. Brian Daley, S.J., University of Notre Dame**  
**Tuesday, September 15, 2009 7 pm – 9 pm**  
**Donnelly Hall**

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin introduced the concept of a “consistent ethic of life” that emphasized the inherent connection between the life issues: abortion, war, poverty, euthanasia, death penalty and many others. “Success on any one of the issues threatening life requires a concern for the broader attitude in society about respect for human life.”

**“Common Grounds Conversation”**  
*“Cardinal Bernardin said Catholics should support ALL of the life issues from womb to tomb.” Do you agree or disagree?*  
**Thursday, September 24, 2009 7:30 pm**  
**Starbuck’s, Main and Liberty**

---

**The Consistent Ethic of Life:**  
**“Various Ways to Be Pro Life”**  
**Wednesday, October 14, 2009, 7 pm – 9 pm**  
**Donnelly Hall and Newman Hall**

Catholics are called to be Pro-Life. This evening’s forum, involving four brief presentations, will invite participants to consider a variety of ways to be Pro-Life. The presentations will include: “Adoption is an Option,” “ArborVita Pregnancy Help Center,” “UM Students for Life,” and “Project Rachel.”

A focus question for the evening is:

“Can we broaden the concept of what it means to be Pro Life in order to involve more Catholics in support/defense of the born and unborn?”

**“Common Grounds Conversation”**  
*“Can we broaden the term ‘Pro Life’ to involve more Catholics in active participation in support/defense of the born and unborn?”*  
**Thursday, October 29, 2009 7:30 pm**  
**Place: TBD**

---

**The Consistent Ethic of Life:**  
**“Health Care Reform  
and the Poor”**

**Tim Florence, MD**  
**Tuesday, November 17, 2009 7 pm-9 pm**  
**Donnelly Hall**

A physician’s perspective on the need for health care reform for the poor.  
Is the status quo good enough? What can WE do?

**“Common Grounds Conversation”**  
*“What elements of Health Care Reform are important to you?”*  
**Thursday, December 3, 2009 7:30 pm**  
**Place: TBD**