

St. Mary Youth Attend LML Rally

14 of St. Mary Goldsboro youth joined over 600 other high school aged students at the Second Annual “Love My Life” Youth Rally Saturday, January 14, 2012, at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Raleigh. This was the first ever pro-life event officially attended by St. Mary Goldsboro TYM. The group designed a banner (pictured below) to declare their beliefs on life. Bob Uhlir, of St. Mary Goldsboro Respect Life Ministry took 15 youth members from St. Therese in Wilson.



The diocesan sponsored event featured prayer, music and speakers. Bishop Michael F. Burbidge told the teenagers how proud he was “to look out and see so many of you here on this Saturday morning.” Noting his homily from the Mass for Life earlier in the morning,



Bishop Burbidge said, “You can make a difference in our world. Your life has meaning. The truth is that life is of “infinite worth and value.” “We know the reason: because we are created in the image and likeness of God who’s very Spirit lives and dwells within us.” The Bishop said, it is our mandate to “help others, especially the most vulnerable, to understand and believe they are of infinite worth; that all of life is sacred and every person is of equal dignity.”

That theme was echoed by Mr. Russell Hoyt, emcee of the youth rally and Youth Minister at St. Luke Catholic Church in Raleigh. "Jesus is pro-life," Hoyt said. "Your life has value. It is worth Jesus' life. Pro-life is to have love in your heart. Before you can love others, you must love yourself first."

Father Anthony DeCandia, Campus Minister at North Carolina State University, enlivened the gathering with the refrain "God is good! All the time!" In his prayer, Father DeCandia said, "Help us, oh Lord, to live the faith we proclaim."

Jackie Bonk, Director of the Pro-Life Office for the Diocese of Raleigh, cited a 2006 public opinion survey that indicated 64% of people 18-30 are pro-life, a number larger than any other demographic. She said there is no doubt, "The younger generation will be the change agents of this dark culture."

Following the powerful message and inspiration, the 600+ students proceeded to Nash Square to join several thousand faithful for the North Carolina Right to Life Rally. Saturday was a very important day, a day set aside to pray for respect for life and walk together in the capital of NC to publically witness to the sacred truth.

