

Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

May 2012 – Issue 1

Editor: Jim Burke

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, May 10 Bridgehaven Annual Banquet, featuring Abby Johnson, former PP Director
- Friday, May 11 Abby Johnson event at Hotel Kirkwood
- May 12-13 Roses for Mothers
Mother's Day weekend
- Tuesday, June 8 Coalition for Life of Iowa Monthly Meeting



Our New Newsletter

The Coalition for Life of Iowa has started this newsletter. We plan to raise awareness of life matters, educate readers about life matters, and encourage people to become active in matters of life and death. What more noble cause is there than to protect and value life?

The newsletter will report on upcoming and recent events. It will touch on the major news at the state, national and global levels. The newsletter will offer ideas to pass along life-affirming values to your family, ways to apply or spread life-affirming values at work, encourage spiritual activities that relate to life matters, and make readers aware of current legislation regarding life topics.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter. Share it with like-minded friends and family.

- The Coalition for Life of Iowa

Abby Johnson

Former Planned Parenthood Employee of the Year that joined the pro-life movement will speak at local events



40 Days for Life

40 Days of Prayer, Fasting, and Vigil for an End to Abortion

From February through April, we coordinated a local 40 Days for Life event. Thank you to everyone that participated.

Before it began, we offered training for anyone wishing to learn how to perform sidewalk counseling.

During the 40 days, people held vigil outside the local Planned Parenthood, praying. We sent out emails to participants, keeping them aware of activities and educating them on the issue.

Local participants saw the power of prayer this spring. We reached a few women who turned away from Planned Parenthood. One woman even said she preferred to be abstinent after several years of using Planned Parenthood's products.

We hope to expand to more churches and people to participate next fall. It's hard to think of something more rewarding than making a life changing impact in someone's life.

I encourage you to ask friends, family, and coworkers to take part in 40 Days for Life. Anyone wanting a preview of what it's like can join the reduced efforts this summer.

- Mon: 10am – 12 noon
- Tue: 1 pm – 2 pm
- Wed: 12 – 1pm & 5pm – 6pm
- Thur: 9 am – 10 am
- Fri: 1 pm – 2 pm
- Sat: 11 am – 12 noon

Iowa Approves Choose Life Plates

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) has approved "Choose Life" license plates. This makes Iowa the 29th state to approve such plates.

The plates offer a way to promote life in a manner that is simple and not offensive. For people who don't like bumper stickers, license plates can get the message out there without the sticker.

Compared to normal Iowa plates, these initially cost \$25 more, plus an additional \$5 when renewing your registration each year. Proceeds go to the state's road construction fund.

The DOT requires 500 applications within the first year. Iowa Right to Life received 50 inquiries on the day of the announcement.



DOT applications and a "Choose Life" license plate FAQ sheet are available only through the Iowa Right to Life office. Please contact Iowa Right to Life at 877.595.9406 or via email at outreach@iowaRTL.org for your application and all the pertinent information.

The War of Words

By Charlie Errington

Words have been used for years to shape the way we think and the views we hold

From the Associated Press Stylebook

Abortion: Use *anti-abortion* instead of *pro-life* and *abortion rights* instead of *pro-abortion* or *pro-choice*. Avoid *abortionist*, which connotes a person who performs clandestine abortions.

The Nazi propaganda film, “The Eternal Jew,” was used to dehumanize Jews, by comparing them to rats. This was the first step leading to Hitler’s “Final Solution,” the systematic extermination of Jews in Nazi death camps. Nazi leaders knew that dehumanizing



“The Eternal Jew” dehumanized Jews

Jews in the eyes of other Germans would make it easier to eliminate them. Anti-Semitic propaganda

was common in wartime Germany, and often depicted Jews in league with communists or another hated group causing harm to Germans.

Another class of humans is being dehumanized today – unborn babies. How are they described?

- Product of Pregnancy
- Blob of Cells/Tissue
- Pregnancy Tissue
- Potential Human Being
- Conceptus

And although they are being killed using the most grotesque, brutal means, how is this described?

- Reproductive Choice
- Taking care of the problem
- Birth Control
- Elective Surgery
- Therapeutic Abortion
- Termination of Pregnancy

Our country is heading in a dangerous direction. Vote responsibly. Vote pro-life!

According to the media, “Anti-abortion rights activists” voiced support for Terri Schiavo. They traded credibility for biased terms, since abortion wasn’t involved!



Abby Johnson

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<http://bridgehavencr.org/events.html>

On May 10 & 11, various life-affirming groups welcome Abby Johnson, the bestselling author of *unPlanned*. The book documents her entry into and eventual exit from the abortion industry.

Abby served as director of an abortion facility in Texas. Planned Parenthood even named her the Employee of the Year.

With her experiences on both sides of the issue, she brings unique perspectives. You are invited to hear her story about her time as the director of an abortion clinic and what caused her to walk away.

No matter what you think about abortion and unplanned pregnancies, Abby's story will challenge you to think about this issue in a new way. We

invite everyone to join us for this community event. We encourage you to bring friends and engage your hearts and minds with one of the most challenging issues facing our culture today.

For more information about the events, please visit the website above.

The Contradictory Views of the General Public

About a year ago, a study concluded by the Public Religion Research Institute. The study asked questions differently than most prior studies. For instance, rather than asking if someone was pro-life OR pro-choice, the study asked if you felt pro-life described you well, and if pro-choice described you well.

Most studies that offer one or the other now shows the majority of people consider themselves pro-life rather than pro-choice. So when it comes down to it, we are the majority. The result of this survey showed one of many contradictions present in the minds of the general public.

When nearly 2 out of 3 people felt

“pro-life” described them well, you’d normally expect 1 out of 3 or fewer to consider “pro-choice” a good description of them. But roughly 70% considered “pro-choice” descriptive of them. The majority of people considered abortion immoral, yet even more people thought it should remain available for at least some situations.

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Full report: <http://publicreligion.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Millennials-Abortion-and-Religion-Survey-Report.pdf>



Pro-Life Challenge

I will try to identify something to challenge each of us to do more regarding issues of life & death. When we began local 40 Days for Life efforts, most of our board already prayed outside of Planned Parenthood. But few had ever brought pro-life literature door-to-door.

We aim to grow more active, too.



Use Media to Trigger Pro-Life Discussion

Whether watching October Baby, the news, or visiting lifenews.com or lifesitenews.com, use them to break the ice to discuss the topic with someone you know. You can learn much from discussing it, and you'll know where someone else stands.

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Most people believe Roe vs. Wade should remain, yet the vast majority of people oppose the extremely broad allowance for abortion that Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton provided. The two cases decided together allow for abortion for any reason at any time until birth.

Most people don't want to restrict others. So although they consider abortion the killing of an innocent child, and thus morally wrong, they often give in to the idea that they shouldn't impose those beliefs on others. But if we apply that logic to murder and rape, we consider those actions morally wrong, but we enforce laws against the offenders.

Arguments based on emotion, rather than logical reasoning often cloud judgment. Abortion supporters often falsely claim that pro-life people want to put women in prison, when this is not typically true. Even in the oral arguments of the Roe vs. Wade case, Sarah Weddington, who argued FOR legalized abortion admitted that the law she was fighting had not and would not place any women in prison.

Some people form the foundation of their views regarding abortion on these unsupportable catch phrases. Others lack knowledge of the issue or the wisdom to deal with ethical dilemmas in a moral way.

Imagine if your life depended on someone who made the decision based upon the catchiest catch phrase! Although more thought usually goes into it than that, people arguing the issue often resort to catch phrases. The war of words is in full force.

This is why we need to reach more people and discuss this challenging issue. Please attempt to carry out the

Pro-Life Challenge described on the left side of this page. We each grow when we attempt a challenge. But when we challenge ourselves in this issue, we can make the world a better place.

If people knew what Roe vs. Wade legalized, most people would oppose it. If people understood the circumstances surrounding most abortions, they would oppose the majority, if not all abortions.

At first, the issue seems difficult to bring up. But over time, one finds it's easier to discuss than you'd think. Remember, when deciding between pro-life and pro-choice, the majority of people side with life. It's the greater priority.

When the average person already agrees with you in general, they listen more receptive to what you have to say. People are curious by nature. With a little information, fewer people will remain conflicted. When more people build upon a solid foundation, it should yield changes that further support life.

Over time, this newsletter should cover much more regarding ways to defend the life-affirming position. Some people have already read the defense in the so-called hard cases. This newsletter can further expand upon other circumstantial cases. We can examine the flaws in the different views on when life begins.

While this newsletter aims to educate you about the issue. Please, pass along the knowledge you gain. Knowledge does little without applying it.

1 Jn 3:18: "Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth."

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Spread the Word!

Do you know other pro-life people that might like to subscribe to this newsletter?

- Tell them about it
- Forward a copy to them
- Print a copy to hand to friends

Do you have ideas you want discussed in future issues? Contact us with your suggestion. We may consider including your article if you prefer to write your own.

Did you spot some issues with this newsletter that really bug you? Then perhaps you'd like to help edit it. Contact us to see how you can help.

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Remember, Life Matters!



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