

Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

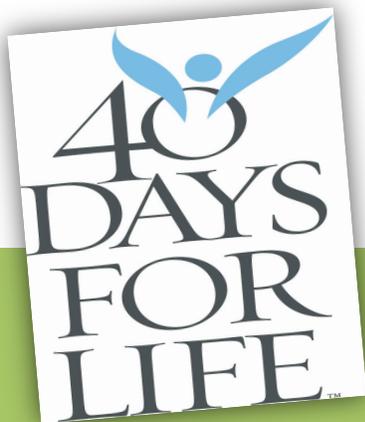
September 2012



Editor: Jim Burke

Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, Sept 25 Kick-off Rally for 40 Days for Life
- Tuesday, Sept 26 The start of the fall 40 Days for Life
- Saturday, Sept 29 40 Days for Life Community Lit Drop 1
- Saturday, Oct 6 40 Days for Life Community Lit Drop 2
- Sunday, Oct 7 Life Chain near PP along 1st Ave



Local Abortions Return

This month, the local Planned Parenthood website changed to indicate that they provide abortions. For many years, the Cedar Rapids Clinic for Women provided abortions. But they closed in early 2008.

The return of abortion to the county means we will need to step up our efforts, inviting even more people to get involved. If people try to claim they don't provide abortions at this Planned Parenthood, we can now state with confidence that their own website says they offer abortions.

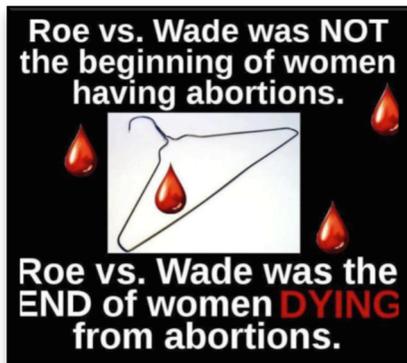
With other abortion providers so near, at least one Linn county resident had an abortion per day on average. We knew this day would come. Encourage friends and family to join us in prayer and learn about life issues.

It's Time for 40 Days for Life Again!

September 26 – November 4

Safe & Legal? Hardly!

This summer, I saw some people share an image on Facebook that suggested that Roe vs. Wade was not the start of women having abortions, but rather the end of women dying from abortions. Such incorrect



Wrong!

information needs correction, and not just because at least half of the abortions take the lives of preborn girls.

Abortion advocates often publicize the “safe, legal abortion” concept. Many people still recall someone they know that died from an illegal abortion. But legalization did little, if anything to change the number of deaths.

The primary factor in reducing the number of deaths was the broader use of antibiotics in the 1940s. By the time abortion was legalized, the number of deaths was drastically lower, and has barely changed since that time. Also, since a few states legalized abortion in certain cases prior to Roe vs. Wade, the deaths from legal abortion almost matched the number of illegal abortions

they replaced by the time of the Roe decision.

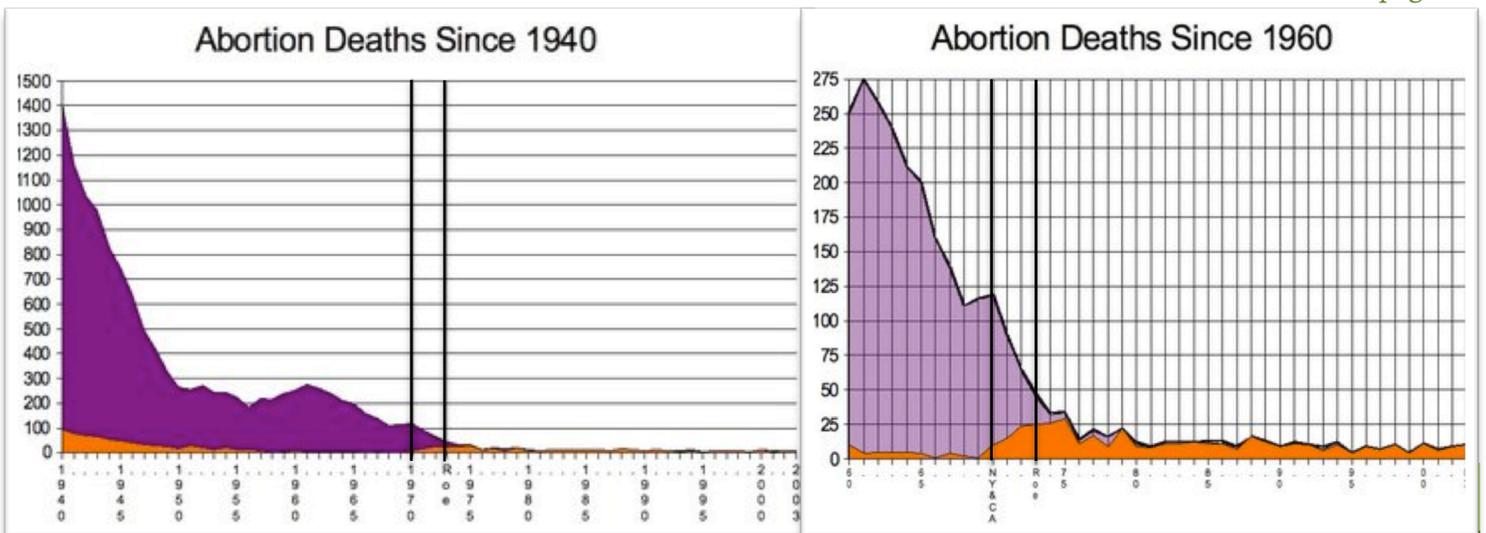
The charts below show the deaths from legal abortions in orange, and the illegal deaths appear in purple, stacked on top of the legal abortions.

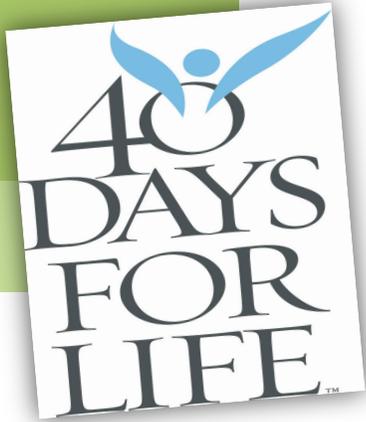
The first vertical line indicates when states started legalizing abortions in limited cases. The second line marks the Roe decision.

To show the figures effectively, two charts appear. The massive drop resulting from antibiotic use makes the first chart harder to use for the small numbers that resulted later. The second chart covers a smaller scale, and offers a better resolution.

Anyone who doubts that

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Fall 40 Days for Life

September 26 – November 4

Common perceptions of the abortion issue include: It's too political, it's too religious, and activists are too extreme, among others. 40 Days for Life focuses on what works. It's not political. It's not extreme or hateful.

40 Days for Life incorporates prayer, fasting, community outreach, and constant vigil. The founders of 40 Days for Life sought to find what worked in reducing abortions. They modeled many things after things done in Minnesota. They observed a 28% drop in the number of abortions in their community.

It began in Texas in 2004,

and then went national in 2007. Iowa started soon after the national effort began. Des Moines started in 2008, and has gradually spread across Iowa. In just the first three years, the number of abortions have dropped over 18% in Iowa.

The abortion numbers in Iowa fluctuated for years, but dropped consistently since the introduction of 40 Days for Life. Abortions usually increase with the increased availability of abortion providers.

Webcam abortions began in 2008, which helped Planned Parenthood increase the number of abortions they provide. But overall, numbers dropped after 40 Days for Life came to Iowa. That's

a significant accomplishment!

Locally, we began just a year ago. Although many of us prayed outside abortion facilities and Planned Parenthood in the past, we didn't officially lead 40 Days for Life activities until fall 2011.

We began praying for 40 Days in churches close to the time 40 Days for Life went national. Around that time, the only abortion facility in Linn County permanently closed. As the front page indicated, abortions have returned to Cedar Rapids. It's time to step up efforts and invite family members, friends, co-workers, and anyone else that shares the

40 Days for Life

Continued from prior page
desire to end abortion.

When I travel, I often look up the locations on the 40 Days for Life website to see where I can join others. I

was able to attend the kick-off rally in Dallas last year, and prayed with someone who used to live in Cedar Rapids.

For anyone who has or knows students in Iowa,

locations like Dubuque, Cedar Falls, Iowa City, and Des Moines offer opportunities for prayer. Several others appear on the 40 Days for Life website.

Safe & Legal?

Continued from page 2

women still die from abortions should look at the cases in Pennsylvania, or this summer's death of a woman in Chicago. The



Tonya Reaves Died from Legal Abortion this Summer

same day the woman died in Chicago, the same abortion provider sent yet another woman to the emergency room. Weeks later, a woman in Boise, Idaho was sent to the emergency room.

While most doctors can see what they are doing when performing medical procedures, abortions are typically done blindly by feel. Others use the deadly RU-486 pill.

When Planned Parenthood of the Heartland introduced webcam abortions, they sought to bring RU-486 abortions to smaller communities. Such communities are often far from the medical facilities needed in case of an emergency. Since RU-486 has killed some women, it seems very likely that women will die from this procedure.

Making abortion legal does not make it safer. It remains one of the least regulated industries in our country. When lawmakers propose laws that attempt to regulate

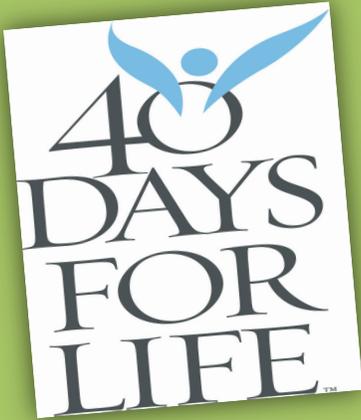
abortion providers to the same degree as medical facilities, the vast majority fails to comply.

If abortion providers say they care about women and offer health services, they should follow medical practices that inherently treat their clients well.

Many women hide the fact they've had an abortion. This makes it easier for abortion providers to get away with things other places wouldn't. Who will complain? By complaining, they might reveal the secret of their own abortion.

Don't give in to rhetoric. So many of the slogans used to justify or benefit the abortion industry reflect the opposite of what you will find if you dig just a little deeper.

Pro-Life Challenge



Ask Someone to be a Prayer Partner

Most people receiving this newsletter already pray for an end to abortion. Ask someone new to join you on the sidewalk as a prayer partner. It ensures you have another person with you for safety. But it also makes the time more enjoyable and meaningful. Ask friends, family, co-workers, anyone!



Student? On Travel?

More cities, including several in Iowa with colleges in them now have 40 Days for Life in their community. Make sure students know of the opportunity. Consider a quick prayer when on travel.

Testing Your Spirit & Character

Although many people driving by us while we stand on the sidewalk have positive reactions to our efforts, many offer negative reactions. How do you respond? Do you repay evil with good, or reflect back their attitude?

Most people have no outwardly obvious reaction to people with a message. Some people respond. But the people who shout or lash out in other ways typically have unhealed hurt in their past. Sometimes it's someone they know, but sometimes it's their own past. If you were hurt, you probably wouldn't want someone else yelling at you.

We should strive to remain positive and loving. When a horn sounds and a middle finger goes up, consider offering a thumbs-up gesture or just continue praying. You can do the same when people offer a thumbs-up gesture of their own.

When people want to discuss the matter, don't say things to provoke them. You can always say you are just there to pray. But respectful dialog benefits everyone.

The issue remains among

the most divisive issues out there. People often think of violent, angry people protesting. But we are there to pray, not protest. If we keep that peaceful and positive attitude, people will notice.

Most of us realize we could have said something in a better way or reacted better to a situation. But we learn from such encounters.

We can also educate ourselves more about the issue. In upcoming issues, we will try to offer more information that can help when discussing abortion with others.

Many people are afraid to put themselves out there on the sidewalk or speak out elsewhere on life issues for a variety of reasons. Several people don't think they know enough about the issue to address someone who might confront them. Again, people can always say they are just praying. They can listen to the concerns of the other person.

If you don't know how to respond, please email us. Our email address appears on the last page of this newsletter.



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!

Coalition for Life of Iowa

P.O. Box 864
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

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