

Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

October 2012



Editor: Jim Burke

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, Closing Rally for
Nov 4 40 Days for Life
- Tuesday, General Elections
Nov 6 Vote Pro-Life!
- Tuesday, Monthly CFLI Board
Nov 13 Meeting
- Saturday, Deadline for March for
Dec 1 Life WDC Registration
- Tuesday, Monthly CFLI Board
Dec 11 Meeting



40th March for Life

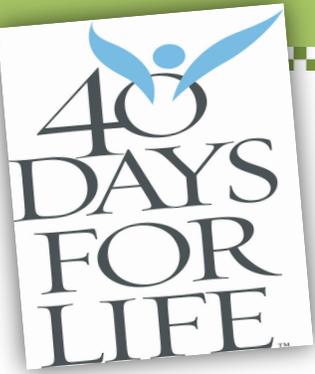
This January, our nation marks the 40th anniversary of the Roe v Wade and Doe v Bolton US Supreme Court decisions that overturned the laws of all 50 states, making abortion legal at anytime during pregnancy.

Attendance at the March for Life in Washington DC grew rapidly in the last few years. Yet, numbers spike up even more on major anniversaries like this one, likely beyond the estimated 600,000 from the last one.

If you haven't attended the march before, consider taking part this year. We're making it easier by offering a local point of departure for the busses, offering low prices, and minimizing work/school days. Join us Wednesday, January 23 – Sunday, January 27, 2013 for the largest gathering of pro-lifers in the nation! Email coalitionforlife@gmail.com if you're with us!

HHS Mandate

Real Implications



40 Days for Life Closing Rally

Join us for the Closing Rally for our fall 40 Days for Life. We've put in our time praying. This is an opportunity to see many of the others that pray.

Past participants like seeing the large numbers of people, hearing the latest pro-life news, and ending the fasting with a feast of pizza.

If you haven't attended in the past, please join us! If you have attended in the past, we would love to

see you again. We accept freewill donations to help cover the costs of the pizza.

We'll see you at the closing! Also, the next 40 Days for Life isn't far off, since Lent starts in mid-February.

Hard Cases – Rape and Incest

Many people considering themselves pro-life make exceptions for hard cases, which include rape and incest. Abortion supporters often use these exceptions to back up their claims that most people support abortion in at least some cases, and then leverage exceptions to push the limits further.

Character attacks often occur when someone defends life, as people treat them as insensitive to women. It's important to consider this very emotionally driven scenario.

Law works best when punishing the person committing a crime, rather than innocent people. Abortion allows children to face the penalty of death because of the actions of their father. Even the Bible states the following in Deuteronomy 24:16.

"Fathers shall not be put to death for their children nor children for their fathers, only for his own guilt shall a man be put to death."

I know a woman who was raped and had she aborted,

she would have aborted her only child; luckily she chose life. Many other women have the opportunity to put children up for adoption.

Women who seek abortions after rape occurs often feel worse. They report that the rape happened to them; they were the victim. But the decision to abort was theirs, making them the attacker and their own child the victim. They find it much easier to get over the rape than the abortion.

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HHS Mandate

Real Implications

By John Egnew

In light of the current presidential campaigning, there appears to be one area that has received little attention. We have all heard about the HHS mandate forcing all religious and charitable organizations to face penalties if each organization does not comply in providing contraceptives and abortifacient drugs. There is much confusion and misinformation on this penalty, and it is up to all of us to find the facts and take action.

Financial impact – The penalty could amount to \$100 per day per employee,

which amounts to \$36,500 per employee per year. This penalty would bankrupt any organization. The HHS penalty, as it now stands, will take effect in September of 2013.

Example – The Informed Choices Medical Clinic in Ames will open in October 2012 as a branch of the one already in Iowa City. This fully accredited medical clinic gives counseling and high-resolution ultrasound images of the baby in the womb at no charge. Of the pregnant women considering abortion who go to the clinic, 90% will have their baby. **This clinic will have to shut down if the HHS penalty is forced upon them.**

Lawsuits - There are now legal proceedings underway by several Catholic Dioceses and various Catholic hospitals and schools working with the US Council of Catholic Bishops against the HHS mandate, to strike down this requirement. This outcome may not be known until 2013 or later.

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The Affordable Care Act empowered Health & Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to impose a crippling penalty unless many people violate their consciences

HHS Mandate

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Actions – What can we do now?

1. To defeat this HHS mandate we must vote with our Christian conscience to protect life.
2. Take it upon yourself to have your church, business, or other organizations make an objective risk

assessment to ascertain the threat of this HHS mandate. What is your church doing to educate people about this issue?

We must pray and trust in God, but we must also take action to protect our religious freedom. Remember, **silence is approval.**

Photos from the HHS Flickr website, photographed by Chris Smith

Hard Cases

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Sadly, the undercover videos in recent years suggest that some abortion providers have employees frequently doing what they can to avoid reporting rape or incest. Such actions are against the law for a reason—it leaves a crime unreported, and the offender remains free to victimize again. They may victimize the same woman repeatedly, or move on to other women. This is unjust and insensitive to women.

Rapists already impose their will over others. Abortion allows them an opportunity to hide their crimes. Many women feel coerced to have abortions. We shouldn't help

rapists cover up their crimes.

Some rapists regret their actions, and feel sympathy for their victims. In these cases, abortion is their way of trying to reverse the harm they caused. But in the process, their own child dies and the woman may face lifelong consequences.

By recognizing that life begins at conception, or even any time prior to birth, if rape or incest constitutes some allowance to take a life, it means a life can be taken based on the circumstances of conception. That is the main difference between that life and that of another; birth has no bearing. Therefore, people who were conceived through

rape often take offense to the idea that rape or incest justifies the killing of the child. If birth changes nothing, then it should be just as justified to take a life after birth, at any stage of life because of a person's origins.

If we care about everyone, regardless of how they came to be, we should oppose abortion in cases of rape and incest. If we really care about women, we should help them avoid the torment of making an emotional decision after a rape that leads to more emotional pain later, and we need to report the cases so offenders cannot continue their actions. Women deserve better than abortion.

Pro-Life Challenge



Vote Pro-Life!

Vote for candidates that exhibit pro-life values in the General Election on Tuesday, November 6th.

There are many opportunities to vote early at satellite offices and by absentee ballot. You can't be sure what will happen on Election Day that might make voting more difficult.



Encourage Others to Vote

Encourage others to become informed about the candidates and to vote.

Single-Issue Voting?

My strong pro-life views could lead people to think I'm a single-issue voter. The better way to characterize my approach is that I vote pro-life first.

There are several issues I care about. But when I vote, I try to avoid supporting candidates that support an intrinsic evil. Most intrinsic evils involve life and death.

Among those, abortion ranks very high for many reasons. With over a million children who lose their lives each year to abortion and the trauma to their mothers, often for the rest of their lives, the unnecessary taking of life through abortion should end. Additionally, in most races for office, candidates contrast themselves greatly by taking different stances on abortion.

Few other issues involve irreversible actions. Although difficult at times, deficits and debts can usually be reversed in the future. Economists offer differing approaches to achieve the goals of society. Some may work better than others, but it's hard to find an intrinsically evil economic plan.

Supporting an intrinsic evil, especially if it's prominently pushed disqualifies a candidate from my consideration. But if two or more candidates support the pro-life view, it allows me to move on to other considerations of intrinsic evils and fundamental principles.

If each candidate passes the initial qualifying criteria, then I can assess the candidates' approaches to the position they seek.

If all candidates fail the moral criteria, I have taken advantage of the option to write in a candidate that we have on our ballots for each elected office.

It's important to research the candidates. Anytime in the 40 days leading into an election, I access a sample ballot from the Linn County Elections website listed at the end of this article. That way, I know every race, every judge, and every public measure I'll vote on, which helps avoid having the voting experience feel like a pop quiz.

Please be informed, and please vote pro-life!

<http://www.linncountyelections.org/lookup/>



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