

# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

December 2012



Editor: Jim Burke

## Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Monthly CFLI Board  
Jan 8 Meeting

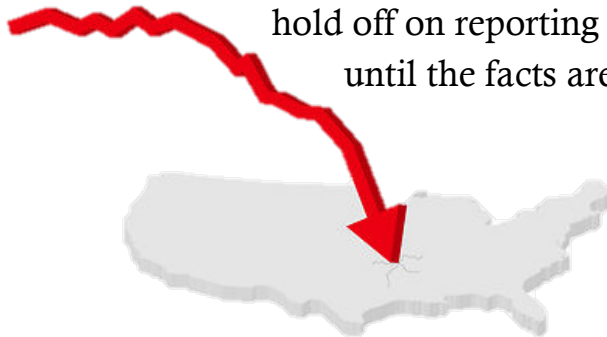
Saturday, State March for Life  
Jan 19 Des Moines

Sunday, Local March for Life  
Jan 20 Cedar Rapids

Wed-Sun, National March for Life  
Jan 23-27 Washington DC

## Birth Rate Falls

Last month, we reported how the abortion numbers fell. Debunking the common explanations was easy. But news that didn't receive much attention was that birth rates also fell. Before offering a more substantial explanation for the numbers, it's always important to examine all the related statistics. Often, news outlets seek to report first on a story. They also want to offer the first explanation of statistics. Sometimes it pays to hold off on reporting the explanations until the facts are all known.



2012 Year in Review

What's Happened?

## One More Point

In last month's article about the hard case to save the life of the mother, a point was missed. Many people argue that children should be wanted. In some cases, not being wanted is enough to justify abortion

for some people. When the life of the mother is used to justify abortion, it's likely she wants to keep her baby, or she would have aborted the child sooner. For people who rally for

“choice”, they should acknowledge that the mother wants to keep her child. Only when not given all the information about all alternatives does the uninformed choice shift to abortion.

## Hard Cases – Fetal Deformity

In recent months, we've covered various so-called “hard cases” often used to allow abortions in special cases. Many pro-lifers oppose abortion in most cases, but struggle with some of these exceptions. We hope it's been helpful.

Last month, we covered the life/health of the mother. This month, we focus on the child's health. Some people justify abortion in cases of fetal deformity.

Michael Clancy points out in his public appearances that

tests for spina bifida, a sometimes fatal condition, sometimes reports a false positive. Like most prenatal tests, they aren't 100% accurate. If we allow abortion for such cases, we permit killing children under false pretenses.

Some deformities aren't very significant. Once we allow abortion for some deformities, we open the door to others. The range of conditions is like shades of gray. Where does it stop? We quickly revert to Eugenics, seeking what we

think is perfection and killing anyone that doesn't measure up. This never ends well, since no one is perfect.

Genetic tests could point to possible future ailments. What if tests suggested your child might experience a degenerative disorder later in life? Do we take a life now to avoid a mere possibility of future problems? This prejudices the lives of children and assumes there won't be a cure by the time the child might exhibit the

*Continues on page 4*



2012

## 2012 Year in Review

### What's Happened?

The past year had some good and bad news. Let us recap what happened.

#### **Four PP's Close in Iowa!**

This spring, four Planned Parenthood facilities closed in Iowa. This was huge!

#### **40 Years – Legal Abortion**

Although the end of the 40 years of decriminalized abortion occurs in January, that 40th year began this past January.

#### **40 Days for Life Expands**

New locations began 40 Days for Life in Iowa this year. Locally, we continued to grow our numbers.

#### **Abortion Numbers Down**

Although recent reports suggest national abortion numbers dropped significantly, Iowa reported good news. Although the latest numbers come from 2010, they showed a drop of over 18% in the number of abortions since the state had their first 40 Days for Life activities, just 2 years earlier! That's not a trivial drop.

#### **Our Newsletter**

This year, the Coalition for Life of Iowa began our Life Matters monthly newsletter. We aim to keep readers informed on upcoming and recent pro-life events, while educating our readers about life issues.

#### **Choose Life Plates**

Choose Life license plates are available for order within Iowa. Once we reach the minimum, they will start showing up on the streets.

#### **PP Fraud Lawsuit**

Sue Thayer blew the whistle on Planned Parenthood of the Heartland by reporting cases of fraud she saw regarding government programs. The case could lead to billions of dollars of penalties.

#### **Elections**

Elections brought disappointment for people to seek to protect life.

## Hard Cases

Continued from page 2

symptoms.

Some of the happiest people seem to be people with deformities. Their parents usually exhibit an amazing amount of love. But love involves giving and putting the needs of others ahead of your own.

Sometimes, people fear the amount of effort or money it will take to raise such a child. We deny ourselves a lifetime of love when we end life before its natural end.

Disabilities shouldn't be looked down upon. Other than bringing great joy and love into our lives, even employers often prefer disabled employees. In general, they work hard and rarely compare themselves to others or argue over little things.

We all have strengths and weaknesses. We shouldn't kill people for their weaknesses. If abortion is acceptable for preborn children with disabilities, and if abortion is not acceptable for other cases because it takes a life, then

the same justification to abort would justify the taking of life after birth.

Some people want to avoid unnecessary suffering. They think that abortions will spare the parents and the child from suffering as the child dies prematurely. If the child will die soon anyway, there is no need to implicate oneself in the death. Some parents find great healing and peace by having a chance to meet their child, allowing a natural death.

A recent article reported that a child lived after being born below the minimum weight of 1 pound typically demanded. A pair of scissors remained on the scale, enabling the weight to achieve the minimum weight. The error was caught later, but the child lived. Too often, we give up on challenges. How many more lives could be saved if we tried? How many more diseases/conditions could be cured if we sought to cure rather than resorting to killing?

Abortion is not as safe as live birth, despite what some people have claimed. It also

leaves lasting mental and physical problems for many women. While focusing on one form of suffering, people often overlook the suffering they are rarely warned about.

Many people have twisted the purpose of prenatal tests. Prenatal tests taken to determine whether a child should live or die, determining the value of the child are wrong. However, when the risks of the tests are low enough, they can help parents prepare for the challenges ahead. Note that some tests have a higher rate of complications than the typical rate of the thing they test.

We should see value in every human life, helping others in ways that meet their needs, while others help us to meet our needs. We can avoid suffering from our own decisions. We should use tests to prepare for challenges, not to determine the value of life. There are so many opportunities to value life. Respect the lives of all people, and we can bring out the best in us all.



## Pro-Life Challenge



### Remember the Most Famous Unplanned Pregnancy

Although God had a plan from the beginning, Mary and Joseph never could have imagined their future as parents of Jesus.



Have a Merry Christmas!

Enjoy this Christmas season. Remember, it starts on December 25th, but lasts through January 6th. It's more than just one day!



## Marches for Life

We want to spread life-affirming messages, show strength in the pro-life cause, and help people see we appear in large numbers when communicating our messages. When we march for life, we take to the streets and people notice.

You can take part just by showing up. What can be easier? Silence enables millions of lives to continue being taken each year. In the month ahead, we will have several opportunities to march for life.

Some of you will go on the March for Life trip to Washington D.C. The march takes place on January 25, and the trip includes a few days for travel out and back. This is

the first year we worked with other groups to arrange a bus from Cedar Rapids.

But people who aren't able to travel as far have other options. Iowa Right to Life will host a Midwest March for Life in Des Moines on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. It starts at 11am, and has a luncheon following it.

The next day, join us here in Cedar Rapids. We meet in the parking lot of St. Matthew's Catholic Church on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. We walk from there to Planned Parenthood. Bring signs if you have them.

We will send out emails with more information as the dates near.



## 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.

We welcome advertisers for a reasonable price.

## Remember, Life Matters!

Request electronic copies by email: [coalitionforlife@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)

## Coalition for Life of Iowa

P.O. Box 864  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406