

Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

February 2013



Editor: Jim Burke

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Dance for Life
Feb 9 St. Pius Church

Sunday, 40 Days for Life
Feb 10 Kick-off Rally

Tuesday, CFLI Board Meeting
Feb 12 (monthly)

Wednesday, 40 Days for Life
Feb 13 7am-7pm until Mar 24

Monday, Melissa Ohden Event
Feb 18 St. Matthew's Church

February Abortions

The time of year has come when abortions reach their peak numbers. This period in time occurs just long enough after the Christmas/New Year's breaks and festivities for people to detect pregnancies. Some relationships end after the stress of Valentines Day. For relationships that break, pressure mounts to end any remnant of the relationship.

So this month brings with it a time when we need to reach out to women and couples that could use some support. It's time for us to make ourselves present, pointing people to alternatives and organizations that offer support. Let us show God's compassion to people in need.



March for Life

Local and National Events

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Twins Euthanized

By Jim Burke

Marc and Eddy Verbessem were born over 45 years ago. They were twins and born deaf. But they also had a condition that led doctors to inform them that they would soon go blind.

In Belgium, euthanasia is legal, and aims to address situations where people experience “unbearable suffering.” The twins

suggested that to never see each other would be unbearable.

Although they weren’t blind yet, their fear losing sight led them to seek euthanasia. Like most life issues, once we permit killing for some reasons, people stretch the circumstances until



it’s legal in circumstances never intended.

Although their diagnosis was likely accurate, I think back to my own

Twins – Continues on page 4

Report derived from: <http://www.lifenews.com/2013/01/14/identical-twins-victims-of-euthanasia-in-belgium/>
Photo from: <http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/belgian-doctors-euthanize-deaf-twins-who-were-afraid-of-going-blind>

February Events

Dance for Life

Each year, the local Knights of Columbus sponsor a Dance for Life to benefit Birthright. This year, it moves to St. Pius Church Hall, located at 4949 Council St. NE in Cedar Rapids. The dance occurs Saturday, February 9. It starts at

7pm and continues until 10pm. The cost is \$7 per person; and free for those age 4 and under.

40 Days for Life Kick-off

The 40 Days for Life kick-off rally will occur from 2-3pm on Sunday, February 10. It takes place outside the Planned Parenthood abortion

facility, located at 3425 1st Ave SE in Cedar Rapids. Please park on the streets, not in their parking lot.

Melissa Ohden Speaks

Melissa Ohden survived being aborted and will speak at the CEO event at St. Matthew’s Church on Monday, February 18 from 6:30-8pm.

March for Life

40th March in Washington D.C.

Iowans showed up in Washington D.C. in large numbers to show their support for life, including several dozen people from Cedar Rapids. During the march, it was clear that over half a million people were rallying for life. Later numbers estimated the crowd at 650,000 people. This is over double the attendance of just 4 years ago, and nearly three times the attendance of just 5 years ago!

Many local students attended. They brought an amazing and inspiring energy to the activities. They attended the youth rally, the march, listened to lawmakers, and attended religious services.

Pictured:
Marchers from
Cedar Rapids
and Solon,
Iowa in front
of the US
Capital after
the 40th
National
March for Life



Cedar Rapids March

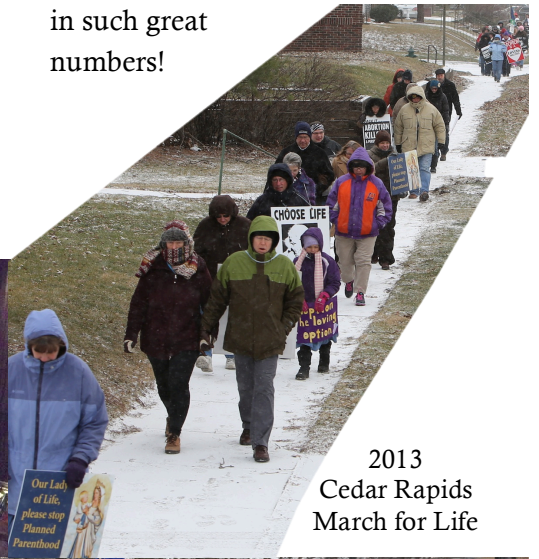
In January, we hosted our local, annual March for Life. We gathered at the parking lot of St. Matthew's Church, and then walked to the Planned Parenthood abortion facility. Once there, we joined in prayer and made some announcements.

The media showed up, including KWWL and KGAN. They stuck around until the event ended, rather than leaving after getting a few good shots.

Despite the snow and cold, we saw more than twice the number of people participate this year than last year! The photos only show some of the people at the start of the march. A few were hidden in back, and others joined us outside Planned Parenthood. Thanks for coming out in such great numbers!



Iowans wearing red flood both levels of the Hard Rock Café following the 40th National March for Life



2013
Cedar Rapids
March for Life



Photos Credits:

Chris Fuller (top of page)
Jim Burke (above/left)
Don Nelson (upper right)
Jim Ford (lower right)

Twins

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childhood. When I was young, an eye doctor told me I would be blind by age 20. In addition, an ear specialist told me I would be deaf by age 20. Losing both of the two senses people use most paints a grim future in the

minds of people. I was concerned about my future, but I sought to find ways to adapt to such changes. Medical procedures helped preserve my hearing, and my vision stabilized on its own. Thus, I still have my senses.

Helen Keller faced

challenges, but overcame them. She adapted to life without these senses. She led a meaningful life.

We must not lose hope or succumb to fear to justify death. When we encounter people facing such struggles, we must be supportive of life-affirming options.

Contraception's Effects

People often assume contraception use will lower the abortion rate. This runs counter to what studies find, and leads to other consequences.

53% of women seeking abortions were using contraception when they became pregnant. People disassociate actions from the possible outcomes. Since they seek to avoid children, when contraception fails, it's easy to demand their intended outcome of not having a child. Thus, the demand for abortion increases.

Even the US Supreme Court

case of Planned Parenthood vs. Casey in 1992 reasoned that as long as long as contraception is used, and knowing that it fails, people will demand abortion.

Studies ranging from Spain to California confirm that increased use of contraception leads to an increase in the rate of abortions. If we listen to the people who promote abortion access, they tend to demand evidence-based solutions. If we do as they ask, we would stop promoting the contraception they push as the solution.

Abortion providers have also been known to purchase or

produce the lowest quality of contraceptives. A Consumer Reports study in 2005 confirmed this when it ranked Planned Parenthood's condoms at the bottom of those ranked. Lower quality leads to higher failure rates. Higher failure rates lead to more abortions.

But abortion isn't the only side effect of contraception. Divorce rates have a very strong correlation with the public rate of contraceptive use. The charts look extremely similar.

The widespread use of chemical contraceptives has led to

Effects – Continues on page 5

Recommended Resources

Janet E. Smith's Contraception, Why Not?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKbvEJD-qYE>

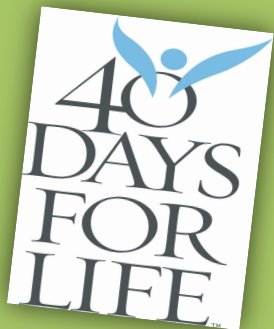
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAJexmBX5II>

<http://www.lifenews.com/2011/01/03/study-abortion-double-in-spain-despite-increased-contraception/>

<http://www.lifenews.com/2012/02/17/studies-birth-control-contraception-dont-cut-abortion/>

<http://www.lifenews.com/2012/03/16/study-showed-birth-control-usage-increased-abortion-rates/>

Pro-Life Challenge



Pray for an End to Abortion

Join us on the sidewalk for at least one 1-hour time slot.

We would love to have you join us for even more. If you can't join us, please pray from home or any other place you can.



Invite Friends to Pray

Not only does inviting others make others a part in ending abortion, it makes the experience even better for you.

Effects

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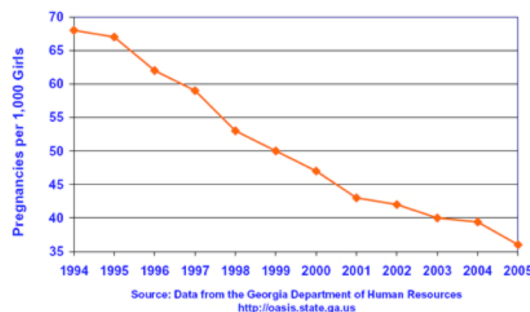
detectable amounts of it appearing in the water supplies of some cities. Downstream from areas where such chemicals enter rivers, fish exhibit dramatic shifts in the balance between the genders. The hormones appear to change the genders.

Even relationships change for the worse. When women use chemical contraceptives, men are less attracted to them. Conversely, women are attracted to men they are otherwise not attracted to. When they stop using contraception, their interests change back, leading to a greater chance of breaking up.

The 1968 encyclical *Humanae Vitae* reasoned that contraceptive use would lead to increased infidelity, a general lowering of morality, men disrespecting women by using them for selfish enjoyment, and that governments would impose and promote its use. We've seen each of these things come true.

People often oppose abstinence-based education, thinking it's ineffective and assume it's similar to what they received long ago. But the most effective programs can outperform the programs they think work better. Georgia implemented an effective abstinence-based program that lowered teen pregnancy rates by 50%. Many people received the education that focused on saying 'no', without replacing it with

Georgia Teen Pregnancy Rates
Age 15-17
1994-2005



what good things one says yes to. Studies that say abstinence programs don't work tend to focus on discontinued programs or the worst of what remains.

If contraceptive-based programs worked, wouldn't teen pregnancy rates drop by more than 50%? Wouldn't the number of abortions drop far below 1 million per year? In order to be as effective, such drops would be expected.

When people think pro-lifers are wrong to oppose contraception, since they think it will lower abortions, they ignore repeatable statistics from many studies. Few people actually read such studies, so it's easy to restate what we hear in the media or from those who speak the loudest. Many pro-lifers don't recognize the correlations until faced with the studies.

We need to inform ourselves, which is one of the goals of this newsletter. We hope you examine the evidence for yourself by using the resources on page 4 of this issue. You may look at any number of other resources, but make sure they are reputable, factual, and unbiased.



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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