

# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

May 2013



Editor: Jim Burke

## Upcoming Events

Tuesday, CFLI Work Meeting  
May 28 (plan activities)

Tuesday, CFLI Board Meeting  
June 11 (monthly)

Tuesday, CFLI Board Meeting  
July 9 (monthly)

## IRS Targeting

The recent news regarding the IRS has brought our organization into the spotlight. Since we are not a political group, we will not, as an organization suggest specific policy changes. But we can describe what happened when we sought 501c3 tax-exempt status.

We issued a press release describing our application back in 2008-2009. When members of the IRS admitted to targeting certain types of groups in 2012, many of us were certain they would find that it dated back to at least 2009, when we faced unreasonable demands from the IRS. With time, that's exactly what people have found.

We hope justice will be served, and that other organizations don't have to go through what we did.



Abortinist Convicted of Murder

Kermit Gosnell

pg. 3

## Roses for Moms

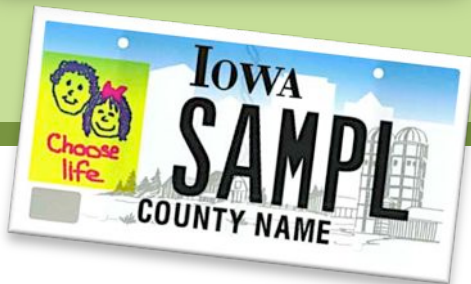
On Mother's Day, we once again offered roses for mothers. In valuing life, we recognize the importance of family and mothers that bore us for



so many months before bringing us into this world.

Our annual fundraiser was a success, while bringing smiles to mothers throughout town.

Thank you to mothers, and to everyone that took part in this effort.



## Choose Life Plates Reach Goal!

A year ago, we reported on the approval of the Choose Life license plates in Iowa. We had roughly one year to get 500 applications for the plate or the process would have to start all over.

Iowa Right to Life was near the minimum order, but was coming up short. Then, the Knights of Columbus made a push for

applications at their state convention. Soon afterward, they presented enough applications to exceed the goal.

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) still needs to process the applications before anyone receives them. Once they process the applications, anyone who applied should receive the new plates. Also, at that time, the plates will be available for anyone to order when they order license 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.

We thank Iowa Right to Life, the Knights of Columbus, and everyone who ordered or promoted the plates. We couldn't have done this alone.

# Abortionist Convicted of Murder

## Kermit Gosnell

By Jim Burke

On the day abortionist Kermit Gosnell worked out a plea bargain for a life sentence to avoid a death sentence, I visited his facility in West Philadelphia and the justice center where the trials took place.

Entry to the facility was prohibited. I stood outside the facility and felt a mixture of feelings. Initially, I felt the sense of the mass deaths that

occurred at that location over several decades. Later, I would feel a sense of community embarrassment that such horrors would occur unchecked for so long.

I stared at the front door, imagining what it must have been like for clients that entered there.

Looking through the front door, I saw an inner door to the left that opened up to the lobby. I imagined how many women passed through that door.

On the window, there were stickers similar to the, “Hello, My Name Is” stickers. But these said, “I wish this was”. There were five rows and six columns. At least one said, “Abortion Clinic”. Another said “A Library Computer Lab” and “A Children’s Bookstore”. Many were more profane, which one might expect for that neighborhood.

Even from the outside, one could see the facility was a mess. It has been closed for quite a while now, since Gosnell was taken into custody. Now he faces life in prison, without chance of parole. He waived any chance to appeal in order to avoid the death penalty. This ensures he will remain in prison until his death.



Left: Entry of Gosnell’s abortion facility  
Right: View through the front door, toward the left

Photos by Jim Burke

## Trotting Out the Toddlers

Many people oppose at least some abortions, since they believe life begins before birth. But they often let various emotional arguments prevail. The outcome often leads to more emotional suffering. Many times, an analogy using a newborn or young child can bring things into perspective.

If it is wrong to abort a child in the womb because the child is a living human being, but it is okay under certain circumstances, then those same circumstances should justify killing newborns. Since most people oppose killing newborns, they should recognize the flaw in the logic justifying abortion.

For instance, people sometimes argue abortion should be legal in cases of poverty. But imagine if someone faced sudden financial problems soon after their child was born. If they aren't willing to allow the killing of a newborn due to poverty, then they shouldn't justify abortion under the same circumstances.

If a woman is raped and bears a child, again, abortion is often considered acceptable. Yet, people usually don't support killing a newborn conceived in the same way.

If a child faces a disability of some sort, abortion is often considered acceptable. But few people would dare suggest we should kill a newborn with a disability.

Making these analogies is sometimes called, "trotting out the toddler". It can apply to a toddler or a newborn. It also brings to mind the following story.

A worried woman went to her gynecologist and said: "Doctor, I have a serious problem and desperately need your help! My baby is not even one year old and I'm pregnant again. I don't want kids so close together."

The doctor said: "Ok, and what do you want me to do?"

She said: "I want you to end my pregnancy, and I'm counting on your help with this."

The doctor thought for a little, and after some silence he said to the lady:

"I think I have a better solution for your problem. It's less dangerous for you, too." She smiled, thinking that the doctor was going to accept her request.

Then he continued: "You see, in order for you not to have to take care of two babies at the same time, let's kill the one in your arms. This way, you could rest some before the second one is born. If we're going to kill one of them anyway, it really doesn't matter which one it is, does it? There would be no risk for your body if you chose to kill the one in your arms."

The woman was horrified and said: "No doctor! How terrible! It's a crime to kill a child!"

"I agree", the doctor replied. "But you seemed to be ok with it, so I thought maybe that might be the best solution."

The doctor smiled, realizing that he had made his point.

## Pro-Life Challenge



### Step Up To Pro-Life Leadership

If you wish to take a more active role in the pro-life movement, contact us at [coalitionforlife@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)



Invite Others to Pro-Life Activism

Invite your friends and family to join in pro-life activities.

# Crossroads Pro-Life Walk Across America

This summer, several young adults will walk from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean, ending at our nation's capitol. They began their walk in mid-May, and end in early August.



The Northern Walk spends a weekend in the Minneapolis area during the last weekend in June. They will reach a nearby part of Wisconsin by the fourth of July. They sometimes meet up with Dubuque County Right to Life, and sometimes make a special trip down to Cedar Rapids. The weekend after that, they spend in Chicago.

Kansas City, MO. One week later, they spend July 13-14 in St. Louis.

The walkers split up into shifts. During a shift, some people walk while others take a vehicle forward to the point where they trade positions. At the change of the shift, others swap in to the walk/drive shift, while those that were walking get a chance to sleep or do other things.



The Central Walk spends that same weekend in

It's during the shifts that provide a break from walking that allow the walkers to drive to places off their route, such as Dubuque or Cedar Rapids.



## 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