



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

March 2014

Editor: Jim Burke

Upcoming Events

Monday, Mass for the Unborn
Mar 24

Tuesday, CFLI Working
Mar 25 Meeting

Tuesday, CFLI Board Meeting
April 8

Sunday, 40 Days for Life
April 13 Closing Rally

**We welcome newcomers
to our meetings**



Amazing Times

Iowa has been buzzing with pro-life activity and results. On the positive side, abortion facilities have closed faster than we've ever seen before, and more continue to close. Abortion rates have dropped rapidly. A mother told us that she chose not to abort her daughter after seeing us praying! We are starting our "Life Series" educational events.

Unfortunately, webcam abortions still plague this state. We will continue to promote respect for life and oppose abortion and other efforts to diminish the great value granted to each of us by our Creator. We continue to band together as Christians, setting any minor differences aside for the cause of life.

Coalition for Life of Iowa Board

A Local Abortion Averted!

Mom Admits Changing Mind Because of Us!

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40 Days for Life: Closing Rally

On Sunday, April 13th, we will end our spring 40 Days for Life campaign. As usual, we will close with a rally outside of the local Planned Parenthood abortion facility on the corner of 1st Ave and 35th St Dr SE. We will gather at 5pm for prayer on the sidewalk. At 6pm, we will head over to the Godfather’s Pizza in the Town and Country Shopping Center, just one block north.

We recommend parking in the shopping center parking lot, walking over to Planned Parenthood, and then walking back. It helps avoid parking problems, and we are doing business by eating at Godfather’s Pizza. We will summarize any major developments that



occur during the course of the 40 Days for Life campaign. We will also announce any upcoming events as well.

Come; join us!

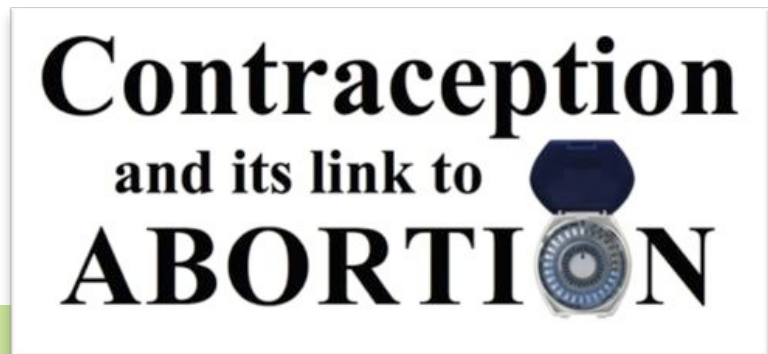
Life Series: Link Between Contraception & Abortion

As we indicated in last month’s newsletter, we will host educational events on a more frequent basis. Come to our event on May 19th at 6:30pm at St. Patrick’s Parish Center, 120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids.

Many people think increasing the availability

and use of contraception will reduce the abortion rate, but are they correct? Statistics suggest otherwise. The Supreme Court and religious

leaders even reasoned that contraception leads to abortions. Want to know more? Come to learn more!



A Local Abortion Averted!

On the first Tuesday of this spring's 40 Days for Life campaign, we heard news we've waited to hear for a long time. A woman chose not to have an abortion because people were praying outside the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood abortion facility!

A group of pro-lifers were praying outside the Planned Parenthood, when a woman approached them to take a photo of them. She was early for her appointment inside, and no, she's not pregnant at this time. Someone in our group started talking with her and found out she was taking a photo of the group to send to her sister.

She explained how she sought an abortion one year ago. When she arrived and saw people praying, it was just what was needed for her to change her mind. She is

now the proud mother of a 4-month old daughter.

For many women, they want any sign that they should not have an abortion. Just praying onsite offers that sign to many women.

We know how wonderful it feels to know we've played a part in the saving of a life and helping someone avoid a life of regret from an irreversible decision.

In 2008, we began praying for 40 days. In 2011, we moved those prayer vigils to the sidewalk. In 2013, a mother changed her mind

about aborting her child, and in 2014, she let us know about it. THANK YOU for praying!

When people curse at you or tell you to keep your opinions to yourself, remember how much we are able to help women. If women wanted abortions, they wouldn't look for signs to choose life. The joy they come back with after choosing life is well worth the effort. World War II's lesson to the world was what happens when people don't stand up for others whose lives are threatened.



Early End of Life

At age 26, Terri Schiavo went into cardiac arrest, suffered brain damage and entered a coma. We often think of “end of life” issues as something to worry about after we retire. But cases like Terri’s remind us to prepare, regardless of our current age.

Do you remember her case from nine years ago? We heard she was in a persistent vegetative state. Do you remember seeing the machines she was hooked up to? Many people falsely believe she depended on machines. But in reality, she didn’t need ANY machines, nor was she connected to them. She was not dying any more than any of us are.

Her family could bring her just about anywhere using



a wheelchair. She just needed a feeding tube to eat. Therapy to help her eat on her own went so well, that she may not have even needed the feeding tube. But her husband ended her therapy.

She died of dehydration after a court decision that withheld food and drink, and thus denied her of basic needs. Her husband, who was engaged to marry another woman even used her trust fund to pay for the lawyers that argued the case to starve her to death. It’s important to prepare for any situation where you are unable to express your will.

Do you know what your family members want if something happens to them? Do they know what degree of life-sustaining treatment or basic care you might want in the event you are unable to make such decisions? Do you have legal documents to



make sure your intentions are carried out when such situations arise?

Several years ago, we brought experts in to speak about end-of-life decisions. We still have some materials from that event that we are willing to share. As with any legal matter, we encourage you to discuss your wishes with a lawyer. Laws change over the years, and you should always get the latest legal counsel to ensure your intentions are carried out and can withstand any legal challenges that may arise.

Pro-Life Challenge



Pray During 40 Days for Life

Join us with a peaceful, prayerful presence outside the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood. Remain respectful and law abiding, but most of all, pray. It's not political, and it's not a protest...it's prayer.



Bring Friends!

When you come out to pray during 40 Days for Life, invite family members, friends, and even co-workers!

Western Iowa Success

The night before 40 Days for Life began this spring, we received an email from Rod, the leader of 40 Days for Life in Red Oak, Iowa. It included a photo of the closed sign that now appears on the Planned Parenthood there.



We try not to celebrate early, as the sign wouldn't have to mean they are closed permanently. But it's looking very hopeful, since that location was one of two that had zero hours, except for special appointments.

Rod has led the 40 Days for Life effort there ever since he accepted the role a few years ago. Oddly enough, he lived halfway across the country at the time, and he moved back to Iowa with just a few weeks to spare before the first 40 Days for Life in Red Oak.

Rod was instrumental in getting Creston onboard with 40 Days for Life, as he helped recruit the leader there. He passes on the willingness to

help their leader, and pass along references that helped him get started.

Western Iowa has already seen the closing of Storm Lake, Spencer, and Fort Dodge in the last few years. There is a growing gap between the Planned Parenthoods on the border and those in Des Moines. Only Red Oak and Creston centers filled that gap. Creston may remain as the lone facility, now. But with 40 Days for Life there, and that facility open zero hours, except by appointment as well, its days are numbered!

We await confirmation that Red Oak officially closed for good.

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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