



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

December 2014

Editor: Jim Burke

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, CFLI Board Meeting
Dec 9

Tuesday, ~~CFLI Work Meeting~~
Dec 23 (Cancelled)

Tuesday, CFLI Board Meeting
Jan 13

Saturday, Midwest March for
Jan 17 Life, Des Moines

Sunday, Cedar Rapids March
Jan 18 for Life

**We welcome newcomers
to our meetings**



New Vision & Refined Mission

We wanted to come up with a clear vision we could use to explain what we would like to see result from our efforts and what kind of culture we want to achieve. We didn't have a vision statement before. The vision statement is:

“A culture that promotes the sanctity of human life from conception throughout all stages.”

After coming up with a vision statement, it made sense to refine our mission statement, since a mission explains the part we play in achieving our vision. Our updated mission statement is:

“The Coalition for Life of Iowa defends the sanctity of human life from conception throughout all stages with prayer, education and raising awareness.”

- Coalition for Life of Iowa Board

A History of Infanticide

It goes way back

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Cedar Rapids March for Life

On Sunday, January 18, 2015, we will again host the Cedar Rapids March for Life. The event memorializes the anniversary of the infamous Roe v Wade and Doe v Bolton rulings made by the US Supreme Court in 1973. We chose a date that's 4 days before the official anniversary. Doing so allows us to march during the daylight hours, since this event focuses on being seen,



spreading the pro-life message.

We start in the parking lot of St. Matthew's Church, located at 2310 1st Ave NE. We make signs available at

the starting point, but you can bring your own. Then we walk to the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood. We pray at Planned Parenthood for a while, and then we walk back to the starting point.

After we get back, we will offer some snacks inside the church building. Even if you aren't hungry, it gives you a chance to mingle with other pro-life members of our community.

Learn How to Make a Solid Case for Life

As part of the kick-off rally for the spring 40 Days for Life campaign, we plan to show a video that will help you make a case for life. It should come in handy on the sidewalks. But it can help in many other

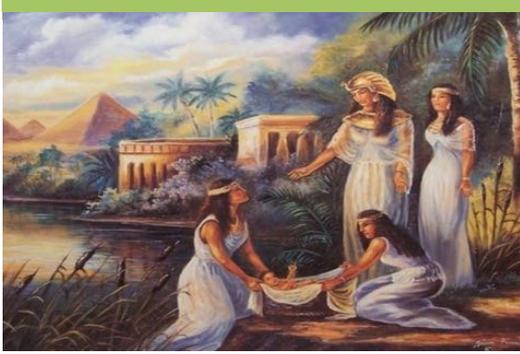


situations where the issue comes up.

Trent Horn appears in the video and steps through very simple techniques that make it very easy to stay on topic and make a solid argument. The techniques prevent arguments from spiraling out of control or leading to someone storming away in a fit of rage.

We realized that these skills are more applicable to our local situation. Although we focus on prayer outside of Planned Parenthood, people occasionally approach us. But women seeking abortions rarely approach us. It's much more common that the people wanting to talk to us want to debate life issues.

This training will equip you for success and make it easy.



Within the final generation before the Israelites left Egypt in Biblical times, the pharaoh ordered the killing of children under the age of two by tossing them into the river. This is documented in the story of Moses, who was placed in the river and was rescued, unlike most other children his age.

Before the Israelites reached the Promised Land after leaving Egypt in Biblical times, the Canaanites were known for horrific acts. Their society had become very sexualized, seeking pleasure whenever they wanted. This led to unintended pregnancies. But abortion was even more dangerous back in those days.

Their solution used child sacrifices. The Canaanites sacrificed their unwanted children to a false god named Moloch. Their society came to an end soon after, as they were easily defeated by the

A History of Infanticide

Israelites.

Shortly after the birth of Jesus, the ruler over that region of the Roman Empire ordered the killing of infants. It resembled the story of Moses. Like Moses, Jesus survived the slaughter.

Centuries later, the Roman Empire became a world power. They grew very powerful. But like most major world powers, people began focusing on pleasure and unlimited sexual activity.

As usual, children were conceived from parents that had no intention of having children. The Romans also tried to avoid abortion. They resorted to infanticide by casting their infants into the river. Christians often went to the rivers and rescued many of those children.

Yes, abortions occurred throughout much of world history. But the harm to mothers was significant. This led to what seems even more difficult to comprehend. One might

somehow justify that people long ago might not have recognized the personhood of their children in the womb. But they killed their children after birth, when they had full knowledge of the humanity of their own flesh and blood.

Each December, we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus. His birth brings out a story of an unexpected pregnancy in times when infanticide threatened his life. It was God's will that Jesus survive.

Studies show that societies tend to fail within three generations of giving into pleasure and sexual immorality. Christians have a long history of rescuing children from death. Let us model ourselves after them as we not only protect the lives of children, but also help mothers affirm life. We hope the world will never have leaders that seek the death of children again.

Midwest March for Life

I suspect that most people don't know who Josh Brahm is. But for quite a while, I've listened to a podcast that I consider the best among pro-life podcasts. Josh was the host for the first 199 episodes, and moved on to train pro-lifers so they can be more effective in arguing the pro-life message.

Josh will speak at Iowa Right to Life's Midwest March for Life in Des Moines on Saturday, January 17, 2015. I have never heard him speak

Josh Brahm



in person, but I plan to go so I can hear a very articulate speaker. Josh spent lots of time on college campuses talking with people he would meet on the sidewalks. He knows where to focus the arguments, how to approach



Archbishop Jackels

them in a considerate way, and what not to do.

Josh Brahm has said before that he teaches pro-lifers to be less weird. We could all probably identify several

instances where someone arguing the pro-life side of an issue made things worse.

Similar to the Trent Horn video mentioned earlier in this newsletter, Josh works hard to keep the arguments persuasive and simple, so anyone can make a good case.



Bishop Pates

Josh is the president of Equal Rights Institute. He spent more than 12 years doing full-time pro-life work.

Archbishop Michael Jackels and Bishop Richard Pates will also speak at the event.

Please RSVP on their website so they know how many to expect when preparing enough lunches for everyone. The website appears in the box near the bottom of this page.

I strongly encourage you to attend this event. If you are interested in attending, but you want to carpool, several other people will be going. If you need a ride, contact coalitionforlife@gmail.com

The website for the Midwest March for Life is:
<http://midwestmarch.splashthat.com/>

Pro-Life Challenge



Love Family

Spend time with family during the holidays. Build even stronger bonds with family members, and try to end divisions and forgive each other.

It was worth repeating from last month.



Treat Others Well

Make people feel like family.

2014 Year in Review

2014

Like we've done in past years, we hosted the Cedar Rapids March for Life in January. This time we added a chance to mingle afterward in a warm place.

We continued our twice-annual 40 Days for Life activities. Then we provided Roses for Moms on Mother's Day. For the second year in a row we did something for Father's Day. This time we hosted our first father-daughter dance.

We learned about the closing of two Planned Parenthood facilities in western Iowa. The Red Oak and Creston facilities closed on June 13th.

During the 4th of July weekend, we discovered that the Cedar Rapids Planned

Parenthood discontinued their horrendous webcam abortions. It marked the end of nearly two years of sending mothers home to do the dirty work of abortion. This was great news!

The court case of Sue Thayer versus Planned Parenthood gained new momentum following an appeal. The efforts to end webcam abortions statewide kept advancing and falling back. The state board of medicine banned webcam abortions. But Planned Parenthood requested a stay on enforcement. Their request for a stay was approved.

About one month before the end of the year, we lost a married couple who spent lots of time praying for pro-life intentions. Their deaths were unexpected, and they will be missed. It was a sad way to end the year. Let's make 2015 a great success!

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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