



# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

February 2015

Editor: Jim Burke

## Upcoming Events

Sat, Feb 7 KC Dance for Life

Tue, Feb 10 CFLI Board Meeting

Sun, Feb 15 40 Days for Life  
Kick-off Event

Feb 18 – 40 Days for Life  
Mar 29 Prayer Presence

Tue, Feb 24 CFLI Work Meeting

**We welcome newcomers  
to our meetings**



## Focus On What Works

We have led a local 40 Days for Life campaign in Cedar Rapids twice each year for the past several years. The results have been great locally and nationally. 40 Days for Life works.

But many participants have asked to learn how to discuss the issue with people who approach them. Everyone wants to be more effective, but it's nice to find simple ways that work. We plan to take the next step in equipping you defend the sanctity of human life.

We invite you to attend our 40 Days for Life Kick-off Event, where we will provide useful training that will make a difference when discussing the issue of abortion with anyone. More details appear later in this newsletter.

- Coalition for Life of Iowa Board

40 Days for Life

Kick-off Details and More

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## Dance for Life: Feb 7



The evening is full of music, food, silent auction items, and numerous door prizes. Many local pro-lifers, including those who help women considering abortion attend this annual event.

On Saturday, February 7, the Knights of Columbus will host their annual Dance for Life, which benefits Birthright. The

dance takes place at the St. Pius Parish Hall. The address is 4949 Council St NE in Cedar Rapids.

Tickets are available for an \$8 donation. Have a great time. Come to the Dance for Life!

## Cedar Rapids March for Life



The turnout for our Cedar Rapids March for Life was great this year! The weather cooperated nicely.

We gathered at St. Matthew's Church, took a few photos of the group, and then started our

journey to Planned Parenthood. At least 70 people stood along 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, many of them holding pro-life signs.

We prayed for a while, and then headed back. Upon

returning to the church, we gathered for chili.

We had a wonderful time. We enjoyed the opportunity to chat with many of you afterward.

# Marches for Life: Iowa & National



## Iowa

The turnout for the Midwest March for Life was amazing! Pro-lifers gathered at the state capitol building and listened to several speakers. The speakers kept their comments brief. Then the marchers circled the capitol building and marched to the state Supreme Court building. The picture above shows the line of pro-lifers on their way, plus several that already made it to

the end of the march. Hundreds of people gathered for a lunch after the outdoor portion of the march. Speakers gave moving speeches during the meal. Josh Brahm helped attendees understand how to more effectively discuss the pro-life stance with other people. The content of the arguments mostly focused on the equal rights argument. But the tone and

approach to the argument followed the respectful and loving approaches that align well with the Bible. Afternoon breakout sessions concluded the day with even more great speakers.

## National

A bus full of local students attended the National March for Life in our nation's capitol. They participated in the largest pro-life event in the world. Between 500,000 and 650,000 people attended this year!



# Legislative Update



(ACA.) An executive order proved to have no weight in preventing the funding of abortion in insurance plans

To keep people informed on legislative activities, we include the following updates on bills introduced in the Iowa legislature and Congress.

## Iowa

HF65 is the so-called “Death with Dignity Act.” It uses the compassionate terms to justify the ending of life in an unethical manner. It appears to build off the Brittany Maynard case by attempting to make legal in Iowa the same type of law that led to her death. Despite the bill denying the dignity of human life, it does include requirements for informed decisions, a waiting period, and other

things we usually see in pro-life laws that aim to protect life.

HF58 adds a requirement to perform an ultrasound before abortions. It also requires the expectant mothers the opportunity to see the ultrasound. They may decline. Ultrasounds are credited with saving many lives, since most parents choose not to abort after seeing their child. Ultrasounds are already common practice before abortions to determine the gestational age, which sets the price for the abortion.

SF55 prohibits funding of abortions from the Affordable Care Act

and exchanges. This bill attempts to prohibit the funding of abortion through such plans.

## Federal

The House of Representatives planned to vote for a pro-life bill on the day of the National March for Life. The original bill was supposed to be the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. There was disagreement regarding the terms within the bill.

The House chose to vote and approve the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortions act. The other bill will come up again at a later date.



## Attend Kick-off

Attend the Kick-off Event for 40 Days for Life!

You will learn techniques that will make it very easy to talk to people about life issues. Learn to make a solid case for life!



## Invite Friends

Invite friends to join you in praying at our prayer vigil. It always helps to have friends with you. It also shows support for life in larger numbers and makes it easier to fill in when someone is absent.

# 40 Days for Life

40 Days for Life starts Wednesday, February 18 and ends on Sunday, March 29.

Many of you have expressed the desire to learn how to more effectively communicate the pro-life message when people approach you while praying. Our kick-off event will address this.

The event starts on Sunday, February 15 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's Parish Center. We will show the *Making the Case for Life* DVD and include other information useful for 40 Days for Life. This could be our most useful training of the year! Don't miss your last chance to get such training before 40 Days for Life begins!

The most visible part of 40 Days for Life is the peaceful prayer vigil. We pray outside the local Planned Parenthood facility. We remain peaceful, respectful, lawful, etc. God can do all things, and we call upon His divine power to convert the hearts and change

minds in our community. We pray from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. each day for 40 days.

A less visible component of 40 Days for Life is fasting. There are many ways to fast, but people most commonly fast from some form of food. The Bible makes it clear that some

evil can only be cast out or overcome through fasting. The Bible also states "when you fast" rather than "if you fast." It's not meant to be a question whether or not you fast in life, but it's an expectation.

Fasting brings transformation. Remember to fill the void with something good. Some people fast from TV and fill it with more time praying to end abortion. Fasting is strongly encouraged, but don't do anything so extreme as to negatively affect your health.

Come to our kick-off, and invite friends to join you at our prayer vigils.



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- Forward a copy to them
- Print a copy to hand to friends

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