



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

April 2015

Editor: Jim Burke

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**We welcome newcomers
to our meetings and
events**

Busy Times

We have a few events of our own in May. But organizations that promote a respect for human life also have some fundraising banquets next month. Thus, our Upcoming Events section is larger than usual.

Our last newsletter issue included a new section that steps through the stages of life. We brought in Dr. Monica Minjeur to provide the best information possible for that article. She also brings the perspectives of both a doctor and a mother, which makes this month's column much better than it otherwise would have been. We will gradually add content from additional people in future months.

There are ways anyone can help us, such as handing out roses on Mother's Day. Some people like designing posters to promote our events. Some people might have ideas of pro-life activities we could be doing and want to help plan such activities. Please contact us if you can help in any way.

- Coalition for Life of Iowa Board

Upcoming Events

TUE
Apr 28

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Working Meeting

Get involved in planning the activities for our organization!

Where: St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop
120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

SAT
May 2

Starts at 5 p.m.

Culture of Life Dinner

Fundraiser for people to learn NaProTechnology!

Where: St. Wenceslaus Parish Hall
630 E Davenport St, Iowa City, IA

More info: <http://www.stwenc-ic.com/kc/cultureoflife.php>

SAT
May 9

SUN
May 10

After Mass/Services

Mother's Day Weekend/Roses

Honor mothers with roses!

Where: Various Local Churches
Cedar Rapids Metro Area

More information: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

MON
May 11

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Bridgehaven Banquet

Bridgehaven's annual banquet features Gail McWilliams!

Where: Cedar Rapids Marriott
1200 Collins Road NE, Cedar Rapids, IA

More information: <http://bridgehavencr.org/events/banquet/>

TUE
May 12

7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

CFLI Board Meeting

Get involved in the decisions that guide our organization!

Where: St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop
120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA

More information: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

WED
May 13

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Life Series: Women's Health

Learn about ethical approaches to reproductive options/health!

Where: St. Patrick's Parish Center
120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA

More information: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

40 Days For Life: Ending Rally

We completed another 40 Days for Life campaign in March. We had less to announce at the end. People in Cedar Rapids continue to offer more and more positive responses.

Everyone seemed to have a great time, both while praying and at the dinner afterward. Sister Lucy joined us at Godfather's Pizza to tell us how valued our efforts are. She spoke for a while, providing lots of information for people who attended.

The results of pro-life efforts in Cedar Rapids have been amazing. We've seen a 42% reduction in the number of



abortions in Linn County. Yet, if you take the average number of abortions in the nation per day and multiply by 40 days, you will get a number roughly equal to the population of Cedar Rapids. Think about that... a population the size of the city of Cedar Rapids is killed every

40 days in the United States alone. Globally, that number die every day or so!

Thank you for helping transform our culture; we have a long way to go. Feel free to join our weekly time slots year-round. We thank Dr. Don Nelson for the photos.

Feast of the Annunciation Mass

On March 25th, Catholics celebrated the annunciation of our Lord. It occurs nine months before the birth of Jesus. Recognizing life as beginning at conception, this event marks the beginning of the human life of Jesus.

St. Wenceslaus Church hosted the event. Members of the 4th degree of the Knights of Columbus appeared in full regalia. A reception followed the event. This allowed

everyone present to get to know each other better.

We thank James Ford for the photos.





Updates on Court Cases & Bills

Iowa

We still await a ruling from the Iowa Supreme Court regarding webcam abortion. They heard the case on March 11, and webcam abortions continue to remain legal and available in Iowa until the ruling is issued. The outcome of the case could effectively end such abortions, or it could allow them to continue unimpeded.

HF573 passed out of the Iowa House, but the Iowa Senate has not acted on the bill. It adds a requirement to perform an ultrasound before abortions and allow women to see the ultrasound. Ultrasounds are already common

practice before abortions, but abortion providers aren't required to offer mothers the chance to see the ultrasound.

Abortionists tend to withhold such evidence of life, since it hurts their ability to convince clients to buy abortions. 78% of abortion-minded women choose not to abort after seeing an ultrasound.

Federal

HR7 passed the House, but has not been brought up in the Senate. The bill is the **No Taxpayer Funding for Abortions Act**. The Senate referred it to the Committee on Finance.

HR36 remains in committee. This is the **Pain Capable Unborn Child**

Protection Act. Promises have been made to bring this up to a vote. However, details remain regarding whether it should contain exceptions and what constitutes enough evidence that the exception criteria have been met.

Other States

Both Kansas and Oklahoma have passed laws that ban dismemberment abortions. Abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood planned for this when the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban went into effect. They will simply use other methods. But the laws bring abortion into the news and into conversations. It reveals what abortionists really do.

Stages of Life: Weeks 5 - 8



8th week of development

Author: Dr. Monica Minjeur

This month is an exciting time of rapid growth in the life of the developing embryo.

Weeks 5-8 is the time when most women find out they are pregnant. Most expectant mothers will start to experience physical symptoms of pregnancy during this month.

Growth is rapid during this month, gaining approximately 1mm in length per day. By the end of week 8, baby measures about 1/2", the size of a small raspberry. Although still incredibly small, baby is now 10,000 times bigger than it was at conception a month ago.

One of the biggest milestones this month is the first beating of the developing heart. An early ultrasound done during this time may detect the heartbeat, which can be seen as

well as heard, starting at 80 beats per minute and speeding up to 150 beats per minute by week 8.

The neural tube is also developing this month, which is the precursor to the brain and spinal cord. New brain cells are being generated at a rate of 100 per minute. Baby is twitching their arms and legs now as the nervous system develops, even though it will be quite some time before the mother can feel these movements. Brain waves have been recorded as early as 6 weeks gestation in the developing baby.

The developing baby's face is also starting to take shape. Small folds of tissue in the head are developing into baby's face and mouth. Very thin, tiny eyelids are present over eyes that are developing a lens and a retina. The ear becomes more developed also, with establishment of hearing and balancing mechanisms in place by week 7.

Around week 8, the developing skeletal system starts to change from cartilage to becoming ossified bone. This marks the transition from embryo to fetus, which is Latin for "young" or "offspring". Arm and leg buds begin to develop and divide into segments where joints will eventually form. Although the fingers and toes remain webbed, growth of muscles and bones into distinct digits is occurring. Around week 7, each of the digits develops unique fingerprints, with 20 distinctly unique designs between the fingers and toes.

Pro-Life Challenge



Attend Prayer Flash Mob

Our prayer flash mobs will begin again this month!

Nothing surprises Planned Parenthood more than when large groups of people show up unexpectedly! We will inform our members with details.



Invite Friends

Invite friends to join you in praying at our prayer flash mobs.



“Love Life” in Public

Many of our members have our shirts, sweatshirts, and bags bearing the “Love Life” message and our logo. They have helped draw attention to our group when we pray outside Planned Parenthood. But these items help bring the pro-life message wherever we go.

Many of you know Ron from our prayer efforts outside of Planned Parenthood. His grandson Noah came up with the idea of the shirts. So several months ago, their extended family gathered for the photo above.

Some people only wear these shirts at pro-life activities, but they can be worn anywhere. Just like the experiences on the

sidewalk, you will likely get a combination of positive and negative reactions. Despite the lack of any negative messages on the shirts, one of our members reported that a mother had a negative reaction. She said, “Look. There is one of the bad people we have to watch out for.” The children didn’t think much of it.

Any reaction gives us opportunities to connect with others. If someone is on our side, you can inform them about our group. If they oppose us, it’s an opportunity to learn about what they think, correct misconceptions, and makes use of the lessons in the *Making the Case for Life* DVD we showed earlier this year.

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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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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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