



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

October 2016

Editor: Jim Burke

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We welcome newcomers
to our meetings and
events

Changes Ahead

It's been a very rewarding experience writing these newsletters. They started out with more meager appearances, but developed into something I've been rather proud to create. You might think this sounds like I won't be writing anymore, but that's not it. I'm considering a new approach to our communications.

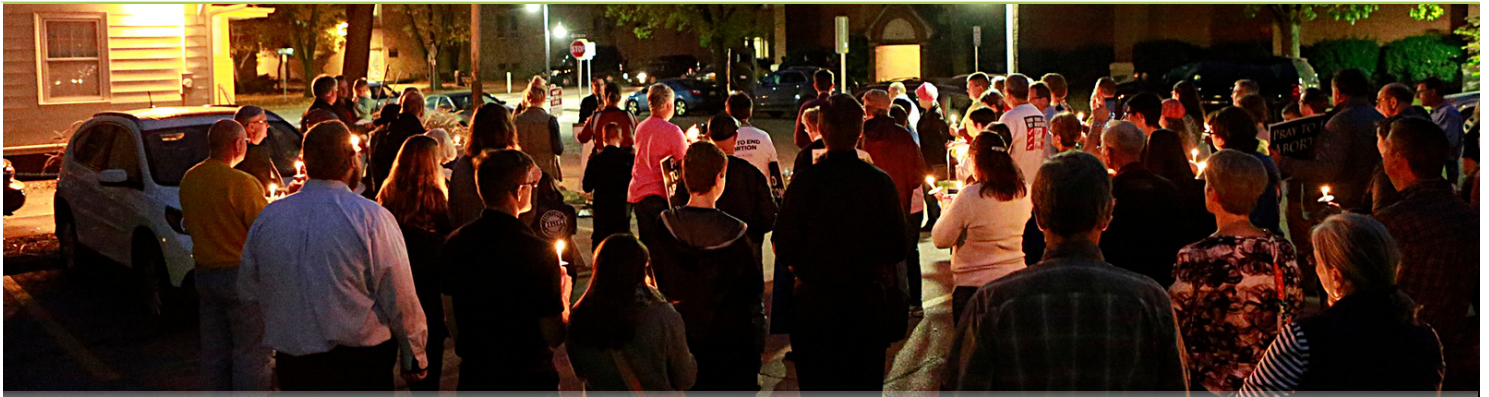
Newsletters require extra time, formatting, considerations of story length, and many other things. There are times I want to write a timely piece, but then I have to wait for the completion of all articles before anyone gets to see it. Blogs eliminate most of the current problems with a newsletter.

They are easier to read, easier to subscribe to, and easier for us to publish content on a more frequent basis. Younger people are more likely to read a blog than a PDF. I hope to switch to blogging between now and the end of the year. We will keep you informed about any changes as this develops. I hope it is the great improvement I think it will be.

- Jim Burke

Upcoming Events

<p>Sep 28 – Nov 6 24 hours / day</p>	<p>40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil Join us in praying for an end to abortion in a peaceful prayer vigil! Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/</p>
<p>Sun, Nov 6 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.</p>	<p>40 Days for Life Finale Rally Join us to conclude our 40 days of prayer and fasting! Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/</p>
<p>Tue, Nov 15 (3rd Tue this month) 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Tue, Dec 13 (tentative)</p>	<p>CFLI Board Meeting (2nd Tuesdays) 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 info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com</p>
<p>Tue, Nov 29 (5th Tue this month) 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Tue, Dec 27 (tentative)</p>	<p>CFLI Working Meeting (4th Tuesdays) 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</p>
<p>~ 2017 ~</p>	
<p>Sat, Jan 14</p>	<p>Midwest March for Life in Des Moines</p>
<p>Sun, Jan 15</p>	<p>March for Life in Chicago</p>
<p>Sun, Jan 22 (tentative)</p>	<p>Cedar Rapids March for Life</p>
<p>Wed, Jan 25 – Sun, Jan 29</p>	<p>National March for Life (March is Jan 27)</p>



40 Days for Life

United Rally

We loved seeing so many of you at the 40 Days for Life United rally in Iowa City! The RV/bus had some issues that prevented it from making it to Iowa City. But Steve Karlen from the national leadership team still made it for a rousing talk.

The candle-lit rally was beautiful. The weather was amazingly pleasant for mid-October. The lighting was nice. Someone shouted at us from a distance and called the police. But the police came and nothing bad resulted. We were following the law, as we always strive to do. We wish people wouldn't waste the time of the police by calling them to stop people like us from defending life using legally permitted means.

Finale Rally

Join us on Sunday, November 6th for our Finale Rally. We begin with a final hour of prayer outside of the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood. We also make a few announcements. People share the experiences we had from the past 40 days.

After the hour of prayer, we head to Godfather's Pizza in the Town and Country Shopping Center. That's just one block north of Planned Parenthood.

We recommend that anyone who is able to park in the parking lot of the shopping center do so for the entire event. This alleviates congestion.

We hope to have a speaker who wasn't available to speak

at our kick-off rally. The rally starts while it's still a bit light out. But the time change occurs the morning of the event. That gives you an extra hour to celebrate with us. But it gets darker earlier.

But we combat the spiritual darkness with prayer. We combat the physical darkness with lights if needed.

I always love the finale. It brings to conclusion our 40 days of prayer and fasting. It also brings us together in a way that just doesn't happen earlier in the 40 days. It gives us a chance to thank all of you. We plan to show our appreciation even more this time. We've had amazing weather this fall, but it's still great to sit down and share a meal with so many amazing people.



Government Update: Personally Opposed?

It's amazing how many political candidates tell us how they personally oppose abortion, but refuse to let that affect their support for abortion in public policy. We need people who consistently defend life.

If someone opposes abortion because it takes an innocent human life, then they should seek justice by protecting life in public policies.

Government and laws exist for the sake of justice. If the most fundamental right is not protected, then the government fails in its most basic duty. Life is the most fundamental right, since no other rights apply if there is no life.

If someone opposes abortion because they simply don't like it, then there isn't a good reason to prohibit it. Someone may not like spicy food, but they shouldn't pass laws prohibiting others from having spicy food. In the case of abortion, if abortion doesn't take an innocent human life, then opposing abortion would be a form of oppression of women. That's not good.

But if a political candidate opposes abortion because of their religion or because it's the wrongful taking of life, then they should oppose it consistently. Religions oppose abortion because it takes innocent human life, which is endowed with

innate dignity from our Creator.

If a candidate opposes abortion for religious or human rights reasons, but supports access to abortion, then the candidate ends up with the worst of both sides. The public stance undermines justice, while the personal stance can easily appear as oppression, since the candidate clearly doesn't believe a life is taken.

We don't tell people which candidates or parties to support. But it's important to look at all candidates and their stances. It's important to consider the consistency of a candidate's logic.



Disenfranchised?

Many people feel disenfranchised in this election cycle. Most people I know are looking more carefully at all candidates, which is a good thing. But many other people are so fed up with things that they don't want to vote.

People appear to be most upset about the presidential election. But there are other people on the ballot. We also see various public measures that affect our county on our local ballots. Do you want to give up expressing your views by not voting?

You can choose to vote or not vote for any office on the ballot. It's not like when you were in school and you'd lose points for

not answering a question. It won't invalidate your ballot.

But it's also possible to write in candidates for each office. All of this assumes you're disenfranchised with all candidates. But make sure you consider each candidate. You may find yourself able to find a worthy candidate for many, if not most of the votes.

Withdrawing from elections silences your voice. If all pro-life people allowed themselves to be silenced nothing good would result. Life issues haven't been brought up much in debates for most of the races for office. But there are pro-life candidates.

We've seen intimidation tactics in politics and in

business. People want to silence life-affirming messages and the expression of religion.

Again, we don't tell people who to vote for, nor do we tell you what party to vote for. We do recommend that you look for your voting information, including a sample ballot. The link at the bottom of this page helps you do that for Linn County, Iowa.

Don't be uninformed for this election. But by all means don't sit this one out. Ours is a government for the people, by the people. If you sit out an election, you relinquish control to people who don't think like you do. The consequences will last for years.



Planned Parenthood Turns 100

Planned Parenthood has been around for 100 years. Margaret Sanger founded the American Birth Control League. This later became Planned Parenthood.

Her family situation was not good, and she came from a large family. She would value the ability to control family sizes in order to have smaller families. But she also surrounded herself with people who were significant in the Eugenics movement.

Eugenics grew from a branch of Darwinism that sought to remove the less evolved people from society by limiting the breeding of people deemed less evolved or less perfect. The elite who are better, more evolved, or more perfect would be bred to get the best outcomes. The goal of making the world a better place and eliminating genetic disease can be noble, but not at

the expense of human life or fertility.

She started the Negro Project, which sterilized people of African descent. In order to overcome the growing concern that contraception and sterilization was there to eliminate a race of people, an effort was made to recruit African-American pastors. It was important to recruit people of influence within the targeted race. Sermons were written for the pastors in order to spread the propaganda.

Planned Parenthood promoted contraception, which would later lead to the demand for abortion. Once abortion became legal Planned Parenthood would start offering abortions. They quickly became the nation's largest abortion provider.

Planned Parenthood has ended the lives of nearly 7 million children and an unknown number of mothers. Abortion is a huge part of their revenue. They provide many other services. But they are greatly outnumbered by lower-cost clinics. Other clinics provide a much more comprehensive range of medical services.

The need for Planned Parenthood does not exist. Women would get better medical care elsewhere at a lower cost. Imagine a world without Planned Parenthood. But we need to persuade people that abortion is never needed, and that Planned Parenthood doesn't deserve the reputation they've spent so much money to build. We must use morally good means, unlike the way Planned Parenthood operates.

Pro-Life Challenge



Come to our 40 Days Finale!

Join us for our 40 Days for Life activities, including the finale rally! If you made an extra effort this time, helping to recruit, more time, etc., then we'd really love to have you join us for the finale.



Invite Friends!

Invite friends and family to our finale! We've had people join us for the final hour of prayer before. If you want an end to abortion and agree with the peaceful and lawful approach, come on and join us!



New Abortionist

Planned Parenthood of the Heartland (PPH) shrunk last month to only include Iowa and Nebraska. PPH in Omaha was left without an abortionist the first half of 2015. But they have hired Deborah Turner to fill their abortion demand.

Much of Deborah's former work is commendable, but abortion blemishes any list of accomplishments. We can only hope she might turn away from the practice.

Deborah has been a gynecologist who specialized in treating cancer. Of course Planned Parenthood doesn't treat cancer, so her focus will need to change. She may be able to help diagnose some cancers, similar to the stage

VI cancer identified in a frustrated patient we encountered once in Cedar Rapids. Unfortunately PPH didn't handle her situation well.

Her experience in pap smears and breast exams can start the process of diagnosing cancer, but it's not treatment. Mammograms aren't performed by PPH, so the ability to detect cancer is lesser with this employer than if she worked at practically any other medical provider.

Please pray for Deborah. It sounds like she has done better things in the past. Perhaps she can be drawn back to bringing authentic healing, rather than abortion. Pray to end abortion.

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Spread the Word!

Do you know other pro-life people who 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.

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Remember, Life Matters!

Request electronic copies by email: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Coalition for Life of Iowa

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