



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

July 2018

Editor: Jim Burke

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We welcome newcomers
to our meetings and
events

Board Elections

Each July we elect members to our board of directors. The president of our organization is moving, and thus we will have an opening for that position. We wish Tim the best. He has served our organization for several years.

We also have another opening on our board, as Rich is not running for re-election. With these two openings, we have a 1-year term and a 3-year term open. Please contact us if you are interested in either position. You may email us if you want. You can always talk to members of the board if you prefer that.

Upcoming Events

Second Tuesdays
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

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

Fourth Tuesdays
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

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

Sat, Jul 21
10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Life Defenders Training

Learn to confidently communicate and defend the pro-life position!
Where: St. Patrick Church in Iowa City
4330 St Patrick's Dr, Iowa City, IA 52240
More info: <http://www.jcrtl.org/life-defenders-pro-life-training.html>

Sun, Jul 22
5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Humanae Vitae 50th Anniversary

Learn beautiful teachings about marriage and sexuality from experts!
Learn of accurate predictions of what results when society ignores it.
Where: St. Pius X Catholic Church
4949 Council St NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
More info: <http://www.dbqarch.org/humanae-vitae>

HUMANAE VITAE
50th Anniversary



Archdiocese of Dubuque Celebration & Dinner
Sunday, July 22, 2018 – 5:00-7:30 PM
St. Pius X Catholic Church – Cedar Rapids
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Janet E. Smith



Don't Celebrate Early

With so much going on, much of the news is very positive. When things go our way, it's easy to take it easy...other have got this. But this is the most important time to remain active in pro-life efforts.

Anyone in sports knows how important it is to have good follow-through. The best athletes follow through, while too many others do not. It's one of the key differences. You can search for videos of celebrating too early, and find lots of people or teams who celebrated near the end of a race or celebrated what they thought was the final score of the game that put them in the lead. But then they get passed or the other team scores.

This happens too often in the pro-life movement!

After pro-life laws are passed, many people stop participating in pro-life activities, leaving it to lawmakers. They know they have good lawmakers in place, so they may not even vote in the next election. And that's when lawmakers get into office that change laws back. In the mean time, judges prevent laws from going into effect until there is a final ruling on them. If everyone gives up, the rulings may go the wrong way, as they did in Iowa recently.

Please remain active! We have some amazing momentum at the national level, and many aspects of things are going well at the state level. But if we let up, be assured that things will go back the other way. We could spend decades fighting for life to achieve what we

have now, or we can do what's needed to solidify it.

Like a runner who trained so hard to finish first, we would hate to waste the efforts of so many pro-lifers by letting the other side get the advantage right now. It's like saying to someone who just finished a marathon that they have to do another one right away because they took it easy in the last 50 yards.

They are like boxers pinned in a corner, and they are fighting with everything they have! If we give up, they will come out punching and victorious.

We need to learn to convince minds on the matter and put people in places of authority who can make a difference!



Government Update: Freedom & Rights

Free Speech

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on a few cases in favor of free speech. California's law that forced pregnancy resource centers to promote abortion was struck down.

The court also ruled that in favor of a baker who served any customers, but refused to express his talents in situations where he would be taking part in some way with something he objects to.

We've already seen people try to use similar terminology to justify acts of discrimination against people, in situations where they are not being asked to play a part in something they oppose. People still don't understand the critical difference. We all need to truly understand opposing views.

Fundamental Rights?

The Iowa Supreme Court provided a ruling that struck a blow to the efforts to defend life within the state of Iowa. Their ruling including statements that are also of great concern.

They struck down the 72-hour waiting period that was part of a law passed last year. The waiting period was effective in other states at allowing women to stop and think clearly about the information they were given before having an abortion. If they felt like they were in a crisis, this time allowed them to realize there is help out there, and things aren't as bad as they seem.

There was something that Planned Parenthood was very excited to see in the opinion of the court on that ruling. The Iowa Supreme Court referred to abortion as a

fundamental right. This will make it much harder to justify future abortion regulations. It will require a very compelling reason to restrict people's fundamental rights.

People often elevate things beyond what they really are to get their point across. Privileges are often called rights, and rights are often elevated to fundamental rights. But we know life is the most fundamental of all rights. Without life, we have no other rights.

It would seem like the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution should take priority here:

“... nor shall any State **deprive any person of life**, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor **deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.**”

HUMANAE VITAE

50th Anniversary



Humanae Vitae at 50

On July 25, 1968 Blessed Pope Paul VI issued the encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (*On Human Life*). The Pope's reiteration of the Church's opposition to contraception came in the midst of the sexual revolution and shortly after the advent of the hormonal birth control pill. When released, *Humanae Vitae* was criticized and rejected by many (both outside and within the Church). The message is no less controversial today and yet no less important for our world to hear. On this 50th anniversary of the release of *Humanae Vitae*, you're invited to revisit its teachings.

All are invited to join in commemorating the 50th Anniversary of *Humanae Vitae* by attending the Archdiocesan celebration

event that will include a dinner and keynote talk by internationally renowned speaker Dr. Janet E. Smith on Sunday, July 22nd from 5:00-7:30 PM at St. Pius X Church in Cedar Rapids.

For more information and registration, visit

www.dbqarch.org/humanae-vitae-event

Regardless of your faith, we highly recommend this event. We had Dr. Janet E. Smith come speak several years ago on a related topic. Some people wondered how we managed to get such an expert on the topic. It's great to see her returning so near

the anniversary of this document that predicted many of the problems that plague society today. The document reasoned that these problems would arise from society's acceptance and use of the things we oppose, but society tends to embrace, protect, or even celebrate.

Many people opposed what the document said without reading it. They just knew it condemned things they wanted to do or use. But we need more people to understand what's at the root of so many of today's problems. Otherwise we will fail to fix the problems.

Archdiocese of Dubuque Celebration & Dinner

Sunday, July 22, 2018 – 5:00-7:30 PM

St. Pius X Catholic Church – Cedar Rapids

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Janet E. Smith



Father's Day & Billboards

For Father's Day this year, we chose to have a bike ride accompanied by some food and drink for anyone who wanted to join us. It was a weekend of extreme heat.

Due to the heat, we had several people who were very grateful for the cold water we had on hand. We had a combination of our members and regular bikers. People were welcome to come whether or not they had a bike or even wanted to bike. The trail was good for walking, too.

Although it was a hot day in the sun, the pavilion offered

some shade. The wind blew in from over Cedar Lake, which helped cool things off a bit. The combination made it relatively comfortable at the event.

We had hot dogs and plenty of side items for everyone to enjoy. The heat definitely kept some people from attending. But we had a good time anyway.

Thanks for everyone who helped with the event. We hope everyone who attended enjoyed themselves and the event.

Billboards

We also put up some billboards in the days and weeks leading up to the event. The billboard pictured above was within sight of Planned Parenthood.

We are grateful for the organizations and people who have sponsored billboards throughout the last year and half. We also thank Rich for designing the billboards.

Rich has been on our board for several years, and he's taking some time off from being on the board, which opens up a spot for anyone else who might be interested.

Pro-Life Challenge

VOLUNTEER



Help us out!

The pro-life movement is experiencing greater success than we've seen in the past several decades. But with success brings an even greater need for help. Please help us build a culture of life!
Volunteer!



Invite Friends!

Invite friends and family to attend our events. Invite them to help us out. There are many needs. The harvest is plenty; harvesters are few. Many hands make for light work!



Life Defenders

Last year, Johnson County Right to Life brought in people to train students to defend the pro-life stance. This year, they are doing it again, but opening it up for adults to learn.

LIFE DEFENDERS is a FREE, interactive, and engaging workshop designed to equip participants to become effective ambassadors for life.

This year Johnson County Right to Life will offer Workshop 101 for new students and an additional Workshop 201 for returning students. *Mike Spencer* from the Life Training Institute and *Ian Spencer* from Created Equal will prepare students to confidently communicate and defend the pro-life position.

Using science & philosophy, this training equips students to simplify the abortion debate by focusing on two crucial questions:

- 1) What are the preborn?
- 2) What makes humans valuable?

Students will learn to expose the logical fallacies of abortion-choice rhetoric without the need for vitriol and angry dialogue and to speak graciously and compellingly to the most pressing moral issue of our day: abortion.

Registration and more information [HERE](#) or call (319) 855-8475

You are invited to attend on Saturday, July 21 from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm at St. Patrick Church in Iowa City.

CFLI Board

Jean Biermann
Rich Brandt
Jim Burke (Vice President)
Mary Cherion
Sue Martinek
Tim Mason (President)
Pat Semelroth
Bonnie Yount (Secretary)
Russell Yount (Treasurer)



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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.

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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