



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

August 2018

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Contents

- Page 2 Upcoming Events
- Page 3 Cecile Richards Visit
- Page 4 Government Update:
Kennedy Retires
- Page 5 Humanae Vitae Recap
- Page 6 40 Days for Life
- Page 7 Life Defenders Recap

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

Board Elections

Our election of our board of directors and leadership team brought back some familiar faces and added a new face.

Sue Martinek replaced Tim Mason as the president of the organization. Tim moved out-of-state. Sue co-founded the Coalition for Life of Iowa and previously served as president. It's great having her back as president.

The rest of the executive board remained unchanged, which included: Jim Burke as vice president, Russell Yount as treasurer, and Bonnie Yount as secretary.

The terms of three board members came to an end. Sue Martinek and Jim Burke renewed their terms on the board. Lisa Gignac replaced Rich for a 3-year term, and she previously served on our board. Marianne Riester replaced Tim to cover his final year on the board. Although she is new to our board, she spent many years working in other areas of the pro-life movement.

We welcome this wonderful board!

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
Sun, Sept 23 TBD	40 Days for Life Kick-off Rally Join us to kick-off our 40 days of prayer and fasting! Where: TBD More info: https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/
Sept 26 – Nov 4 1-hour time slots 24 hours/day	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/



Cecile Richards Visit

Cecile Richards visited Cedar Rapids briefly on Friday the 13th of July. We had several pro-lifers outside to provide witness to a pro-life stance in the presence of people with other views.

Cecile released a new book about leadership and making trouble. She spent a little time in various cities throughout Iowa promoting her book.

She stuck to safe territory. While most reputable authors sign their books at bookstores, events where people brought them in to speak, or possibly places that have some close ties to the subject matter, this event lacked all of that. Raygun has held fundraisers for Planned Parenthood in the past, and sells items that promote the views of the largest abortion

provider in Iowa and the nation.

We gathered several pro-lifers outside of the event. A few of them appear in the photo above. But a few others were across the street, and a few had to go by the time the photo was taken.

Some of our members engaged some of the event attendees in discussion about life issues. Even someone who I trust to talk with people on the other side of the issue found that it was a learning experience. We can think we will have a good conversation about abortion and still have regrets about things we said, did, didn't say, or didn't do.

The Gazette reported on the event. They asked a few

questions. Some important details were missed from a quote, which led to it being wrong information. But the reporting was better than it used to be.

It was a great event. Thanks to everyone who came. And we thank everyone who made such amazing signs! Check out the one below!





Government Update: Kennedy Retires

In June, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy announced his retirement effective at the end of July. The President appointed Brett Kavanaugh to fill the vacancy, but the Senate needs to confirm judicial appointments.

His confirmation hearings should take place prior to the elections in November. This is an important appointment. Justice Kennedy freely offered in his meeting with President Reagan that he wanted the opportunity to overturn *Roe vs. Wade*. But when the opportunity was granted, he ruled on the other side.

This helps remind us that nothing is a sure thing. But this appointment does offer great promise and hope for the future. The bad rulings of the past have a chance to yield to better interpretations of law.

Freedom

A baker in Colorado won the case where he was being sued for not making a cake that would have made him use his skills to promote something that goes against his conscience. Shortly after the decision was issued, a lawyer requested another cake from the same baker that would again go against his conscience. The harassment continues. We must not give in to harassers.

Endorsements Say Lots

We don't endorse candidates. Political Action Committees (PACs) like the Iowa PAC for Life do that kind of thing. But so does Planned Parenthood's PAC. Some pro-lifers noted that PP endorsed a candidate for state auditor. They thought it was a little odd. But it reminded me of when

George Soros began the Secretary of State Project to get people into that position of power. It comes into play when elections result in close votes. Having the right person in such a position could sway an election.

But why would they care about the auditor's race? Well, the state auditor goes after wasteful spending and fraudulent activities.

Considering that Planned Parenthood of the Heartland still has the \$6 billion lawsuit in a case involving alleged fraud (that I believe is an underestimate, based on the evidence I've seen), the auditor could be a crucial position.

Planned Parenthood's endorsement makes them look even guiltier than they looked before they made the endorsement.

HUMANAE VITAE

50th Anniversary



Humanae Vitae Recap

Just before the 50th anniversary of the publishing of the *Humanae Vitae* encyclical, an event celebrated the anniversary in Cedar Rapids.

The encyclical addressed the sanctity of human life. It built on the consistent teaching across all of Christianity prior to 1930, when various denominations began to change their teachings. The encyclical was one of the most controversial encyclicals in history, being opposed by many people.

But half a century later, the predictions of what would happen in society if we accepted contraception have all come true. Demand for legalized abortion

increased. The objectification and abuse of women has happened much more than it happened before.

Some governments have imposed population control methods on their citizens. The many predictions that seemed crazy to some people have all come true.

Dr. Janet E. Smith came to Cedar Rapids to talk about the encyclical. She is one of the world's experts on such matters. She offered some of what was going on at the time the encyclical came out.

It was a great event. There were tons of people present—far more than most people would have

expected!

With the latest generation of people recognizing the failings of the sexual revolution, the correct predictions of *Humanae Vitae* might just give it new life. The new generation might avoid many of the mistakes of the past 50 years. But they need to understand what Christianity taught for all these centuries, and developed further through additional writings over the years.

The world hits us with so many temptations and thinks we are crazy if we try to live good, moral lives. But we see the harm caused through sin. Choose life!



40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

Cedar Rapids, IA

40 Days for Life

God can use YOU to help save lives!

God often works in 40-day increments—Noah on the ark; Moses on Mount Sinai; Jesus in the wilderness. 40 days for life will empower volunteers like you to pray and fast, stand in peaceful vigil, and engage in effective community outreach from September 26 through November 4.

We recognize the spiritual solution to the spiritual crisis of abortion is prayer and fasting. To further fortify ourselves for this powerful program, we are encouraging each of you to join in a pre-40 Days for Life Prayer Self-Directed Retreat using the

book, 40 Days for Life by David Bereit and Shawn Carney. In this book, you will discover stories of lives God has already transformed in 40 days. Each day read one story and meditate on the prayer that accompanies it. Now imagine what He can do in the next 40 days of YOUR life.

To receive this book call Pat Semelroth 319-721-9730 or se_me@live.com.

Although this lead-up activity started August 17, the book is a good read during 40 Days for Life, or you could try to catch up a little every few days!

Now prepare for a 40-day journey like no other, where you will discover how God can

use YOU to change hearts and Faith lives!

We really want to do all we can to have a great 40 Days for Life campaign this fall. With the impending merger of the Planned Parenthood of the Heartland affiliate with the one in Minnesota and the Dakotas, it could be more important than ever to be effective.

EVERY city with an abortion site in Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota is covered with 40 Days for Life efforts this fall! Invite friends and family to join you during the first week of prayer. When they find out what it's like, they can come back anytime!

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 Recap

Johnson County Right to Life brought in people to train adults and students to defend the pro-life stance. Some of our members went to learn.

They had two levels of classes. One level was an introductory class for anyone who lacked prior training. The other class reviewed some main points from their other class, but included more advanced material.

Anyone who has taken pro-life apologetics courses before tends to realize the benefit of such training. Most pro-lifers default to ineffective arguments. Even I used to use lots of them. But people didn't change their views on the matter, while I felt like I was doing a lot to defend life.

But continual learning is important in life. Once I

learned a few methods a few years ago, it made a huge difference. Changing my attitude helped even more.

The arguments tend to be simple. They use science and philosophy, because religious arguments don't work well, since people differ in religious beliefs.

When people experience multiple people changing views in favor of life, it really makes the fight for life more rewarding. I wish more people would experience that feeling. And I wish more people would hear the good arguments that tend to avoid or diffuse escalating anger in arguments.

Most people oppose abortion in at least some cases. Yet most people aren't 100% pro-life. Help us transform Iowa!

CFLI Board

Jean Biermann
Jim Burke (Vice President)
Mary Cherion
Lisa Gignac
Sue Martinek (President)
Marianne Riester
Pat Semelroth
Bonnie Yount (Secretary)
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- 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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