



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

February 2019

Editor: Jim Burke

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We welcome newcomers to
our meetings and events

Time to Step Up!

We see lots of terrible things happening across the country. There are threats to life in Iowa, Illinois, and states along the coasts. Terrible things are being unleashed. Some can still be prevented.

We should recognize this opportunity to reach people with the pro-life message. The changes taking place across the nation overstep the stances that correspond with what most people believe. These oversteps often align with the Roe ruling, which most people think they support. But it's clear most people don't realize just how extreme the Roe ruling was.

We need your help! We have events coming up in the next few months. If you're willing to help in any way, then please contact us.

Would you be interested in a position on our board? We have a few members who are moving this summer, and we will have some openings.

- Coalition for Life of Iowa's Board of Directors

Upcoming Events

| | |
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| <p>Second Tuesdays 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Fourth Tuesdays 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p> | <p>CFLI Board Meetings (2nd Tuesdays) & CFLI Working Meetings (4th Tuesdays) Get involved in our organization! Where: St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop 120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com</p> |
| <p>Sat, Mar 2 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.</p> | <p>30th Annual Birthright Celebration Come to the Knights of Columbus's annual benefit for Birthright! Where: St. Patrick's Parish Center 120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: http://lifeiowa.org/Dance_for_Life.html</p> |
| <p>Mar 6 – Apr 14 1-hour time slots 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>Sat, Mar 16 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.</p> | <p>Catholic Men's Conference Hear Anthony Digmann, who speaks on pro-life and family topics! Where: Xavier High School 6300 42nd Street NE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://www.catholicmenonline.com</p> |
| <p>Mon, Mar 18 4 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.</p> | <p>Sue Thayer Headlining 40 Days for Life Come hear former PP manager Sue Thayer who works for 40 Days for Life! Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood (at 4 pm) 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA Where: All Saints Parish Hall (at 5 pm) 720 29th St SE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com</p> |
| <p>Mon, Mar 25 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.</p> | <p>Feast of the Annunciation Mass A Catholic mass will celebrate the incarnation of Jesus! Where: St. Wenceslaus Church 1224 5th St SE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com</p> |
| <p>Thurs, Mar 28 Details coming soon</p> | <p>Unplanned Movie Showing Details coming soon!</p> |
| <p>Sat, Mar 30 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.</p> | <p>Going Natural Conference Join us in praying for an end to abortion in a peaceful prayer vigil! Where: DeJardin Hall at Marshalltown Community College 3702 S Center St, Marshalltown, IA 50158 More info: http://lifeiowa.org/Natural_Plans.html</p> |



Pro-Life Prayer

The most compelling story that draws attention to the need to pray for an end to abortion is the story David Bereit tells about a former Michigan abortion site on Ransom Street. The best telling of it was at an [Anglicans for Life Summit in 2018](#). It reveals the very real demonic presence that is common at abortion sites. It also reveals the terrible physical conditions at many abortion sites.

So how can we make the best out of our prayers?

Evil loves attention. Thinking about evil and dwelling upon evil does no good. God is all-powerful and through God, all things are possible. So invite God to be present.

The Bible tells us that where two or more are gathered in God's name, God is present. Invite God and his angels to join you on the sidewalk, every part of the public easement and roadways, and to help everyone at Planned Parenthood (PP)—to convert their hearts and minds.

The Bible also makes clear that the prayers of a righteous person are powerful. But each of us sin. So it's important to repent and confess your sins. Don't bring any scrap of evil with you in this spiritual battle. When you are reconciled with God, and when we ask others who are reconciled to God to pray with us for the same intention, really powerful things result!

Praying outside of Planned Parenthood sites and other abortion providers does a great deal of good. Yes, God hears prayers anywhere. But by pro-lifers being onsite, countless women have chosen life. They often pray that God would give them some sign not to have an abortion. The people praying are often seen as a sign.

We don't pray to be seen as righteous people. Those of us who pray out there know many people don't look at us in a positive light. We pray as an example to draw others into prayer. We pray

visibly to show there is opposition to the killing of children. We pray there to help as needed when women change their minds or want to talk.

In addition to praying for intentions for our local Planned Parenthood: their staff, their clients, people driving by, and that others will join us; please pray for other sites. God will be present here. But if we pray for other sites, God can work there in addition to here where he is already being made present.

We would particularly like prayers for the PP in Cedar Falls and Council Bluffs. For neighboring states, please pray for Columbia, Missouri, which goes back and forth between offering abortions or not, just like Cedar Rapids. In Minnesota, pray for sites like Grand Rapids and Virginia (a town), which are only open 6-12 hours per week. Such places should close. Let's pray for them, too!



Government Update: Federal & Iowa

Federal Government

The federal government just put into place a rule that prohibits providing Title X funds to any organization that performs or refers for abortions. It also prohibits funding an organization with those funds if it's co-located with an abortion provider.

That last provision may seem unusual. But it had been a common practice to claim two "clinics" at the same exact address. One would perform abortions. The other would not. The one that didn't offer abortions used to receive funds, even though abortions were performed right there. Fort Collins, Colorado offers a great example of this. The [Fort Collins Surgical Center](#) provided abortions. While [another "clinic" at 825 South Shields St., Suites 4-7, Fort Collins, CO](#) merely referred for abortions (referring

within the same walls of the same address).

This doesn't fully defund abortion providers. It only denies Planned Parenthood 60 million dollars, which is a small fraction of the taxpayer funds they receive each year. They still receive more than half a billion dollars each year from taxpayers, in addition to the money they take in from clients, insurance companies, and donors.

More significant cuts in funding require Congressional action. The U.S. Senate has a pro-life majority. But the U.S. House blocks any pro-life action. The House has repeatedly blocked voting on a bill to create penalties for infanticide following a failed abortion. The law today just makes it a crime, but with zero penalty.

Iowa Government

A judge struck down the Iowa Heartbeat Law. There will not be any appeal at this time. The courts ruled against a much more simple law that other states have. This makes it clear that the judges in key positions in Iowa would not rule favorably for the rights of children. Thus, appealing the ruling would exhaust resources with little chance of success.

Iowa still allows abortion providers to perform surgical abortions without any inspections normally required for surgical facilities.

Lawmakers have proposed an amendment to the Iowa Constitution. SJR9 states, "The constitution does not secure or protect a right to abortion or require the funding of abortion."



Codifying Roe

New York

The governor of New York demanded the complete deregulation of abortion before any budget bills would be signed. The legislature was eager to accomplish the same thing. They rapidly passed a law with applause that shocked many people. They even lit up landmark buildings like the World Trade Center Tower to celebrate.

Most states partially limit abortions to sometime between 1/2 - 2/3 of full term. New York instantly moved the line of protection to birth. Sadly, they can move the line that far without courts getting involved. If pro-life laws are passed, they are almost always held up in courts for a long time.

What many people don't realize is that New York codified what Roe v Wade put in place decades

ago. It's only the fact that Roe is NOT the guiding ruling for abortion anymore. It's the 1992 ruling on Planned Parenthood vs. Casey that allowed states to protect lives as they do today.

While pro-choice people say they don't want to go back many decades, that's exactly what New York did. They gave up the protections allowed by the 1992 ruling, bringing them back to 1973's Roe rules.

The change in law that took immediate effect upon passage has some other consequences. Some women face abuse from men. There was a recent case where a man abused a woman in order to cause her to miscarry their child. Under the old law, that would have not only a battery charge, but it would also have a charge relating to abortion. But under the new law, abortion has been completely removed from the criminal code.

So attempts to kill a child in the womb by harming or killing the mother only have charges relating to what happened to the woman. This could increase the rates of abuse of women.

Virginia

Virginia tried to go a step beyond New York by allowing infanticide. If a child survived an abortion, lawmakers tried to make it legal to finish off the job by killing the newborn by neglecting the child's needs until the child died. Fortunately that bill failed to pass. When such bills come up, it allows us to point out how the child that was almost killed in the womb was perfectly viable, and that the only thing allowing the killing of a child that's developed enough to survive outside the womb is the location of the child at the time.



Compromising Children

Vermont

Vermont went so far as to identify the unborn explicitly. "A fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus shall not have independent rights under Vermont law."

This is reminiscent of the 3/5ths Compromise in the days of legalized slavery. Each slave only counted as 3/5 of a person when it came to representation. The only way to accomplish that was to identify them explicitly to then deny them full rights. Vermont has no notable obstacles ahead before they can deny all rights to unborn children. This compromise compromises children.

Illinois

This one is very close to home. Illinois has a house and senate version of their "[Reproductive Health Act](#)". It combines everything the other states have proposed. It declares abortion a

"fundamental right". They like to reuse the "fundamental" term pro-lifers correctly use with regards to life. Without life, no other rights are possible. Thus, it is fundamental. But not everyone can have an abortion. Men and anyone prior to puberty can't have an abortion. So they are adding weight to their made-up right, but it is not fundamental.

There could soon be: No rights for the unborn; Absolute power for women to abort at any time for any reason up to birth; No protection for life after failed abortions; Abortions will be able to be performed ANYWHERE and will no longer require physicians to perform them (even surgical abortions); Allow self-abortions; Could eliminate conscience rights for medical professionals to avoid performing abortions; Allow taxpayer funding of abortions; Eliminate ALL regulations for

abortion providers; Force ALL insurance to cover abortion; End investigations of any deaths associated with abortion (including the mothers).

That doesn't describe it fully, but you get the point. We already have some Iowa women going to Illinois for abortions. Now Illinois could lead the nation in careless abortion policies. The Thomas More Society provided their own [analysis](#) of the bill for anyone interested in understanding it better.

Why?

Abortion advocates claim they are reacting to the risk of losing the Roe precedent and protection. But if Roe was overturned, the matter goes back to states. These states already had laws. They aren't reacting, but EXPANDING abortion in their states, while compromising life protections.

Pro-Life Fasting

We hear from Jesus that some demons can only be driven out through prayer and fasting. The Bible also uses phrases like “WHEN you fast...” rather than IF you fast. It was expected that Christians fast at times. Many Christians use Lent as a time to fast. 40 Days for Life starts at the start of Lent, but Lent continues until Easter/Resurrection Sunday. But for people who haven't fasted much, if at all before, you might want to learn about fasting.

Starting in verse 8 of Isaiah 58, we see authentic fasting that leads to blessing. We usually think of fasting as a denying of ourselves of something. But this form is more what we would refer to as almsgiving. Prayer involves our relationship with God. Almsgiving involves our relationship with other children of God like ourselves. Fasting involves our relationship with ourselves.

Incorporating all three works best. Fast to get rid of anything that gets in the way between you and God. Do good works for others to live out your faith.

For almsgiving, you can help people in just about any way you wish—the more personal, the better. But pro-life groups can always use help, whether through your time, talent, or financial assistance.

People choose to fast in various ways. Some people just avoid snacking between meals. Others avoid meals during daylight hours or skip a meal. Some people abstain from certain types of food, such as meat or sweets.

Some people engage in more drastic shifts in food consumption during a fast, such as the Daniel Fast. The Daniel Fast is based on Daniel 1 and 10 in the Bible. It avoids animal

products (meat and dairy), processed foods, added sugars (most other foods today), and anything with leavening (most breads). It's pretty close to a vegan diet. Since most people eat very different diets, please consult a doctor before making a dramatic shift in diet. It's easy to become deficient in something critical, which can sometimes leave long-term problems if you don't plan ahead to get the right balance.

Some people focus their fast on other forms of consumption, such as TV or social media. Social media is a particularly useful fast considering the harm social media causes. It is programmed to elevate dopamine levels and create addiction. Giving it up can make people more sensible and less prone to addiction.

Find some way to fast.



Unplanned Movie

Many people know the story of Abby Johnson. She managed a Planned Parenthood site in College Station Texas. She had a few abortions herself. And then 40 Days for Life came into existence and played a part in her conversion to the pro-life movement. But the trigger for her change was something she saw when she had to help with an abortion. What she saw finally caused her to reconsider everything. She knew there were pro-lifers she could trust because of the way they handled themselves outside of her facility.

Her story became a film, which comes out in March! We will provide more details

soon. We will offer a free showing before the day the movie officially comes out.

The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) provides the ratings for films in terms of G, PG, PG-13, R, etc. One very telling thing is how they rated this film. They rated it “R”, which is usually reserved for films with nudity, violence, or other objectionable content. This movie lacks such things. So the best way anyone can justify the R rating is that abortion itself is a violent act.

Many people noticed the irony that underage girls can get an abortion without their parents or other adults accompanying them. However, they cannot

watch this film about what happens in the abortion industry without an adult accompanying them.

The Gosnell movie that came out last fall aimed to convey the horrors that Kermit Gosnell carried out without showing the gruesome details. That allowed the rating on that film to remain low enough to increase the number of people who could view it. This film may reveal a little more about the nation’s biggest abortion provider. But people still question the R rating.

Stories of conversion are always powerful. Stories that reveal injustice are also valuable to see. Stay tuned!

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!



Right to Life Radio Podcast

The [Right to Life Radio](#) podcast is based in Central California. The podcast is where Josh Brahm started out, providing all sorts of great pro-life apologetics and approaches to making pro-life arguments more effective. From episode 200 onward, it focused more upon political content, especially focused on California and the nation.

California often leads the way when it comes to laws that are not protective of life. What happens in California often spreads to various other states. So it's good to listen to this podcast to get informed about the threats to life that might spread to Iowa within a few years.

As an example, we all know about surgical abortions. Then came medical abortions like RU-486 provides. Iowa led the way with webcam abortions.

But this podcast has made it very clear that Planned Parenthood has an app for smartphones that allows women in some places to consult for an abortion without going into any Planned Parenthood site. After the consultation, abortion pills are shipped directly to their client's home. The woman does the abortion in her own house, without Planned Parenthood needing an abortion facility anywhere near her.

That's the kind of thing we all need to know about in order to prepare to deal with such threats to life here. For people who want to understand the legal side of abortion better and the upcoming threats to life, this podcast is a very useful resource.

<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/life-report-prolife-talk-real-world-answers>

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