



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

August 2019

Editor: Jim Burke

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

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Busy Times Again

We elected Rick Delagardelle to our board of directors. We also elected Lee Riester as our Treasurer. We still have one board position open if anyone is interested in serving to help guide the local pro-life movement.

Our summertime lull of activity has suddenly kicked into the full speed pace that September and October bring each year. Our list of upcoming events fills the page. If you wish to help in any way, please let us know.

We're pleased to see such a great response to the pro-life apologetics course offering we provided. At this rate, we may get more people registered than any other organization! But what matters most is that we will be more equipped to convert the culture one conversation at a time.

- Coalition for Life of Iowa's Board of Directors

Upcoming Events

<p>Second Tuesdays 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p> <hr/> <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, Sep 7 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.</p>	<p>A Turning Point: Ending the Scourge of Abortion Learn from Fr. Corey Close the pro-choice position and how to respond Where: St. Patrick Church Social Hall 4330 St Patrick Dr, Iowa City, IA 52240 More: http://www.jcrtl.org/pro-life-forum.html</p>
<p>Sun, Sep 22 4 – 6 p.m.</p>	<p>40 Days for Life Kick-off Luana Stoltenberg will provide a powerful testimony at our kick-off! Where: St. Patrick's Parish Center 120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/</p>
<p>Sep 25 – Nov 3 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, Sep 28 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (opens at 9:30 a.m.)</p>	<p>Lutherans for Life of Iowa Fall Conference Brian Young presents Life Issues in Relation to Creation (Semisaurus) Where: Trinity Lutheran Church 1363 First Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: pam@lcmside.org</p>
<p>Thurs, Oct 3 6 – 9:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Iowans For Life's 9th Annual Banquet Gloria Purvis speaks on Racism, Abortion, and Medical Care! Where: Prairie Meadows Ballroom 1 Prairie Meadows Drive, Altoona, IA 50009 More info: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/9th-annual-iowans-for-life-fundraising-banquet-tickets-59338719708 (Buy tickets before the event)</p>
<p>Sun, Oct 6 2 – 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>National Life Chain Raise awareness and spread the pro-life message with signs on 1st Avenue! Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood & along 1st Ave 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://NationalLifeChain.org</p>
<p>Sun, Nov 3 5 – 7 p.m.</p>	<p>40 Days for Life Finale Rally Come help us finish strong with 40 Days for Life! Pizza afterward! Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/</p>



Pro-Life Training Opportunities

We want to make sure that pro-lifers are solid in their beliefs and can defend the pro-life position if challenged. We don't want people to fumble or hear an argument that causes them to change sides, despite good pro-life counter-arguments existing. With our concerns about the local Planned Parenthood, this became even more urgent.

We've been promoting the Equal Rights Institute's (ERI's) Equipped for Life online course. The course contains roughly 4 hours of training video. It starts out with stuff that most people would think is very trivial, since it starts with attitudes. Most other courses skip past attitudes, even though the tone of a discussion can determine whether or not other people end up open to accepting your logical arguments.

By the end of the course, you should learn stuff that most pro-lifers haven't learned to handle. What about Judith Jarvis Thompson's "famous violinist" argument that seemed to go unanswered by pro-lifers for decades and leads many philosophy students to believe the pro-life position is inferior? This course addresses it in multiple ways!

Even if all you retain is the simple stuff, it will make a world of difference in your ability to help people see the pro-life position makes the most sense. If you can retain the most advanced content, then you'll be a very valuable asset to the pro-life movement.

I consider ERI as having the best pro-life apologetics training. It's online, which makes it easy for them to add content over time, which they have done. They can tweak things if needed.

They seek out the best of the best, such as Scott Klusendorf, Steve Wagner, Trent Horn, and a few others. They stay in communication with them, learning what the others are doing. They try out the methods and seem to pay more attention to how the methods work. If people think the Socratic method of asking questions to lead people to an end result is favorable, they try it. Although that worked, they found a negative side effect of that approach. So, they tweaked it in a way that still involves questions, and still covers the same sequence, but faces less objection. Therefore, their approaches seem more

effective.

Other systems may sound more mature, since ERI is often talking about how they are trying something out. But they are pushing the methods to new territory!

They have a Sidewalk Counseling Masterclass coming out in September. Members who signed up for the Equipped for Life course soon enough should already have an email telling them how to access this course for free. The time window to acquire it at no cost is only a few weeks long. Once acquired, it's free for life.

I previewed all 7.5 hours of video content of the masterclass, and I think it will help us, whether or not PP does abortions again.

Johnson County Right to Life has an event on Saturday, September 7th that can help people learn how to respond to pro-choice arguments. This is an in-person training session. Their training events have always been good in the past. So, if you can make it, we strongly encourage it!



Government Update

Federal Government

Courts upheld the Title X (ten) rule prohibiting Title X recipients from referring or performing abortions. Planned Parenthood stood resolute behind their intention to continue to provide abortions. This meant they chose to withdraw from the Title X program, giving up at least \$60 million of government funds.

Upon the ruling, Planned Parenthood played the role of the steadfast victim. Despite choosing not to follow the rules that would have allowed them to continue to receive those funds, they make it sound like they are a victim. Then they make it sound like 1.5 million women will be affected, of which 14,000 Iowans will ultimately become the victims of this policy change. They say this even though there are plenty of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that do more services for women than Planned Parenthood does, and they do it at a lower cost per facility and lower cost per client

than Planned Parenthood.

This makes this sound like a win all around, except for Planned Parenthood as a business.

Missouri

The Saint Louis Planned Parenthood's court case was pushed back to late October. We will continue to follow any developments in their case. They will continue to perform abortions for now. The extension adds so much time after the expiration of their license to operate that odds are high that another woman will be sent to the hospital at some point. If they only delayed one month, they may have had a chance to avoid more problems. But with so many months passing, the judge should hope no women die or experience any lasting harm in this time period. Of course, abortions typically have many lasting side effects.

Illinois & Iowa

From prior newsletters this year, we should all know Illinois has created serious concerns with the changes in their laws regarding abortions. They won't even investigate the causes of deaths if they relate to abortion. When combining this with no inspections, the explicit denial of the rights of the children in the womb, this is very troubling.

Something we need to keep in mind is that the University of Iowa had someone in a key position that thought they HAD to provide abortions in order for the OBGYN programs to remain accredited. One option they considered was to open a practice in Illinois. We're not sure of the solution they will choose, and this one option doesn't appear to have had action yet. We wish the University of Iowa had competent staff who knew how many Catholic universities remain accredited without killing.



Luana Stoltenberg



40 Days for Life

We would love it if everyone invites other people to our 40 Days for Life Kick-off Rally. Luana Stoltenberg is our guest speaker for the kick-off. Our kick-off rally is on Sunday, September 22 from 4-6 p.m. at St. Patrick's Parish Center.

Luana's personal story of abortion shows some of the many terrible things that can arise from abortion. It sent her life into a downward spiral. As things grew worse, she made one bad decision after another. Her story should help each of us recognize just how important it is for us to be out on the sidewalk.

If the local Planned Parenthood starts up abortions again, it would also help if people start taking the Sidewalk Counseling Masterclass course that's available for at least some of the members who signed up for the Equipped for Life online course.

We want to get more people on the sidewalk this fall. Could you invite several people to join you on the sidewalk? We hear from the heads of 40 Days for Life that when

people are present on the sidewalk, the abortion business suffers by as much as 75%. More recently, I learned that the statistic ramps up with greater numbers of people. To achieve 75%, it helps to have at least 5 people on the sidewalk.

On top of that, there are abortion providers who close down if their business drops off by just 10-15%. It also helps to have consistent coverage of time slots. Evil doesn't take a break, so we shouldn't either. The places that shut down often do so when pro-lifers are present all hours of the day.

Abortion is evil. People who are involved with the evil of abortion, whether workers at the clinic, women who have had them, or people who pushed women to get them...they can all seek God's forgiveness and receive it.

In the past couple of years, some people have resorted to civil disobedience or violence in response to this evil. Such activities are not only ineffective

if one looks at the whole situation, but it sets back the progress already made by pro-lifers on the sidewalks. And beyond that, it can hurt the movement for decades to come. So, no matter what happens here, please stick to what works. We are pro-life, so causing any harm is unacceptable. Even peaceful civil disobedience is not necessary here. To understand why, Sidewalk Advocates for Life created a video last year to explain. ("Desperate Measures")

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2GhKLWPJZs>

Things are usually peaceful on the sidewalk. We haven't had any serious issues, and we like to keep it that way.

As for the kick-off, we plan to have Luana speak. We will also have music, food, and plenty of other pro-lifers who have participated in 40 Days for Life over the years. Please come and join us. Don't forget to invite others so we can make a bigger difference than ever!



Fr. Corey Close



Gloria Purvis



Brian Young

Lots of Events & Activities

With October being Respect Life month, we often see a massive shift from relative inactivity to having one of our busiest months of the year in October. That makes September the month we ramp up the activities.

JCRTL

The first event is in Iowa City on Saturday, September 7th. It's the event Johnson County Right to Life (JCRTL) is hosting. Considering Iowa City is where the closest abortion providers are, it's critical that we work closely with them and learn what we can to put an end to abortion.

At their event, Father Corey Close will share his conversion story on the issue of abortion, how his work with Rachel's Vineyard Ministries affects his perspective, and his "great awakening" to do more to end the scourge of abortion.

We will learn the basis for the pro-choice position, discuss the most common pro-choice arguments,

learn how to respond to those arguments, and be inspired to evangelize and change hearts.

The event is free. They would like us to RSVP so they can plan for the right number for lunch. Freewill donations will be accepted.

Lutherans for Life

Lutherans for Life of Iowa will host their fall conference in Cedar Rapids on Saturday, September 28th. Brian Young will speak about life issues in relation to creation. Come and see the Semisaurus. They have a mobile museum in a semi-truck.

All interested may attend. Please register that morning upon arrival for the fall conference to be included in their lunch. They will also accept freewill donations.

Iowans for Life

Iowans for Life will host their 9th annual banquet on Thursday, October 3rd. The event includes a keynote speaker, dinner, and a

surprise guest and entertainment element.

Their keynote speaker will be Gloria Purvis. Gloria is the creator and host of the EWTN series, *Authentically Free at Last*, that deals with the modern challenges to the expression and understanding of authentic human freedom. She also hosts the morning radio program, *Morning Glory*, on EWTN Global Catholic Radio. She is dedicated to promoting the sanctity of human life, marriage, and the dignity of the human person.

National Life Chain

Annually, on the first Sunday in October, LIFE CHAIN invites the churches in each city and town across North America to stand on a designated local sidewalk and pray for **90 minutes**. In 2018, over 1530 cities and towns held Life Chains.

There's plenty to attend in the month ahead!

Pro-Life Challenge



Prayers

Please pray for God to work in the lives people.

In particular:

Jenifer (pro-lifer with health issues);
Çantana (pro-lifer);
St. Louis, MO PP;
Council Bluffs, IA PP;
Cedar Rapids, IA PP

VOLUNTEER



Help Us!

Use your skills to help pro-life efforts, and invite friends and family to attend our events. Invite them to help us out. Many hands make for light work!



Cedar Rapids PP

Things are changing at the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood has felt a strain from Iowa not funding them through the Iowa's program that prohibited funding abortion providers. Now with the Title X prohibition, the same strain will spread to the other states. The affiliate that covers this area also covers Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Nebraska.

The Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood used to send their staff out to schools in the area on a regular basis. Although a law was passed that prohibited abortion providers from teaching the sexual education curriculum, a judge put a stay on that, at least for this year. The judge apparently thought it would be impossible for schools to find people who knew how to teach students a few lessons from a defined curriculum. The justification the judge gave would make more sense if there weren't health teachers statewide who teach the other health topics from a curriculum for everything but those few lessons. It gives Planned Parenthood another year to make money. But they haven't been going to the schools as much locally for much of the last school year.

The abortion industry primarily depends on doing abortions, and yet the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood stopped performing abortions several years ago. It can be difficult to get through tough times without abortions.

They altered their hours a bit. They are open on the second Saturday of each month for a few hours. This means they are open more hours.

There are also staffing changes. Some employees have had their hours cut. Some have moved out of state. And this led to them hiring more employees.

The combination of all of this concerns us. Their business levels make it hard to justify being open as many hours as they are. In such times, it becomes more likely that abortions could start up again. Their expansion to Saturday hours also hints at this. The responsibilities they post for the new hires also suggests a need to do things that are specific to abortions.

We need to prepare for the worst, and hope for the best. We hope you take advantage of the training we are offering our members.

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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