



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

February 2020

Editor: Jim Burke

Contents

- Page 2 Upcoming Events
Page 3 Pro-Life Training
Page 4 Government Update
Page 5 Government Updates
Page 6 Season of Lent
Page 7 PP Construction

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

[Donate Here](#)

The Busy Season

It's that time of year again for 40 Days for Life! We would love to see people sign up using the [online vigil calendar](#) so we know what time slots still need people to pray.

We know of at least one church showing the Unplanned film in March. Immaculate Conception parish will show it with a few other activities before the movie. We are also starting to provide additional resources to churches that want follow-up resources. We can also arrange to show the movie at your church or for other groups. Just contact us if you're interested. The movie seems to wake up one church after another, with some viewers being converted on the issue.

We still have one board position open if anyone is interested in serving to help guide the local pro-life movement. We also plan to greatly increase our activity level this year, so we could use help planning and putting on our events.

- 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>Feb 26 – Apr 5 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>Mon, Mar 2 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.</p>	<p>2020 Iowa Prayer Rally for Life Learn how to save lives and hear of the latest pro-life efforts! Where: Iowa State Capitol: Rotunda 1007 E Grand Ave, Des Moines, Iowa More info: https://www.facebook.com/events/394704011243556/</p>
<p>Fri, Mar 13 Movie starts at 7 p.m.</p>	<p>“Unplanned” at Immaculate Conception See what changed Abby's life forever; prayer at 5:30, meal at 6 p.m. Where: Immaculate Conception Church Scotus Hall (Basement) 857 3rd Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Efhf-SLTJ3Eb0Z9BEbaalVuanoUXwNIX/view</p>
<p>Sun, Mar 22 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.</p>	<p>40 Days for Life: Set Free, Empowered Come hear SET FREE, EMPOWERED with Darcy & Bruce Aune! Where: First Assembly of God Church 3233 Blairsferry Rd NE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/</p>
<p>Sun, Apr 5 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.</p>	<p>40 Days for Life Closing Rally 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>June – July Thursdays</p>	<p>Pro-Life Apologetics Class! This is an early notice of our pro-life apologetics class where we will step through the Equal Rights Institute's Equipped for Life class! It's an amazing course that many of our members already have access to online. We recognize the added benefit of watching the course together, discussing what we learned, and a chance to practice what we've learned. We will have sign-ups in the coming months, but space is limited, due to the size of the room we reserved. So keep an eye open for the registration invite!</p>



Pro-Life Training

We want to make sure each of you who want to defend the pro-life position can do so. We know what it's like to be stumped about how to answer a question we never thought through before. It doesn't feel good when we aren't prepared.

Last year, we paid to acquire access to a great program that many of our members have already taken, since it's an online training course. We will continue to make this available to our members for free.

However, anyone who has taken computer-based training before can tell you that it's much more effective if it has a hands-on component—practice. It also helps to learn in a group, where we learn from each other. And some people put off accessing courses that will always be there, even if they put it off. The risk is that they never access the course.

To ensure that everyone gets the most out of the Equipped for Life training program that the Equal Rights Institute created, we plan to

offer some training this summer to supplement the online content.

We will have weekly sessions that step through one training module per week. The classes will take place on Thursdays in June and July, except for July 16th. That session will shift to Tuesday, July 21st. That week will have two sessions for each half of the module that needs the most attention. We will provide more detailed information to the people who sign up, but we already reserved a room in St. Patrick's Parish Center. But space is limited.

We haven't set up the registration form yet, but expect to see that in the near future. We will also send out emails to provide people a chance to sign up for the online course again. Anyone who already has access won't have to sign up for the online part. But anyone who signs up for the in-person training needs to have access to the online course.

Offering the online course was a big deal last year. Yet we can't

wait to see how the in-person training will help all of us grow in our ability to defend the pro-life position.

We plan to show the video content from the online course and provide the accompanying printed materials. Then we will discuss what we learned and practice the dialogue techniques and arguments.

The course makes it easy to learn how to dramatically improve your ability to talk with people in a civil way about such a controversial subject. And it will make you much more effective at changing hearts and minds about the abortion issue.

I have yet to find a better program out there, and I've looked around. It has converted the culture at St. Olaf College in Minnesota. Students there took the course and the way people responded to the pro-life student group totally changed, and many students became pro-life after a very short time period. So watch your email!



Government Update

Iowa Amendment

The Iowa legislature is trying to pass the Life Amendment. It states, **“We the people of Iowa declare: Nothing in the Constitution shall be construed to recognize, grant, or secure a right to abortion or require the public funding of it.”**

Many people misunderstand what it intends to do. The subject of the amendment is the constitution itself in an effort to clarify that the so-called “right to abortion” that is not enumerated in its texts is not to be viewed as a part of the constitution. When a state supreme court justice struck down the heartbeat law, he effectively did it by declaring that it violated the right to abortion.

Not all laws depend on rights enumerated in the Constitution. For instance any laws forbidding cruel treatment of animals can exist without animal rights being defined in the Constitution. If the Constitution did include some animal rights for some reason and someone sought to remove such

clauses from the Constitution, it wouldn’t nullify the protective laws for animals. It would merely leave that matter to whatever lawmakers define in law, for or against cruel treatment.

In the case of abortion, our Constitutions don’t mention abortion at all. But some judges claim there is some “right to abortion” hiding between the lines that override the enumerated rights of people. That overriding of other rights includes the most fundamental of those rights—life.

So, this amendment seeks to make the Constitution neutral on the subject, such that the laws can go either way. Pro-lifers could have proposed a “Life at conception” amendment, but it would be very unlikely that such an amendment would pass. Such an amendment would also trigger similar action to repeal it or create an amendment that favors abortion at some point. In a divided culture, an amendment that strives for neutrality seems the fairest. And

most people don’t realize Iowa lawmakers pushed to make abortion illegal just months after the Constitution was ratified. So it really wasn’t intended to be a “right” within the Constitution.

Sadly, most people make it sound like this amendment will make abortion illegal. This would only go into effect if the legislature passes this, and if passed again after this year’s election when a new legislative body takes office, and IF Iowans are accurately informed about the implications so they might vote in favor of it once on a ballot. If enacted, it would just clarify the constitution for activist judges.

If this amendment passes through the Iowa legislature this year, then this year’s state-level elections will be even more important in order to get it passed again in the next legislative session. But then it may take all of us to spread the word about what the abortion neutrality amendment is really all about.



Government Updates

Iowa Bills

Most women don't realize that in Iowa, NONE of the abortion businesses get inspected. People assume there are inspections to make sure minimum standards are met. [House Study Bill 678](#) would add licensing and inspections to each abortion facility.

[House Study Bill 660](#) aims to treat unborn children as the human beings they are. It requires the remains of aborted children to be buried, interred, or cremated. The bill also allows babies who are miscarried or stillborn for education and research purposes.

[House Study Bill 672](#) requires abortionists to provide information to women seeking a medical abortion about possible side effects and the risks involved. This is standard in the medical field.

But just like how the abortion industry doesn't get inspected, they haven't had to reveal the possible side effects of abortions. They love to claim that abortion is healthcare, but the abortion industry doesn't live up to the standards of the real medical community.

Louisiana Court Case

The U.S. Supreme Court took on the case of June Medical Services v. Gee. The law is very similar to the Texas law that was challenged a few years ago. The Texas law tried to make the abortion providers meet the same minimum standards the rest of the surgical centers in the state had to meet. Abortion providers balked at the thought and made it clear that they were so far below the minimums of real healthcare providers that it would financially ruin most of them. So they quickly closed many sites and threatened to close others.

The Supreme Court previously only considered direct burdens of laws placed on women. But when the abortion industry collapsed in such a large geographical area, they expanded their consideration of burdens by accepting the idea that if someone cannot acquire an abortion within a reasonable distance, then the law must be placing a burden on the women, albeit indirectly. We can just imagine if the dentists in a state

were unable to meet the minimums that are met in other states and would sue to continue performing substandard dentistry. But that's effectively what the abortion industry managed to pull off.

A few things made this case compelling. Louisiana is not as large as Texas. So the so-called burden isn't anywhere near the same as they could claim in Texas.

Another thing that left the Texas law's precedent lacking was the tie in the rulings by the justices. After the death of Antonin Scalia, the court only had eight justices at the time of the monumental abortion case. This resulted in a 4-4 ruling, which means the ruling from the lower court would stand, but it would only apply to that district and not the entire nation. That kept parts of the Texas law from going into effect. This case will allow a full court to decide for the nation.



Season of Lent

Many Christians observe Lent as a period of: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We pattern our behavior from the ultimate role model—Jesus. Jesus spent 40 days in the Judean Desert/Wilderness. 40 Days for Life begins at the same time as Lent, on Ash Wednesday. 40 Days for Life incorporates prayer and fasting, and it's always good to perform some form of almsgiving. The two pair up beautifully. Lent doesn't count Sundays, while 40 Days for Life does. Therefore, 40 Days for Life ends one week before Easter.

Some of our members know I went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land earlier this month. I figured I would gain a greater appreciation for the desert. I figured I would come back with some greater insights or something. But that desert is coming alive.

We often find ourselves in cycles of spiritual thriving and spiritual starvation. We might love to pray at one point, while treating it as a burden at other times. I've had times I spent many hours per week praying outside of Planned Parenthood. And there are times I went longer than I should have without being out there. We have a variety of reasons. Sometimes people think our prayers don't do any good and they enter a form of spiritual desert. But there's always something good after the dry spell.

It was colder and rainier there than usual, even for this time of year. I have this freakish tendency to bring rain, flooding, or other natural disasters where I travel. Others have even pointed it out. So when the trip had rain on many of the days, it was normal for me. But they have had so much rain for a while now that the Judean

Wilderness has lots of green plants growing on the hills. Someone who had been on the trip many times before said that people won't recognize my photos, because this place never looks like this. While near the Dead Sea, I saw purple flowers. I captured some in a photo in the vicinity of the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found.

The places of death and desolation are coming alive. Perhaps this season of Lent is a good time to bring life to your spiritual practices. 40 Days for Life offers ample opportunities for you to pray and fast for an end to abortion. We may have a resurgence of life after a dry spell. You can play a part in being the hands and feet for God. Our deserts allow us to appreciate everything so much more.

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;
 Cedar Rapids, IA PP;
 University of Minnesota pro-life group

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!



PP Construction

We've watched as the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood has continued to have a significant amount of construction work since November. Renovations usually don't take 4 months or longer, but this one continues to drag on.

The good news is that something that takes so long costs a lot of money and keeps them from using some of their building space at any given time. The bad news is that a business that faces financial challenges usually doesn't invest in skilled labor for this long unless they think their investment will more than pay for itself. What they are doing is a big deal.

Most of their contractors came from Minnesota, which further adds to the cost. But many of us saw that their electrical

work is being done by Hawkeye Electric. It's very disappointing to see local companies doing work for Planned Parenthood.

We would hope that businesses would not perform work that supports the state's and nation's largest abortion provider. This is the kind of thing that turns me off from using certain companies. I will personally boycott Hawkeye Electric as a result of their involvement in this project. You may consider doing the same. It helps if people contact them to let them know the disapproval each of us has.

The project has involved not just electrical, but also plumbing, mechanical, and general building work.

CFLI Board

Jean Biermann
Jim Burke (Vice President)
Mary Cherion (Secretary)
Rick Delagardelle
Lisa Gignac
Sue Martinek (President)
Marianne Riester
Pat Semelroth
[open]
Treasurer: Lee Riester



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.

We welcome advertisers for a reasonable price.

Remember, Life Matters!

Request electronic copies by email: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Coalition for Life of Iowa

P.O. Box 864
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406