



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

September 2020

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

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Let's Begin!

40 Days for Life starts this week! The National Life Chain will occur on the first Sunday of October! We need people to sign up for these activities.

We won't have a kick-off rally this time for 40 Days for Life. We are also changing the location and approach for the National Life Chain in a way that leads us to ask for people to take responsibility for the blocks.

This should be an interesting fall. It's time to gear up and accomplish great things!

- Coalition for Life of Iowa's Board of Directors

Upcoming Events



Second Tuesdays

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Fourth Tuesdays

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Board Meetings (2nd Tuesdays)
& CFLI Working Meetings (4th Tuesdays)

Get involved in our organization!

Where: Contact us.

More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Sun, Sep 20

5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

40 Days for Life ~ Manchester Kick-off

This is not our kick-off, but the movement has spread to Manchester!

Where: theStone Church

181841 222nd Street, Manchester, IA

More info: <https://40daysforlife.com/manchesteria>

Sep 23 – Nov 1

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/>

Sun, Oct 4

2 – 3:30 p.m.

National Life Chain

Spread the pro-life message with signs along 1st Avenue!

Where: New location along 1st Ave compared to prior years

Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: https://lifeiowa.org/Life_Chain.html

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Good Vaccine News

Most people have heard lots of talk about vaccine development for COVID-19. We wish every advancement in health used ethical approaches in development and production, and that they would be ethical in their use. Several vaccines use cell lines from aborted human fetuses. The polio vaccine from Sanofi-Pasteur HAD been one of those, but they have made a change for the better.

Sanofi-Pasteur has made vaccines for a long time, and they recently announced plans to produce a new, ethically-developed polio vaccine. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approves of the switch from the prior use of the MRC-5 fetal cell line to an ethical animal cell line to produce its polio combination vaccines Pentacel and Quadracel.

Animal cell lines may sound unusual at first. However, they end up working out rather well, and that is how vaccines were originally created. The difference in species makes it so DNA cannot pass between any that remains in the vaccine and our

own cells. The main trick is finding species that are affected by the same viruses as humans so they can grow enough viral compounds for mass production. The DNA concern led to the standards that require vaccines to have no more than a small content of DNA as a percentage of the vaccine. Unfortunately, those standards aren't often enforced, and some vaccines have been found to have far more than limits. Returning to animal-based cell lines instead of human fetal cell lines is welcomed by pro-lifers.

Sanofi-Pasteur is also developing a vaccine for COVID-19 that avoids using fetal cell lines. With the attention the Center for Medical Progress brought to the sale of the body parts of abortion victims and the continued concerns about vaccines using fetal cell lines, enough people have made it clear that they would rather take their chances with COVID-19, rather than getting an unethical vaccine. This may have been very well timed to make the vaccine industry realize that

people may not be guaranteed customers for their products if they fail to adhere to morally good methods.

Sanofi-Pasteur is a major vaccine producer of more than a dozen types of vaccines. This makes this shift in approach a very big deal. We hope more vaccine developers follow suit.

The organization Children of God for Life keeps track of which vaccines are ethically sourced and which are not. Their current list is available at:

<https://cogforlife.org/wp-content/uploads/vaccineListOrigFormat.pdf>

Whenever pro-lifers receive vaccines, it's good to find out about it in advance. You can ask your doctor for the ethical version if one is available. But you need to know what to request. That's where Children of God for Life (cogforlife.org) is useful. If all pro-lifers did this, more doctors might default to ethical vaccines. When demand drops for the unethical vaccines, good prevails.



Government Update

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died. This will certainly energize the election with a month and a half remaining until election day.

Ruth served for 27 years on the Supreme Court. She is praised for standing for equal rights for certain groups of society. However, she ruled quite consistently against the equal right to life for the unborn. Sadly, about 30 million children died from abortion during her time on the court.

There is tension regarding filling the open seat on the court. In 2016, most of a year passed without the Senate holding confirmation hearings for a judicial appointment to the Supreme Court. A tradition of not filling the seat was cited at that time. However, there is a mixed tradition. Additionally, the same people who pushed for filling an empty seat back then are now demanding that her seat not be filled until after the installation of everyone who wins in the

upcoming election. Yet, the people who want to fill the seat are many of the same people who refused to fill the seat in 2016, which leads to people claiming there is a double-standard. Even Ruth commented on the situation in 2016, indicating that the seat should be filled, because the Constitution doesn't include any rules requiring taking a year off. Yet, even Ruth indicated before she died that she would not want her seat filled before the elections. So, people on all sides seem to be trading stances. Some have attempted to clarify some differences in circumstances.

Campaigns

Upon Ruth's death, campaign committees to get national pro-abortion candidates elected received more than \$50 million. Even before that at the state level, we've seen pro-abortion candidates receiving 10 times as much money than their pro-life counterparts.

This election has serious consequences, and many races were already looking like they were very close. This will energize the pro-abortion side of politics.

Elections

There have been many significant advances in the pro-life policies in this nation in the last few years. For far too long, pro-life candidates seemed to do a minimum to satisfy pro-life voters. But we've seen real results in the last few years. It would be great to see that momentum continue.

With candidates who promise to use your tax money to fund abortions, force people who seek to heal to kill, instead...there's more reason than ever to prioritize life when voting. When a candidate promises an intrinsic evil, shouldn't they be disqualified from our vote? Vote pro-life!



40 Days for Life

Julie Corpstein will assist Pat Semelroth for this fall's 40 Days for Life campaign. Julie Corpstein is married to Joseph Corpstein. They have 7 children and 10 grandchildren, with one on the way/due in mid-September.

(Editor's note: This was provided to me a while back, so there could be another one among us already.)

Julie is happy to be a part of 40 Days for Life. We really appreciate when people help.

This 40 Days for Life is a bit different. We usually have a kick-off rally, especially for the fall campaign. The combination of COVID-19, derecho, and other factors made it difficult to organize a kick-off rally. There won't be a kick-off rally this time. We often depend on the kick-off rally to build some momentum for our prayer vigil. With just days before 40 Days for Life begins, we would appreciate it if people start signing up for time slots.

Each time slot lasts one hour. Most people come to pray for the same hour each week. We love seeing some larger groups. But we really want to make sure we cover

the 24 hours each week that Planned Parenthood is open, plus as many other hours we can cover. If a group of 20 people came once during the 40 days, that would be great. But if we had a group of 100 people, as great as that is, we would rather have 20 groups of 5 people or even 25 groups of 4 people to fully cover the hours Planned Parenthood is open.

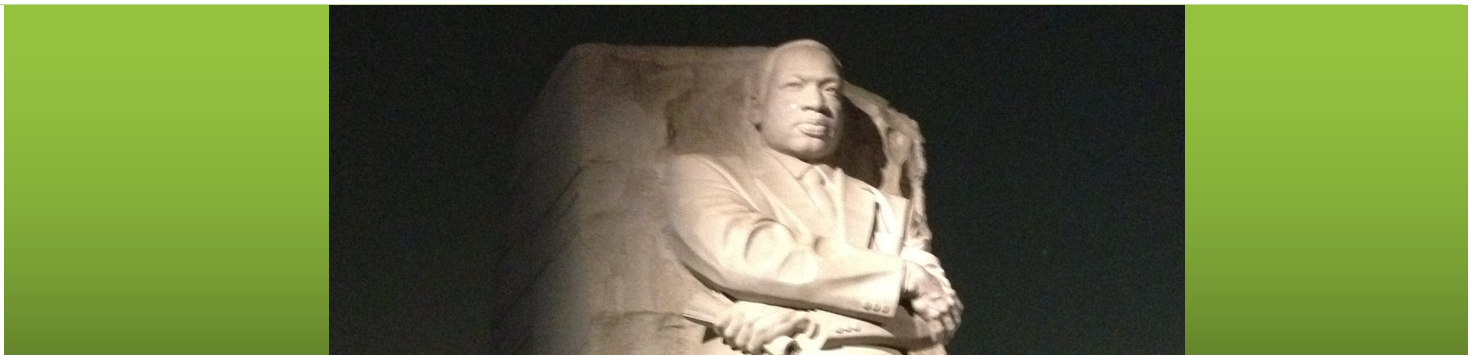
Just like how the National Life Chain aims to bring an impressive line of pro-life supporters that can stretch for miles when done properly, 40 Days for Life brings an impressive persistence by having a continuous pro-life presence outside of abortion providers and Planned Parenthood sites throughout the world. It's not as impressive if we just cover 2 hours here and there throughout the week.

But this is not just about being visible. 40 Days for Life focuses on prayer and fasting. There are abortion sites in very pro-abortion areas that were situated in ways that kept pro-lifers out of the sight of their clients. Yet, through the power of prayer, some of those sites have closed! If you think

standing outside Planned Parenthood will close it, you're probably wrong. But if you think praying outside of Planned Parenthood can close it, you're correct. The power of prayer is powerful.

We've had someone drive by and even stop to tell a group that prays outside of Planned Parenthood on Saturdays tell us that with everything that's going on, we aren't doing any good out there. The first time she did that, the group was praying the rosary. In this Christ-focused prayer, the group was in the midst of the prayers and meditations of the Visitation, which is the account where Mary visited Elizabeth when they were both pregnant. Mary would help her pregnant relative in anticipation of John the Baptist. When she thought we should be helping with disaster recovery, I just thought about how we all need some rest from that, and prayer is powerful. It was unfortunate that she interrupted people who were focused on helping women in need during pregnancy.

Join us in helping affirm life!



Doing What is Difficult

A while back, I watched the movie trailer (ad) for an upcoming film that depicts a true story of a man who takes on global trafficking of children. The film is called Sound of Freedom (<https://www.soundoffreedomovie.com/>). A man working with the lead character says “I don’t think I can do this job, Tim. As soon as I lay down, all I see are those kids faces.” He then asks how long Tim has been doing this, to which Tim answers, “12 years.” Tim is asked how he does it.

It’s important to stand up against the greatest evils in the world. Trafficking is one of those. Abortion is another of those. The people who fight against these injustices see and often experience darkness. This can cause many people to step back from doing good. Some people can’t take the darkness.

It’s hard to face evil day after day, unless you keep yourself focused on God. Remember this when praying. But remember to feed your soul with good things.

Even the derecho storm that devastated Cedar Rapids has an effect on people. After more than a month of seeing debris piled up on the curbs and damages everywhere, that weighs on people. Some people find relief by driving out of town far enough to find beauty and a lack of destruction.

Similarly, pro-lifers must recognize evil, but not fixate on it so much that it draws them down. Most pro-lifers have it easy. It’s not that difficult to pray on the sidewalk during 40 Days for Life, National Life Chain, or the March for Life. We’re grateful for each of you that participate in these activities. These events are great

ways to get involved with the pro-life movement. As people get more involved, taking on more responsibilities. Such people prioritize pro-life activities, rather than keeping options open, even when they have no other plans for a given day. They may track more of the news that shows what evil does. They may help abortion-minded or post-abortive women and those close to them, seeing the destruction it causes beyond just taking lives.

Some people find the light in those situations, seeing the good that can be done or doing good. They might see what is possible.

If we take in that which is holy through prayer, worship, reading holy things, etc., God can feed us with what we need to do great good. Become God’s instrument of good.

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);
Northern Minnesota's PP sites; more members to help coordinate activities

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!



National Life Chain

The National Life Chain occurs on the first Sunday in October from 2 PM until 3:30 PM. We will spread out along the south side of 1st Avenue on the West side of Cedar Rapids. We want churches and organizations to tell us they would like a block (or more), and roughly how many people they think they can get to show up. We can then assign blocks so we don't have everyone clumping up together on just a block or two here or there.

In recent years, we had people show up to the area in front of Planned Parenthood, but everyone wanted to stand in front of that property. We want to see churches and groups fill at least a block, each. Some blocks may only require a single-digit number of people, so some families or someone with a few friends could easily cover a block of their own. So, this shouldn't be that difficult.

But we need churches and groups to sign up early so we can assign the blocks to maintain a continuous chain, and so we know

where we have to distribute signs for the event.

We won't line up outside of Planned Parenthood this time. Rather than saying where to line up, we really want people to go to where your church or group gets assigned. This only works when someone takes the responsibility to sign up a church or group. So, we need people to step up. Then, we can more easily ensure we have as long of a chain as possible. It will make it easier for us to distribute signs without having people walk long distances from a single distribution point the way we had been doing in recent years.

So, if you are interested in ensuring that your church or group will participate, please contact us! Not only do we want this year's chain as long as we can get it, but we want to get this chain to grow in the next few years so we can get the line to span the city like it used to. If people step up now, we would love to span the city again in the next few years. But we need YOU to help us!

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