



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

October 2020

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Editor: Jim Burke

Contents

- Page 2 Upcoming Events
Page 3 Culture of Life Virtual Event
Page 4 Government Update
Page 5 40 Days for Life
Page 6 Abortion vs. Poland
Page 7 National Life Chain

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

Donate Here

<https://coalition-for-life-of-iowa.square.site/>

Nearing a Year's End

We're about to draw to a close our fall 40 Days for Life campaign. At the end of that same week, there's a very worthy cause having a fundraiser that we highly recommend checking out online.

A major election comes to an end on Tuesday. We say it that way, due to the fact that people have been voting for several weeks.

This is the time of year that things become quieter after the first week of November. We start to move into the holiday season. It's also the time of year that non-profit organizations make the end-of-year push for donations. We always welcome donations and aim to be the best stewards of the gifts we are given.

- 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

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, Nov 1
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

40 Days for Life ~ Finale Rally

Celebrate the conclusion of our 40 days of prayer and fasting!

Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood

3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/>

Sat, Nov 7
Starts at 6:30 p.m.

Culture of Life ~ Virtual Event

Learn how your donations can help build a medical culture of life!

Where: Online Event

More info: <http://www.solonstmary.org/culture-of-life.html>

Sun, Jan 24
Save the Date!

Cedar Rapids March for Life

Bring the pro-life message to Cedar Rapids this January!

Where: St. Matthew’s Church to Planned Parenthood and back

2310 First Ave NE to 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: http://lifeiowa.org/March_for_Life.html



Culture of Life Virtual Event

I'm going to start this article with an analogy. Imagine if you knew of a doctor who could cure cancer with natural and ethically good methods, while the rest of the medical field either failed or took months to treat various cancers. Although this has nothing to do with cancer, the analogy was used to point to life-affirming, morally good fertility methods.

NaProTechnology uses Natural Procreative Technology to treat the underlying issues with fertility and the reproductive system in general. It drives me crazy when I hear of people suggesting that Planned Parenthood is an expert at reproductive health because of their century of being in business. Some people can spend many more years than four years at college and still not be an expert in their field of study. Likewise, Planned Parenthood learned to apply the same "solutions" to a wide range of problems, often covering up the symptoms, while leaving the underlying conditions untreated and sometimes undiagnosed! Women deserve better!

This is where NaPro comes in. It's not a cure-all, but roughly 80% of couples who struggle with fertility are able to have children using these methods. Not only that, but the medical conditions that led to that infertility could be treated, making women healthier than if they did nothing or used other methods.

Some of these methods have been known for decades, although some are continually being developed. Yet, the typical medical school doesn't teach these methods. This leaves women with what I consider substandard care. If I was a woman, I would demand that my doctor was trained in NaPro, and I often wish more women would talk to their OB/GYNs about being trained. We can point people to these resources.

This is where the Culture of Life event comes into play. It's usually a dinner, but this year's circumstances made a virtual event the only reasonable option.

The Culture of Life event raises money for people to be trained to

be practitioners or doctors. Practitioners help women learn to chart their cycle in a standard way and help in the early diagnosis. After they handle the early steps of the process, they can refer clients to the doctors who will now have the information they need to make an informed diagnosis. We would like to see many more practitioners and doctors in the area know these methods so the people in our area can be served better.

The event features presentations from the people who have been taking the program and benefit from the funds raised. I try to attend each year, and I'm always inspired by the stories I hear. It will be even easier to attend this year, although I'll miss the delicious meal.

They want people to register by the Wednesday before the event, which is in the week following when this newsletter comes out. So go sign up at:

<http://www.solonstmary.org/culture-of-life.html>



Government Update

Amy Coney Barrett

In the final week of October, the U.S. Senate confirmed the appointment of Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett to fill Ruth Bader Ginsburg's seat, which was the seat of Byron White before Ruth filled it. Byron was in the minority on the Roe vs. Wade case, opposing abortion. The confirmation hearings followed a fairly typical timeline, although the proximity to the election came up often in the confirmation hearings. She was unanimously approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee, but all of the members of the minority party on the committee had boycotted the vote.

The committee hearing brought out some interesting points. It showed that Judge Barrett has ruled in favor of the abortion industry at least once, because she applies the law and precedent. Many pro-lifers believe she may favor the pro-life position. But in her role, she interprets law as an originalist. That means the laws are

considered based on a clear reading and the intent of the words at the time of the law's passage. This is good news for life. There's a good chance that the seat may be restored to the honorable state of that seat as it was in the time of the tragic case of Roe.

Voting Pro-Life

It's important to vote pro-life. Life is the most fundamental of human rights. Without life, we have no other rights.

We've seen many elections come and go where the pendulum swings back and forth between advocates for life and advocates for abortion gaining majorities in government. It's easy to become complacent when things start to go well for us. The complacency often leads to defeat, and then the laws swing back against us. Then we strive for justice again and it swings back our way.

Abortion and other injustices will remain for decades and even centuries if we declare victory

before achieving true justice. We can't afford to celebrate and take it easy when we haven't crossed the finish line. Lots of athletes have lost a competition or game by taking it easy when victory seemed certain.

Pro-lifers are often disappointed by the modest gains made by pro-life politicians. They don't like what happens on the other side, either. But we've seen much more significant progress in the pro-life area in recent years. It would be a shame to give up those gains!

We have some politicians who make it a priority to demand your hard-earned money pay for abortions, while others would like to make abortion illegal and unthinkable. Those who support abortion keep pushing for more and more extreme policies. We can't tell you who to vote for, but we can urge you to vote pro-life. Please, don't let down another generation of children by letting pro-lifers lose. Vote pro-life!



40 Days for Life

Join us for the rally to mark the finale of this fall's 40 Days for Life campaign! We will meet on the public sidewalk outside of the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood on November 1st, starting at 5 p.m. We will pray for a final hour together. After we finish that powerful hour of prayer, we will head to the Godfather's Pizza just one block north in the Town & Country Shopping Center at 6 p.m.

At this time of year, it's important to dress for the weather. It's always a pleasure to join with all of you where it's warm inside to join in a meal together. To protect against disease, the restaurant's tables will have greater separation than usual.

We gain an extra hour in the night before this event when our clocks get set back an hour. Therefore, you have an extra hour to spend with us!

Just like when we gather for the National Life Chain, it's hard to get a sense of the whole thing when one is just a part of the whole, the people who dedicate time on the sidewalk over various

hours for 40 days and nights don't get to see everyone else. This is why the finale is such a great event. We finally get to see many of you gathered together and united in this cause.

We hope people continue to fast and pray for a few more days, since we could use prayers regarding the upcoming election. This year has been a great year to step back from certain worldly things and focus more on God and prayer. But we can break the fast on Sunday as we mark the end of the official 40 Days for Life activities for this fall.

It's also good to reflect back on the last 40 days and think about what stood out the most. Did anyone stop to talk with you? Did anything great happen? Did anything bad happen? Have you grown spiritually? Spend some time reflecting before you come to the rally.

If there are people who would like to participate in 40 Days for Life, but they didn't come to pray prior to the start of our event, that's okay. Just like in the Bible when

the hired hands who start late in the day are given the same benefit as those who labored through the heat of the day, we welcome people even in the final hour. We've had plenty of people in the past who came and didn't stay to eat. We've also had people who couldn't pray with us, but they joined us for the meal. They would pray with us at other times.

If you know of someone who might be interested in attending this event, please invite them. We welcome fellow pro-lifers.

Because of the time change in the night before the event, it tends to get dark earlier. Because there is still some debris along the sides of roads in the neighborhood, it's good to keep your eyes attentive when walking from place to place.

We look forward to seeing all of you again. Let's finish these 40 days strong! Let's join in unity.

Let us bring something good out of this year of 2020.

My Body, My Choice

Abortion vs. Poland

After the fall of the Iron Curtain, Poland became a very outwardly religious nation. It has led to the nation being at least a bit more restrictive regarding abortion. However, their lawmakers left it up to the courts to make a more significant ruling. In some ways, that seemed reminiscent of *Roe vs. Wade*. However, their justices sided with life.

Poland will now be much more restrictive on abortion, or as I prefer to say, they are more protective of life. This had led to opposition from people who want legalized abortion.

These are the biggest protests in decades—the largest since the fall of Communist control of the nation. Tens of thousands of people have gathered to protest in Warsaw. There were at least 400 protests across the nation, with a total estimated attendance

of roughly 430,000 people. That amounts to a little more than 1% of the population of Poland.

Sadly, they believe that abortion was one of the hard-won freedoms that is being chipped away in their post-Communist era. Freedoms allow us to do as we should, and not to just do anything good or bad. Not everything evil about Communism tends to go away right away, and sometimes people take advantage of the concept of freedoms to inject things that are not good in the name of freedom.

Just look at the United States for an example of the way abortion was touted as not just a freedom (of choice), but is now treated as if it is a right. When we look at many of the decisions our courts make, most of them will have some people on each side of the matter at hand. Most aren't

known to most people. Some bring about some opposition in the news for a bit, but fade away. Some opposition may last for a few years before fading into obscurity.

But when bad rulings were made about slavery and minorities, it didn't go away, and it divided the nation. It even led to the Civil War. Many people recognize abortion as being the most divisive issue since that time.

Grave injustices fester in society until they are resolved. Abortion is a grave injustice. The protests might seem like a major showing of division. But the division will be far greater if Poland gives into such pressures. Even if protests turn into riots, it's better to address riots than to unleash death on society.

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; a good start for UNI Students for Life

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

We thank everyone who participated in the National Life Chain event in Cedar Rapids. We had at least 200 pro-lifers spread over 1 1/3 miles! That's at least two to three times as many people as last year, and we covered at least four times as much distance!

We plan to have more signs next year, since there weren't enough signs for everyone with such a great increase in attendees this year. That's a great problem to have! For anyone who didn't get to hold a sign, I can assure you that when I drove the length of the chain, it was obvious that everyone stood united. Thus, as long as people saw a few signs, they would know everyone in the chain was supporting life. The photos show how greater spacing helped us lengthen this year's chain.

It took me at least three minutes of driving to drive from one end to the other. If someone walked it, it could take roughly 25 minutes to cover that distance. Many of you didn't get to see the full effect as you stood as a link in the chain. Every link added to the total effect, and that effect was POWERFUL!

We took notes and accepted feedback so we can make this even better next year. We would love to have even more churches and groups involved next year. We plan to spread out a few groups that shared blocks. There will be various other improvements.

Thank you all! We hope next year's chain is even bigger and better! This year's chain was impressive because of you!



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- 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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