



# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

February 2021

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We welcome newcomers to our  
events and meetings

Donate Here

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

## Spring into Action

It's that time of year when the weather starts to warm up. It's time to "spring" into action. We're in the midst of 40 Days for Life. We need more people to come out and pray. We have unfilled time slots, including times while Planned Parenthood is open.

Executive orders and bills at the federal level continue to cause concerns for defenders of life. Matters at the state level are much more favorable.

We saw some great turnout this year at the Cedar Rapids March for Life. We hope to continue such strong showings of support for pro-life causes in the year ahead.

- Coalition for Life of Iowa's Board of Directors

# Upcoming Events

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## **Second Tuesdays**

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

## **Fourth Tuesdays**

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Board Meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays)  
& CFLI Working Meetings (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays)

Get involved in our organization!

**Where:** Contact us.

**More info:** [coalitionforlife@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)

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## **Feb 17 – Mar 28**

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/>

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## **Sun, Mar 28**

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/>



## Why Do You Hate Women?

During this year's Cedar Rapids March for Life, some of us heard someone ask a question. "Why do you hate women?" This is yet another example of people with differing views not understanding each other. Since it was shouted out of a window of a vehicle, rather than someone taking time to have a more personal discussion, it comes across as more rhetorical or argumentative than a question out of curiosity. The people who were asked are pictured above. You can see that the signs they carried primarily urged people to love BOTH mother and child. Most of them were women. That combination should have given the person a hint that their perception of pro-lifers was wrong. But she still chose to shout out the question.

If they believe that pro-lifers hate women, including the pro-life women holding such hatred for women, then they would likely expect no quick or honest response. It's kind of like asking when one has stopped beating one's wife. The premise wrong, so the question doesn't get a direct answer.

Many people believe pro-lifers hate women, because they see the laws that are pushed to protect life. However, they view it from the women's perspective, and from that perspective, they appear as restrictions. Pro-lifers often present the "no" type of restrictions without the "yes" alternatives.

When they see abortion restrictions without government funding to help raise children, they see restrictions without some benefit compensating for it. When they hear people speak of contraception in ways that would suggest limiting that in some way, they find that to be controlling and restricting.

Pro-lifers often, although not always align with conservatism. With this, many pro-lifers seek the protections for the fundamental right to life, while they depend on personal and organizational acts of charity to help people in need. We may like to personally share alternatives to many of the abortion industry's "solutions" by promoting things like natural family planning, NaProTechnology, etc.

Many people don't realize that significant amount of science behind these alternatives. They also often think things like natural family planning doesn't work. This results from people misconstruing it with the rhythm/calendar method or seeing some people who use it who have larger families. But the science and the statistics speak favorably for the pro-life alternatives.

In fact, NaProTechnology works with women's bodies, rather than against them. It respects women.

We also see the harm caused by abortion. Many of us know multiple women who have been hurt physically and/or mentally from abortion. We know many other people who are affected by the abortions that took place on their grandchildren, their children (for fathers), their siblings, etc. These side effects linger with people for the rest of their lives in many cases.

We love women. We want the best for women and their families. It's in part because of this that we oppose abortion. 🌱



## Government Update

### **President's Executive Order**

Within days of inauguration, President Biden revoked the Mexico City Policy. This shift was more dramatic than in the past, since President Trump had prohibited not only funding abortions overseas, but also prohibited funding organizations who performed abortions overseas.

This means the U.S. is once again an exporter of the death of children in other countries. It will also enable the organizations that perform them to grow.

Many of the appointments to key positions in government have one thing in common—abortion. The head of the Health and Human Services has no notable history in health. But he has gone after proliferators before. That's hardly a good qualification for office.

### **Iowa**

The Iowa legislature has been progressing the Life Amendment. This amendment is critical to protecting life in the future. It will

need to pass in two consecutive legislative sessions (which are 2 years long), with an election in between the two sessions. Then it goes to a vote of the people. It's important for people to do what we can to help pass protective measures.

Several lawmakers in our area have inaccurate views of what the bill contains. Either they don't understand the bill they are responsible for understanding, or they intentionally mislead people. Neither trait is very admirable.

Several of us heard a lawmaker say that she doesn't think this is a time to put this issue in our state constitution. It's because certain judges and justices have put their own views into their interpretation of the state constitution's text that doesn't mention abortion, to suggest that abortion is somehow a right contained within the constitution.

This amendment could have attempted to establish the right to life in the state constitution, but it didn't. It aims for neutrality! It

merely clarifies that the state constitution does not contain a right to abortion so judges and justices cannot claim that there is such a right. If one doesn't want the constitution taking sides on this matter, then one should FAVOR this amendment, and not oppose it.

Such inaccurate interpretations of the bill are consistent with such lawmakers' stances, though. She also claimed that the state tried to close sites that provide abortions a few years ago. It was actually Planned Parenthood itself that decided to close several sites after they struggled for several years, and the state stopped certain funding of abortion providers. There's a difference between reducing the subsidies of a large and powerful industry and taking actions to close them. They didn't even cut all funding.

Most of the lawmakers in Linn County stand in favor of the abortion industry's desires, which put them opposed to life. 🙄





## Joe Scheidler

Joe Scheidler, known as the “godfather of pro-life activism” died in January. He founded the Pro-Life Action League in Chicago, and is well-known across the country for his part in the pro-life movement. Joe’s words inspired scores of people to take action over the years, and not just call themselves pro-life.

While teaching at a college, he chaperoned students on pilgrimage to march with Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965. He would die this year on Martin Luther King Day. Joe was inspired by the civil rights movement and sought to do the same in the fight against abortion.

Several years ago, I found some good resources from the Pro-Life Action League. Joe has spoken in Cedar Rapids when we organized a protest outside of an event where Planned Parenthood’s CEO was.

Joe was sued by the National Organization for Woman (NOW) in what was known as the NOW v.

Scheidler case. It not only made it to the U.S. Supreme Court, but it was the longest case in U.S. federal court history. The abortion industry has a recurring tendency to drag court cases out over many, many years. His case was no exception.

They attempted to get him on charges of racketeering by invoking the RICO Act. That’s the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations. The only reason it made it to the highest court in the land is because lower courts ruled against him, including a 9-0 ruling. The court vindicated him with a 2003 ruling in his favor 8-1, and again in 2006 with an 8-0 ruling in his favor. The last remnant of the case was finally dealt with after 28 years!

The court recognized that he did not threaten or attempt violence, nor did the others that NOW claimed were conspiring with him against women seeking abortion. If pro-lifers were to develop a pattern of violence, despite it solving nothing and not using morally good means to reach their ends, it could lead to them

being charged with RICO Act violations. But Joe’s defense held up over the decades. The case even helped spur the creation of the Thomas More Society, who helped our Coalition for Life of Iowa organization when we sought tax-exempt status, and the IRS said everything was in order for us to receive it, except that the board members had to sign away some of our First Amendment rights (although they didn’t use those exact words).

The Pro-Life Action League has done great work in the Chicago area, and they have benefitted other organizations. Joe spoke in every state and on four continents. His son, Eric has continued in his father’s footsteps in leading pro-life efforts.

Joe will be missed. Fortunately, the people he has inspired continue to fight for the most fundamental human right—the right to life. With his son being among those who carry on the torch, a part of him lives on in the movement. 🕊



40 DAYS FOR LIFE™  
Cedar Rapids  
40 Days for Life

This is the time of year when abortions tend to occur most. Women who become pregnant during the Christmas break, whether they attend school/college or not tend to consider abortion around this stage of pregnancy. This is one reason why 40 Days for Life is timed so well at this time of the year. It's a time of year when we can have the greatest effect.

When the weather is cold or rainy, people realize we stand for something even more than when the weather is nice. Yet, the weather has been warming up lately.

The abortion sites and Planned Parenthood sites that close often have 40 Days for Life vigils with people outside during all of the hours they are open, if not all 24 hours of the day and night during the 40 Days.

When we miss large chunks of time, evil gets a break. There are many analogies I could make, such as when winter storms dump snow constantly for a few days, people might not keep up and the storm

seems to win. It takes a while to recover. But if it snows for a few hours one day, and then you have time to recover and clear away that snow, and then that repeats each day, you can usually keep up with that. Evil works the same way. If we are the storm and we let up by not praying for a few or especially several hours, that's when evil has a chance to flourish. We are far more effective if we can have a few people each hour throughout the week.

We would love to have people sign up for an extra hour, even if it's just once. We love it even more if people come during a weekly time slot. But even better than that is inviting new people to join you.

<https://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids>

The Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood has recently increased their hours. They are now open from 9 AM to 5 PM each weekday except Tuesday, when they are open from 12 noon until 8 PM. They are still open on the second Saturday of each month from 10 AM to 3 PM.

They had previously reduced their hours to a mere 24 hours per week for a typical week. This recent change puts them back at 40 hours per week, except for the weeks that contain the Saturday open hours. Those weeks turn into a 45-hour week.

We had a few months when it was easier to try to cover each hour that they were open. We need each of you to invite others to join you in prayer. There will be significant challenges in the years ahead, and if we depend on a few people who coordinate the event to recruit each new participant, we will have far less ability to grow than if we have everyone engaged. We pray outside, so it should be easy for people to participate even if they have concerns about the virus. People can pray at a distance from others.

We will continue to pray during these 40 Days for Life through Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Join us in prayer, and recruit others to pray for this noble cause! 🙏

## 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!



## We Marched for Life

While many other marches for life were either cancelled or only allowed a small number of people to participate, we adapted our Cedar Rapids March for Life. We had a very large turnout.

Normally we get better turnout when the weather is better. But this year's march was cold and the route was longer than usual. Road construction left our normal route impassible for a large group. This led to us adding between 40-50% to the normal length of the route.

We removed all indoor elements from the event. We also built on our prior efforts to reach out to more churches and saw many people from churches that hadn't participated in our march before. We had several speakers and said some prayers outside of Planned Parenthood.

Some of us missed ending the march together, and we can't wait for circumstances to return to where that's possible again. Although we didn't get to see everyone gathered at the end, the alternate route led to everyone getting to see how large the

crowd was as they arrived at the rally site. It also allowed people who made it there early to see just how many more people were joining the crowd.

We made sure to have plenty of signs for people to express pro-life messages to the people who saw us marching. This included several new signs that we acquired after the National Life Chain in October. Thank you to the people who helped make it possible to have more signs and some new messages.

We want to continue to grow this and other pro-life activities. We will continue to learn from what works well and what doesn't work well. We would love to see lots of people cover some hours for our next activity, which is 40 Days for Life. We would also love to see people invite others.

At a time when the future of abortion in our nation is looking like we need to step things up a bit because of some serious concerns, it's great to see so many people come out and take a stand for life! 🙌

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## 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.

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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