



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

December 2022

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Laicized

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

Donate Here

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

Year-End Message 2022

This year has been very memorable. Our Cedar Rapids March for Life continued to grow. Roe vs. Wade was overturned. Sadly, a few of our pro-lifers died weeks or months before they could see that day. A week before Roe was overturned, a similar court ruling in Iowa had a similar effect. We trained some of our members to have conversations about abortion that can change minds. We look forward to the year ahead. We cannot afford to settle for this progress or we will quickly see things go the other way. This year's changes are making the abortion industry adapt in ways we must be ready to counter.

There may be a showing of the movie, October Baby (2011) in January or in the months ahead. We will keep you posted as details solidify. We hope to have emails and an update at the Cedar Rapids March for Life.

For people who wish to donate to our organization as part of their year-end giving, we would gladly welcome donations. Donations made last year during this time period helped us to do something I had wanted us to do for several years. Thank you for those who donated in the past year. Use the link to the left to donate or mail us a check using the address on the last page.

Upcoming Events

Fri, Jan 20
Midday

2023 National March for Life

Some people attend, while others watch EWTN or online streams.
Where: National Mall, Washington, D.C.

Sat, Jan 21
10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

2023 Cedar Rapids March for Life

Bring the pro-life message to the streets of Cedar Rapids!
Where: St. Matthew's Church to Planned Parenthood and back
2310 First Ave NE to 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA
More info: https://lifeiowa.org/March_for_Life.html

Feb 22 – Apr 2
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://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids>

Sun, Apr 2
5 – 7 p.m.

40 Days for Life Finale Rally

Join us to conclude our 40 days of prayer and fasting!
Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood
3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA;
then Godfather's Pizza at 3647 1st Ave SE
More info: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids>

Cedar Rapids March for Life



Join us as we March for Life after 50 years of legal abortion on Saturday, January 21. We will meet at St. Matthews Kearn Hall (lower level of 2310 First Ave NE).

At 11:00 we will take a group picture, and a send-off prayer will start our March for Life to Planned Parenthood. Once there, we will pray and witness for an end to abortion. The return march starts at 11:40 back to St. Matthew Church where in Kearn Hall we will warm up, eating some delicious soups. The food is being organized by the Archdiocesan Council of Women. A Program from 12:30-1:00 will feature Dr. Brian Saunders. Those who are unable to march may drive and join in. Another option is to join the interfaith prayer service that will occur during the march in the St. Matthew Church Kearn Hall from 11:00-12:00.

We will collect disposable diapers, wipes, baby formula, and newborn clothes for distribution to Bridgehaven and Birthright for families that are in need of them.

Truth = ?

What is Truth?

Abortion was legalized when people denied the truth about what a living human being was. After 50 years, entire generations of people grew accustomed to that denial of truth. Now, we see people who deny the truth about the basics of what generates new life—gender. With the overturning of the Roe precedent, many states have outlawed most abortions. There are now students that are reconsidering where to attend college. Some of them fear living in a state where they lack the option of killing their unborn child without any legal consequence, and it's enough to make some students consider moving out of the country for college or work.

I can't help but think about the Biblical account where Jesus is asked about marriage. He makes clear that Moses allowed a writ of divorce because of the hardness of their hearts. If the full law had been enforced strictly, the people would

have rejected God entirely, and not had the benefit of conforming their lives to the rest of God's law. Imagine if Moses had to allow some murder because people were so opposed to "thou shalt not murder".

There are also people who want to put pressure on companies to take on abortion-friendly policies and funding. It can come through their benefits, donations to charity, etc. Someone pointed out an example from the voting that shareholders take part in for stocks they own. Some shareholder of Costco pushed to get a vote of shareholders that even the company's board recommends against. It looks like a waste of time and money to set up abortion advocates to then vote on other measures in the future. They want a study of the harms to employees and others that came from laws restricting abortion. It included lots of talking points of the abortion

lobby, making things out to be worse than they ought to be. It's a good reminder to use your fractional ownership of companies if you are an investor, and vote pro-life when such measures come up.

When people deny the truth, bad things happen. When it goes on long enough, they downright oppose the truth, while promoting falsehoods. People call evil good and good evil. It's amazing how quickly things deteriorate. In just a few years, we went from where boys and girls were clearly what they were. Now, if you don't watch what you say in certain places, you might get in trouble. This puts pressure to intimidate the majority of people to go along with the lies.

While gender dysphoria normally resolves itself after puberty, there are people pushing for operations that leave people sterile for life. The culture of death spreads. 🙏



Government Update

The election results are finalized. The results were very positive at the state level. The federal level will at least have some balance of power between the House and Senate.

The new legislative sessions will begin in January. We hope the U.S. House can keep the U.S. Senate from pushing bills through that devalue human life. At the state level, we hope to see more life-affirming laws.

I received a text message from the ACLU again (which mess up my name). They made it clear they plan to counteract the efforts of lawmakers who want to pass pro-life laws. They wondered if they had my support. I made it clear that I care about human rights too much to support their efforts. They promptly told me they would opt-out my number/take it off their list. That made sense, since I never asked to get on their list, and never liked the partially incorrect name. Their message makes it clear that we have to use good approaches and arguments to draw people to the pro-life position.

Planned Parenthood has borrowed ideas from pro-lifers and applied it to abortion. They made it clear a while back that they would get mobile abortion sites, similar to the way pro-lifers have ultrasound machines in RVs. But they create a mobile killing site. With Illinois providing abortions in practically all cases, mobile units could bring abortions to the border with Iowa, Missouri, and other states that have stricter laws to protect life and health.

40 Days for Life is involved in a lawsuit regarding buffer zones that has the potential of striking down buffer zones throughout the country. We hope this is successful. This was announced close to the time news came out of the UK where a woman was arrested for allegedly praying SILENTLY. Externally, one could just see that she was lingering in the constitutionally questionable zone (even with regards to their constitution). She held no signs. She spoke no words. Her free exercise of religion is being attacked.

It's surprising that they chose what could be one of the hardest cases to defend on their part. Religion is protected. So even if she was praying, it would just make it clear that the law is not enforceable. But they would have to prove she was praying.

Iowa's Heartbeat Law failed to go into effect with an appeal. However, it will go to the Iowa Supreme Court for a final appeal. It was bound to end up there, regardless. If things went our way, then abortion advocates would appeal to the state. If things went their way, then our side would appeal to the state.

Iowa presently has a 20-week limit on abortion. The Heartbeat Law would move that limit to the moment a heartbeat is detected. That is very early in pregnancy. If the Heartbeat Law is upheld and allowed to be enforced, very few abortions would occur in the state. However, we should still seek to protect all human lives equally to provide equal treatment under the law. 🇺🇸

Pro-Life Challenge



Please pray for God to work in the lives people, in particular:

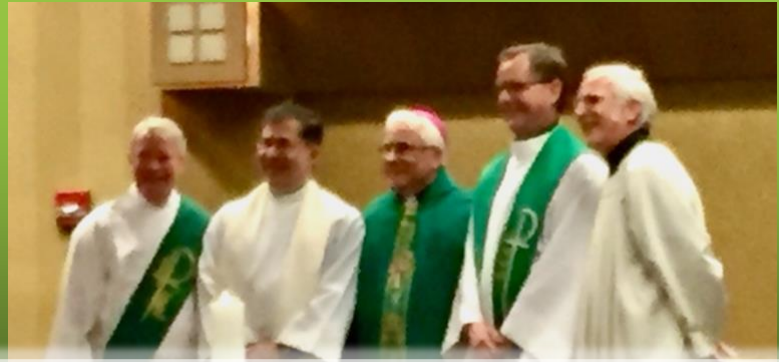
Jenifer (pro-lifer with health issues);
Çantana (pro-lifer);
Central Minnesota's PP sites; UNI Students for Life; lawmakers & judges; for the Iowa heartbeat law to go into effect; for LeRoy Carhart to stop doing abortions

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!



Pro-Life Priest Laicized

Pro-lifers of all faiths took note when news broke that indicated that Father Frank Pavone was laicized. This means he would no longer publicly serve as a priest. This frustrated or angered many pro-lifers, since Pavone led Priests for Life for many years and has done many good things for the pro-life movement. There have been issues between him and his bishop. About five years ago, it became clear that his bishop wanted him to leave the priesthood.

Many articles and videos popped up online to discuss this matter. One charge was something that doesn't lead to being forced out of the priesthood. The other was persistent disobedience of his bishop, to which priest take vows to pledge obedience.

Many people point out that the particular charge against him is not the real issue. The claim is that his pro-life activities are the underlying issue, but that some token charge must be found that could allow people to go after him. That's a common tactic nowadays, and worthy of consideration. However, there is another side to this story.

Pavone admits that he refused to take part in the process that was looking into this matter. That's a big deal. Sure, if one expects a process to waste one's time and have some bias against you, then it's hard to expend any more energy or attention than is necessary. But to not defend oneself at all leaves charges against you with no defense. With what he has said publicly since this news broke, his defense sounds reasonable. But if he's saying he never provided those explanations to prevent this in the first place, then this outcome is no surprise.

He also admits to having met with the Pope before, having clear support from him. The Pope is the only person who could have made this particular ruling in the way it was done. So this is not an act of a rogue bishop, but an act that took multiple people, including someone who has shown support on multiple occasions for what Pavone does.

His own explanations can build sympathy, but it also reveals missteps. We hope he works things out with the Pope to be reinstated. 🙏

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