



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

January 2023

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

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

Fast-Paced 2023

This is a longer issue than I've written in a long time. But that's because so much has already happened, and because there are a few things on my mind right now.

One thing that is brought up later is the way abortion pills will soon be available at CVS and Walgreens. There are efforts planned to boycott them, protest them, and write letters/emails to them. If you wish to contact them, please read the article in this newsletter, and then follow-up with them using info at the following link:

<https://www.nrlc.org/communications/contact-information-for-cvs-and-walgreens/>

Remember to be respectful. People aren't likely to change the course of their company when one is just complaining. But if they hadn't considered things like employees that might refuse to dispense the lethal drug, customers who might not shop there anymore, or how in the case of CVS, they used to stand for health...that's what can help.

This month has been full of pro-life marches and pro-abortion advances. It's important that we step things up.

Upcoming Events

<p>Sat, Feb 4 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.</p>	<p>Birthright Celebration of their 50 Years Celebrate Birthright serving women for 50 years! Where: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton 1350 Lyndhurst Dr., Hiawatha, IA</p>
<p>Second Tuesdays 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>CFLI Board Meetings (2nd Tuesdays) Get involved in our organization! Where: Contact us. More: coalitionforlife@gmail.com</p>
<p>Feb 22 – Apr 2 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://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids</p>
<p>Sun, Apr 2 5 – 7 p.m.</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Sat, Apr 14 4 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Bridgehaven's 40th Anniversary Celebrate Bridgehaven serving women for 40 years! Where: DoubleTree Exhibition Hall 1st Floor 350 1st Avenue Northeast, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://secure.fundeasy.com/ministrysync/event/home.php?e=24589</p>



Marches for Life

National

I attended the National March for Life this year, despite my mixed desires to take part in the national event and our local event. I knew I wouldn't want to miss the first march in either location since Roe vs. Wade was no longer in effect, and that it marked 50 years since that tragic ruling.

The national march had good speakers, as usual. The course and official end point of the march changed a bit from the past. Since the U.S. Supreme Court did their job by issuing the favorable ruling in the Dobbs case. Therefore, the national march crossed in FRONT and BEHIND the U.S. Capitol building. The path was more like a question mark with a long base. The march usually ended at the U.S. Supreme Court, such that we were between that building and the Capitol building. So the end point was barely different this year. But

the path was longer by a few blocks.

I enjoyed seeing some fellow pro-lifers from around the country, including staff and volunteers for the Equal Rights Institute (ERI). ERI provided our in-person pro-life apologetics training last year.

In the past, I always went with Dubuque County Right to Life. But this time, I went with Pulse Life Advocates. Many things were similar, including the cost. Some things differed. I appreciated the opportunity to notice those differences. It should help me identify the best match for people who wish to go in the future.

Cedar Rapids

Although I wasn't able to attend the Cedar Rapids March for Life, I was pleased to hear that the number of people taking part in it remained above 100. It would have been a shame if our numbers had dropped significantly. There is still

so much to do, while some people may think our job is done. So thank you to everyone who attended.

A local TV station covered the march this year. We also had people recording the talks. Our members received an email with links to those videos. EWTN even included a photo from our event in their EWTN News In Depth program. We were one of very few state/local marches that they included—you could count the photos from all state and local marches on one hand, and we were among them.

Dr. Saunders gave his talk, which we have now shared on YouTube. We also collected items to donate to Birthright and Bridgehaven. We thank you for your generosity. I would have loved to attend, but thanks for making it a great success without me! Thank you Dr. Nelson for the Cedar Rapids photos. 🙏



Government Update

The FDA has been busy making quick work of things. The FDA relabeled the Plan B emergency contraception pill to remove one of the three ways it could work. The change removes the method that suggests it is an abortifacient. If the FDA had more morals, ethics, and hadn't lost some credibility in recent years, it would be easier to accept this. I've heard pro-lifers say they weren't convinced in the past about whether or not Plan B could cause abortions.

The FDA finalized the approval to allow the abortion pill to be delivered to clients via the mail. The Justice Department also cleared this, saying that carriers cannot be held accountable for their part in delivering the abortion pills, even in states where state laws prohibit the sale or distribution of the lethal abortion pills. The US Postal Service (USPS) will follow the Justice Department's guidance, and thus become a drug trafficking organization. Their actions are illegal in many states, regardless of who thinks they can win in court.

The USPS has prohibitions on many things to ensure they don't deliver packages containing certain kinds of items. In this case, they are choosing not to comply with state laws, since a federal agency is attempting to claim primacy over the states. By delivering illegal drugs in certain states, that makes them drug traffickers. The USPS's annual revenue is roughly double the entire illegal drug industry, although most of their revenue comes from shipping items legally. But this will make them the organization with the largest revenue that's engaged in illegal drug trafficking.

The FDA made it so the abortion pill could be dispensed by pharmacies, rather than requiring the abortionist to dispense it, personally. This has led to national chains like CVS, Walgreens, and Rite Aid to indicate their desire and intention to dispense the lethal drug. I'll go into this more in another article. All of this is what happened very early in this month, before the new Congressional session began.

The new legislative sessions has begun. We hope the U.S. House keeps the U.S. Senate from pushing bills through that devalue human life. At the state level, we hope to see more life-affirming laws, although there are many lawmakers who intend to wait for the state supreme court to rule on the heartbeat law before they take further action on the abortion issue.

Minnesota lawmakers made their abortion laws similar to those in Illinois in the first month of their legislative session. Pro-abortion lawmakers hold the Minnesota house, senate, and governorship. They quickly passed a bill that defines abortion as a fundamental right, which takes priority over basic protections of life and health.

This is why it's important to keep working to transform the culture to a culture of life. One election or enough people who favor killing through abortion as a solution to society's issues can lead to a very rapid and dramatic shift in the laws. It can strike down the right to life in mere days. 🇺🇸



Pharmacies of Death



When the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued their changes near the turn of the year, it allowed pharmacies to dispense the abortion pill. Soon after that, both Walgreens and CVS indicated their intent to provide the abortion pills at their stores. Rite Aid also desired to do the same at some of their locations.

This recent CVS announcement bothered me the most. Just under a decade ago, CVS announced that they would stop selling tobacco products, because it was antithetical to health. Respect went up for CVS at the time, as did their sales. People recognized CVS as caring more about their mission of health than profits, unlike Walgreens, which continued to sell products that would harm the health of their clients. Larry Merlo led CVS for much of the past decade, and the decision from nearly a decade ago aged well with time. But someone else now leads CVS, and she seems okay will selling the lethal abortion drug. This leaves

CVS customers with conflicting messages.

It seems clear that these companies have not considered the full consequences of dispensing this lethal drug. They have already had to deal with employees who refuse to dispense certain contraceptives based on moral or religious grounds. They should expect many more to refuse to play a part in abortions.

Let us also consider the way Planned Parenthood pushed to get webcam abortions that used the pills. They sought to bring abortion to rural areas, where abortionists were unlikely to work. Now, pharmacies will provide abortions in similar communities.

Toilet abortions (I'll call it that based on where the victims end up after the pill does what it does) involve pain and blood. It's not just some pill that makes symptoms disappear. But how much pain and blood is too much? How can a woman know? Even abortion

providers rate the "normal" pain level as roughly 7 out of 10.

If a woman determines something is wrong, rather than normal, how likely is it that she will call for help? Many women seek to hide their abortions.

If she calls for help in a city, she may find the help she needs. But rural areas don't always have the hospitals that are equipped enough to deal with such situations. Not every hospital can deal with the consequences.

Now, imagine that the girls who get the abortion didn't even visit a doctor or an abortionist, but merely bought the pills from a local drug store. These stores will become complicit in these deaths, not only of the children, but of their mothers.

Students for Life plans a protest of these drug stores, and 40 Days for Life will allow campaigns outside of them when there isn't already an abortion provider or Planned Parenthood in the community. 🇺🇸



Spiritual Connections

Background

It is said that what we see in the physical world reflects what happens in the spiritual realm. As a very simple example, in the gospels, we see people who have spiritual faith and are healed.

God can provide justice by granting to people that which they seek, including all the problems that come with anything that is not of God. Likewise, demons are very legalistic and when one puts oneself under the authority of a demon, things will conform to the way that demon operates, which tends to align with the sin. Punishments align with justice in the natural world, plus the spiritual world, both good and bad.

Ransom Street

David Bereit shared a powerful story connecting abortion to the spiritual. Watch it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oidEr46LjYQ>

Mexico

I was reminded of this more recently when watching a video

about what's been going on in Mexico in recent years.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UK-feo1pljY>

What was revealed is not something everyone must believe, and always approach such sources with caution. However, when they looked at what was claimed and matched it to the statistics, the correlation became clear.

The demons that dominated what is now Mexico many centuries ago were back. These were the demons in power when human sacrifices were commonplace. As people have stopped honoring God, and in particular as Mexico legalized abortion, the demons regained power and authority over the area. They claimed that the way the children were treated in abortions were replicated in the murders committed by gangs and cartels. The children were cut up in abortion, and then placed in black bags. As abortions increased, so did murders among adults. The victims were cut into pieces and placed into black bags.

United States

I then thought about how the FDA was approving pill-based abortions at an unprecedented scale. They pushed to allow sending it through the mail, making it available at thousands of corner pharmacies across the nation, etc. If the people seek to end life through pills, then justice will dictate that people will die through pills.

I then thought about the increasing deaths from drug overdoses, which are increasingly happening from pill-based drugs. Fentanyl has been so deadly that it doesn't make much sense for drug dealers to distribute it. Yet, there is another drug even more deadly that has emerged in the past year that's many times worse.

Might the increase in drug-related deaths in the United States result from the justice dished out for pill-based abortions? If so, things could get much worse very quickly. Let's not welcome abortion here. 🇺🇸

Pro-Life Challenge



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

Jenifer (pro-lifer with health issues);
Çantana (pro-lifer);
Minnesota; 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!



40 Days for Life

On February 22nd, we will once again begin our spring 40 Days for Life campaign. With all that is going on, we need everyone's prayers and efforts. Can you commit to filling at least one 1-hour time slot in the first full week of the campaign? Can you pray that we get a great increase in the number of participants, and that they are people who will pray fervently? We want to fill as many time slots as possible. Please try to invite your friends and family. The most effective way to get more people to participate is through a personal ask.

When we all do what we can, inviting others, participating ourselves, and when we pray fervently, recognizing the power of prayer, we can transform this culture to make a culture of life thrive in our area. I've had friends and even coworkers join me on the sidewalk because of such asks. I even remember a time from several years ago when I went out to pray and was alone. I was comfortable that way, but thought it was time to pray for someone to join me. Upon finishing that prayer, I looked up and saw a coworker who I had never seen out

there approaching me to join me in prayer.

Since our 40 Days for Life activities start about a month after the Cedar Rapids March for Life, we do not plan to have a kick-off rally. Let us start strong, and then try to keep up the momentum! May we invite God and those who follow Him to that space.

We do plan to have our usual closing rally at the end of the 40 days. But we will provide details about that in the future. The 40 days have yet to begin. But as requested earlier in this article, we would greatly appreciate it if you pray from now until the 40 days begin, whether at home or on the sidewalk. The prayers can benefit our local campaign. But prayers can also help the overall 40 Days campaigns around the world.

We ask for prayers in advance in the same way that one warms up before engaging in a sporting competition/game. Let us not start cold, but warm up. Let us invite God to work great things in our area. Then, the 40 days can be fruitful! 🙏

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