

## 40 Days of Lent ... and Life

### “40 Days for Life” Has Stunning Track

**Record** 9,699 lives have been saved, 107 abortion workers have quit, and 60 abortion centers have been closed since launching in 2007, and it is rapidly becoming a worldwide movement.

The visible, public centerpiece of 40 Days for Life is a focused, 40-day, non-stop prayer vigil outside a single Planned Parenthood center or other abortion facility **in your community**. It is a peaceful and educational presence. Those who are called to stand witness by their presence send a powerful message to the community about the tragic reality of abortion. It also serves as a call to repentance for those who work at the abortion center and those who patronize the facility.

40 Days for Life takes a determined, peaceful approach to showing local communities the consequences of abortion in their own neighborhoods, for their own friends and families. It puts into action a desire to cooperate with God in the carrying out of His plan for the end of abortion. It draws attention to the evil of abortion through the use of a **three-point program**: 1) prayer and fasting, 2) community outreach, and 3) peaceful vigil.

#### **Specific prayer requests seek God's help for:**

- Women who are at risk of having an abortion
- Innocent children who are at risk of perishing
- Men/ women who carry the pain of an abortion experience
- Workers at Planned Parenthood and abortion centers
- Local, regional, and national leaders
- Revival and renewal in our churches
- Repentance and healing throughout our nation

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*Priests for Life and I are delighted to have been involved in 40 Days for Life from its inception, and to share the vision & trumpet the call that the Body of Christ belongs in front of abortion centers, to turn despair into hope & death into life!*

Fr. Frank Pavone, Priests for Life

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While hundreds of campaigns are ongoing in the USA during this Lent, for NJ residents there are two 40-Day projects: one in Montclair and the other in Morristown. Why not **devote an hour on a day or two of your choice** during Lent to participate? (The weather is even cooperating and getting warmer.) All major TV and newspaper outlets have done stories about it. Please visit [40daysforLife.com](http://40daysforLife.com) for more info, or contact this news editor.

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### Facts Planned Parenthood Doesn't Want You to Know

1. Numerous reports over the years about abuses and **lack of proper health procedures** undermine PP's statement that they perform "safe" abortions. Not only are developing human beings killed, but also many women are victimized in such clinics.

2. While overall operations have stagnated in recent years, PP's **abortion business is growing**. In 2013, it enforced its nationwide mandate that every affiliate perform abortions. In that year, 327,653 babies were killed by PP abortions.

3. PP has lied about the "services" it provides to women. Though claiming to offer various health services, no PP clinic is authorized to perform procedures such as mammograms. PP clinics in Indiana, for example, serve less than 1% of the state's Medicaid patients but provide **more than 50% of the state's abortions**.

4. Testimony by former PP employees as well as audited financial statements suggest that some PP affiliates **commingle funds**, so that taxpayer dollars support their abortion businesses.

According to American United for Life, taxpayer funding of PP should be ended, nationally and at the state level.

[Source: [www.aul.org](http://www.aul.org)]

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To believe in Jesus demands of us that we take a stand for him, almost to the point at times of a new martyrdom, the martyrdom of those who, today as yesterday, are called to go against the tide in order to "follow the Lamb wherever he goes." (Rev 14:4) St. John Paul II

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### Spotlight on a New Book

**Ramona Trevino's *Redeemed by Grace*** is "a riveting story" by one reviewer, "an enthralling, page-turning memoir" by another. Pregnant at 16, she dropped out of school, entered an abusive marriage, and got divorced. Wanting to help girls in similar tough situations, she became manager of a Planned Parenthood facility. She began to question whether she was doing women more harm than good. Her struggle to reconcile her identity as a daughter of God in a world of mixed messages make this a book you won't want to put down.

After her exodus from Planned Parenthood, Ramona became an international speaker and prolife advocate, defending the sanctity of life. **For book information**, visit [www.ignatius.com](http://www.ignatius.com) or call 800-651-1531.

## Catholic Students Further Cause for Unborn on Secular College Campuses

A note sent by a self-described “nonreligious” student acknowledged that the pro-life movement on campus provided a “new definition of what it means to be a human being” and an understanding of **why being pro-life is the better choice**. This happened at the University of Georgia. Other college pro-life groups are having similar success.

There are Boston University Students for Life, Choose Life at Yale, and many others across the nation, aided by resources and training provided by Students for Life of America. Amy Syter, 27, is involved in the pro-life group at Georgia as a 5<sup>th</sup>-year PhD student. Her passion for actively promoting the sanctity of life came as a result of her conversion to Catholicism in 2012. “The Eucharist made me confront the reality of the Incarnation. The mind-blowing truth that **God made himself a vulnerable fetus** in Mary’s womb challenged me to love pregnant women as if they were Mary carrying Jesus.”

Sylvia Olejnik, a junior, is President of Boston Univ.’s group. Some join, she says, “because they are genuinely curious; while some are incredibly passionate about helping pregnant mothers on campus.” She says that the “pro-choice student group can seem more appealing to students because it advocates ‘sexual freedom’ without acknowledging the potential of another human coming into existence.”

“My interest in abortion began when I wrote a term paper for ninth-grade biology on stem cells,” recalled Courtney McEachon, 21-year-old Catholic & Yale senior. “After that paper, the nagging began: If the produce of conception is a baby, if a baby really is a person with intrinsic moral value, then **abortion is murder**, and worse than the injustice itself is perhaps the silence surrounding it. Since then, I’ve been passionate about the pro-life movement.”

Regarding lessons learned, Olejnik observed: “I have learned to be smart, to be a good listener and to be courageous. I need not worry, because God will speak through me in the moments that matter most.” [Source: Katie Warner, *National Catholic Register*, 2/22/15]

## 2015 New Jersey Right to Life Banquet

On Friday, April 17, NJRTL will host its 2015 banquet dinner at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Brunswick. Confirmed speakers so far include **Andrea Tantaros**, co-host of the TV shows *The Five* and *Outnumbered*, and **James O’Keefe**, investigative journalist and filmmaker, founder of Project Veritas, & Rutgers alumnus. This is a great way to socialize & be inspired. Register at NJRTL, 732-562-0562.

## Feminist Speaks Out

Recently asked by CNN to write a column “I’m a Feminist, and I’m Against Abortion,” Erika Bachiochi said: “I became disgusted with the idea put forth by abortion advocates that the road out of poverty requires the elimination of poor children through abortion. The solution of throwing abortion & contraception at the poor is not really answering the needs of their hearts & the needs of their communities.”

Over time, Bachiochi found that abortion was no longer in keeping with her feminist views. “Questioning abortion in a serious way” was a starting point for her coming back to the Church. “I think **it’s strange that we would ever think that it’s a pro-woman stance for a mother to be against her own child**. The feminist position started as a pro-life one – the early American feminists were, of course, pro-life. And then abortion hijacked feminism.”

The feminist desire to give women autonomy and independence is admirable, “but there’s a great percentage of our lives when we are dependent and vulnerable.”

She continued: “Women have to do something violent to reach the level of autonomy that men have: They have to kill their own children. We’ve got that all backwards.

**When we devalue the unborn child, we devalue the work that the mother does.** The key is valuing motherhood on a cultural level while also valuing women for all other contributions that they make on so many other levels.” [Source: Marge Fenelon, *National Catholic Register*, 2/22/15]

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*Among all the variety of temperaments there will always be someone who suits me and who has the right word to say to me.*

*As human beings we are here so that God can come to other people through us. He always comes to people through people.*

*We, too, always come to him through other people who are being led by him, in whom he meets us & opens us up to him.*

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

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## Interfaith Groups Strengthen Marriages

Canavox (a voice for Cana) seeks to educate people on what marriage between a man and a woman is and how it really works (canavox.com). It fosters small groups nationwide that read & discuss marriage and same-sex attraction, cohabitation, pornography, and 3<sup>rd</sup> party reproduction. Participants in 14 states are sharing what they’re learning with their friends, families and communities.

Leaders say the groups are a safe place to **share views now unpopular in the broader culture**. Lack of strong marriage affects homelessness, child trafficking and other social maladies. The cure is to strengthen the marriage culture. [S. Klemond, *Our Sunday Visitor*, 2/22/15.]