

Ministering to the Least & Youngest

Christ the Redeemer, Canonsburg, PA

by Robin Ferguson

One of the most defining attributes of humans as a whole is our pursuit of importance. We seek to be prized and respected by friends and loved ones, co-workers, and fellow church members. Our human desire is to see ourselves as better, different, and apart from the rest.

Of course, the Gospel has a tendency of going against our comfortable, self-absorbed ways (the author not excluded from this assessment!).

God does not call us to personal glory but to ministry, to care for those both in and outside of the Church. Even the word “ministry,” derived from the Greek words *diakoneo*, meaning “to serve” or *douleuo*, meaning “to serve as a slave,” opposes our sensibilities—not only must we serve others but serve sacrificially, just as Christ did!

Because of this calling, the Church has been ministering to people and communities for as long as those faithful to God’s Word have been gathering together. Ministry isn’t pretty—it is often difficult and uncomfortable. And it is certainly not glamorous. But it can be beautiful seeing lives changed, hearts touched, and God’s love felt by those who do not know Him. Ministries are not created by important people—they are built by every hand held, in every gift given, and, sometimes, through every diaper collected.

An example of an excellent ministry is the Christ the Redeemer Diaper Pantry in Canonsburg, PA. The parish has been hosting a monthly diaper distribution since February 2015. Their ministry has grown and includes additional diaper drives in neighboring areas.

Emily Nugent, one of the Diaper Pantry Board of Directors and main organizers, shared that the ministry did not start

with such auspicious beginnings. “The church vestry had been looking for ways to reach out to the community, but nothing had really caught on.” Inspiration dawned when Deacon Regis Turocy and Rector David Wilson found an article in the *Catholic Herald* about diaper banks and shared it as a ministry idea. Especially in poverty stricken areas, inadequate diaper supplies force

parents to leave children in soiled diapers, leading to diaper rash or more serious problems, such as staph or urinary tract infections.

“It was really a God moment,” she shared, “I normally don’t talk in vestry meetings, but God told me to speak up and so I looked into it. I just couldn’t imagine, being a mother myself, not having diapers for my children.” The Christ the Redeemer Church now runs the only Diaper Pantry in Washington County.



One of the youngest (and most excited) volunteers at the Diaper Pantry!

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The planning and formation of the ministry began in 2014, and by February 2015 they were ready for their first distribution. “No one came the first month,” Emily said, laughing, “I cried. I was pregnant at the time, so that didn’t help, but I cried when no one came.” Luckily, news about their ministry spread through the community and, at the next month’s distribution, 28 families came. The numbers have continued to increase. In August 2016 100 families and 150 children were given diapers. At the August distribution the Pantry also passed the 100,000 mark in total diapers distributed since its inauguration in February 2014. The pantry has also expanded to distributing food, clothing, shoes, toys, books, and other items.

Distribution day can be a hectic but positive experience. They distribute the 3rd Saturday of every month from 9am-12:30pm. “It’s a crazy day,” Emily said, “Lots of people coming in and getting diapers and leaving. But some people will come and speak to us, reaching out for prayer. Although we’re not allowed to ‘preach’ to them, because we’re associated with the National Diaper Bank Network, if people ask for prayer, some of our deacons will take them aside and pray with them. We’ll add them to our prayer list and invite them to our regular services and vacation bible school. We also send them information about our Christmas and Easter services. But we mostly try our best to help the families and just be there for them.”

As well as the community at large, Christ the Redeemer has been positively impacted by this ministry. In 2012 Christ the Redeemer, previously St. David’s Episcopal Church in Peters Township, lost its building after the parish moved to the ACNA. Moving towns also meant they lost some parishioners, and that those who did move with the church did not, by and large, belong to the Canonsburg community. “The Diaper Pantry

has brought the church closer,” Emily said, “The move, the relocation, trying to rebuild, and working the pantry—it’s opened people’s eyes and helped us become more of a family.”

The parishioners of Christ the Redeemer have also really taken on the day to day needs of the ministry. The pantry’s Board of Directors is made up of church members, and many of the donors to the ministry are church members or local businesses with ties to the church. But the lay people of Christ the Redeemer have not only given their finances but something more valuable—their time. Nearly all the volunteers on work days and distribution days are church members, including entire families of all ages. “A 94-year-old man gets a ride to come and wrap diapers every distribution day!” Emily said, “There are also toddlers who come and practice writing letters and numbers on packages of diapers. This is a church family effort.”

Beginning a life-affirming ministry like this can be intimidating, but often the easiest way to start is to see what is already being done. “Look for a larger national affiliation,” Emily recommended, “We’re associated with the National Diaper Bank, and they gave us a lot of help on how to start and what paperwork to fill out. Find a bigger level of what you want to start.” Many of us feel the pressure of having to “recreate the wheel,” but often we can follow the lead of other successful ministries!



Above: Full shelves from full hearts! The Diaper Pantry has distributed 100,000 diapers since February 2014. Below: The Pantry also collects children’s toys, clothing, baby food, and other necessary items for families.



Still, the most important part of the Diaper Pantry is not just the diapers, but that God’s love is present and shared. “I looked up the statistics, one in three mothers struggle to get clean diapers. These women are stressed and worried and feel the social stigma. We want to provide a

more nurturing environment for mom and child, and to show them that there are good Christians out there who want to help them, who are going to love them and serve them.”

We applaud the work and dedication of the Christ the Redeemer Diaper Pantry ministry. Their life-affirming work bears witness to the Church’s value for Life and the need for all the people of God to defend, honor, and celebrate those made in God’s image. We pray that not only will their work provide diapers for children and families in need but will also demonstrate Christ’s love for all people of all ages.

Greetings Friends of Anglicans for Life!

I have always found the saying, “hit the ground running” a great description of how I work here at Anglicans for Life!

Well ‘hit the ground running’ really describes my return to work after my annual staycation this August! Robin had set-up a conference call with David Bereit from 40 Days for Life, Janet Morana (the other co-founder of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign), and me in my first days back to work.

David called to ask Janet and I if the Silent No More Awareness Campaign would join the 40 Days for Life in the 40 Day Nationwide United Tour visiting all 50 states for 64 Rallies and additional an 64 brief visits at 40 Days for Life vigils being held.

David explained that as their leadership team prayed over the summer, they felt called to do more than the typical 40 Day Campaign did. They recognized the angst that our nation is experiencing and wanted to draw together a group of organizations that represented the key elements they felt could help address the culture of killing that has overtaken America.

Starting with the youth, they enlisted Students for Life, then recognizing the need to make sure people knew about the helpful resources offered by Christians, they brought on Heartbeat International Pregnancy Resource Centers. David and his team also wanted to inspire people to continue the public witness for life beyond the 40 days, so they invited the National March for Life folks to get involved. Given that it is an election year, they also felt it was important to call people to take their right to vote seriously, so the Susan B. Anthony List was invited to join. Finally, recognizing the importance of testimony against killing by abortion, they asked the Silent No More Awareness Campaign to join this outstanding group of organizations to bear witness to the destruction that abortion has on the unborn, the parents, the families and our culture.

Janet and I were beyond happy to say YES! We loved the opportunity to get our team of Regional Coordinators and SNM Speakers out to share their testimonies at the Rally and Vigil stops on the United Tour.

This is from the 40 Days Press Release:

“Poll after poll reveals that an overwhelming majority of Americans feel our nation is on the wrong track,” said 40 Days for Life CEO David Bereit, “and when pressed, many respondents cite growing disillusionment with politics and government, along with frustration over increasing attacks against faith, family, religious freedom, and human life. It’s time for this to change.”

The UNITED tour will make stops in more than 125 cities to hold rallies and prayer vigils that will encourage Christians to stand together for the sanctity of life all across the nation.

“Since 40 Days for Life started in 2007,” said 40 Days for Life

Anglicans for Life & Priests for Life Co-sponsor the Silent No More Awareness Campaign

president Shawn Carney, “we have recognized that although abortion is a national problem, it does not happen in the White House, in Congress, or in the Supreme Court. Abortion takes place in hometowns across America – and it will end, and is ending, in hometowns across America, one by one.”

40 Days for Life campaigns consist of 40 days of prayer and fasting, community outreach, and constant, peaceful vigil in the public right-of-way outside abortion facilities. The volunteers who pray at these vigils have witnessed answers to their prayers, including: 11,796 babies saved from abortion, 133 workers who have left the abortion industry, and 75 abortion centers which closed their doors forever following 40 Days for Life vigils.

“People of faith sometimes feel alone in their efforts to end abortion,” said 40 Days for Life North American campaign director Steve Karlen. “We can’t wait to hit the road with the UNITED tour to show that we are all in this together and with God’s blessings, abortion in this country will come to an end. We encourage every pro-life American to learn more at www.40daysunited.com and come out and join us!”



A few days after saying yes to the United Tour, I came across a testimony from one of our Regional Coordinators (RC). She shared how a conversation with me encouraged her to attend a healing program. Once she experienced true forgiveness for her abortion she felt free from guilt and shame. Since becoming an RC after her healing experience, she now leads an abortion after-care program in a new pregnancy center she helped found in Idaho.

Her testimony reminded me how important the message of the Silent

No More Awareness Campaign is and why this opportunity to share testimony at 125 locations nationwide is a gift from God.

I am fasting and praying fervently that God will use our stories to touch the hearts of thousands of people who feel the shame and grief that abortion causes. May contrite hearts find the love and forgiveness offered by our great Lord and Savior. As of this writing we will have speakers scheduled to share at all but three rallies, and I will be speaking at 5-7 locations, covering rallies and vigils where we do not have a SNM Volunteers, so I will indeed be hitting the ground running starting September 27th! Please join us in praying and following the tour on AFL’s social media!

Deacon Georgette Forney, President, AFL

Life Connections



Anglicans **FOR LIFE** Canada

On May 12, 2016 Anglicans for Life Canada joined with thousands of pro-lifers for the national March for Life in Ottawa, Ontario, as well as province-based marches in Victoria, British Columbia; Edmonton, Alberta; Winnipeg, Manitoba; and Halifax, Nova Scotia. Many faithful Anglicans attended, bearing both signs and a willingness to defend the sacredness of Life!

First, thank you to the bishops, clergy, and laity who witnessed for the Sanctity of Human Life across Canada. Secondly, thank you to the AFLC co-ordinators who organized the many details in gathering and sharing information, procured signs and hats, took pictures, and led their teams at the March.

CANADA Marches On!

The witness of ordained and laity at the national marches is especially important now that assisted suicide and euthanasia has been legalized in Canada and further efforts are now being made to widen the parameters of who is “eligible” (the Canadian Bar Association is now pressing for euthanasia for people suffering psychological illnesses and dementia, and even children) for death. The Church must be a unified witness for the importance of all Life, from conception to natural death.

May our efforts help women chose life, encourage the Church to defend the elderly and vulnerable, and guide others to healing and help that can only from Christ alone. To God the Glory!

Some of the co-coordinators shared some of their experiences from the day of the March:



Victoria, British Columbia

Rev'd Richard Roberts: “We had a great day in Victoria today. Bp. Trevor Walters was introduced and did a bit of a lead into a magnificent opening prayer. We had about 17 people!”

Winnipeg, Manitoba

AFLC thanks Archdeacon Paul Crossland and members of his parish who joined in their local March as identifiable Anglicans by carrying AFLC signs and wearing AFLC hats!



Edmonton, Alberta

Nancy Craig: “We were about 20 Anglicans, 15 of us all together from Christ the King. Many comments from our group about the effectiveness of those green hats in helping us find one another in the crowd! Brilliant!”



Halifax, Nova Scotia

Cathy Ashton: “As for our Anglicans for Life, there were eight of us, ranging in age from 6 to 86. We gathered first for the noon mass, during which the archbishop mentioned the need to pray and work for the sanctity of life. Along the route we, also, gave one of our

signs to a lady who asked if she could join us. We walked from the Basilica about six blocks to Province House, where we stopped to pray outside the back door, and then walked quietly right around the grounds, returning to the same spot to pray again. A very quiet event, but those who participated are eager to go back next year!”



Ottawa, Ontario



Rev. Vicky Hedelius: “On the steps of the Parliament, Canon Jack Lumanog (ACNA) and Bishop Charlie Masters (ANiC) joined with other Church Leaders, MPs, and Dignitaries to witness to the Sanctity of Human Life. AFLC bishops, clergy, and laity joined with the Silent No More Campaign Team and thousands of other groups. The March route was rerouted and shortened by the Ottawa Police for safety reasons, in response to actions on the part of a militant opposition group. The message of God’s Love prevailed and the March was completed! Later, on the Hill, members from the Silent No More Campaign shared their grace-filled stories!”



AFLC salutes our most senior clergy member
(93 years young!)
Thank You, Rev'd Dorothy Thorpe!



Anglicans for Life is a 501(c)(3) tax-deductible organization, supported by churches, individuals, and foundations. Your donation makes it possible for us to uphold the biblical standard of the Sanctity of Life.

Please use the enclosed envelope to make a donation!

A financial statement is available upon request.

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Supreme Court Ruling Favors Abortion Access over Women's Safety

On June 27th this year the Supreme Court issued its most influential ruling on abortion since upholding the federal ban against partial-birth abortions in *Gonzales v. Carhart* in 2007—unfortunately, unlike the prior case, this ruling will not save lives but further endanger both the unborn and women having abortions.

The Court ruled 5-3 against the Texas law H.B. 2 which required that abortion clinics meet the same building standards as ambulatory surgical centers and that abortionists have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals for situations of medical emergencies. These laws were created to protect women's health and welfare by requiring abortion clinics to follow medical and safety standards that legitimate medical centers meet.

In the written decision, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer wrote that “the surgical-center requirement, like the admitting privileges requirement, provides few, if any, health benefits for women, poses a substantial obstacle to women seeking abortions and constitutes an ‘undue burden’ on their constitutional right to do so.” This ruling has set a precedent for states considering implementing clinic regulating laws, effectively nullifying them.

Since the Court has issued the ruling that basic medical and safety standards created an “undue burden” on women, lives have already been damaged and lost. One woman was hospitalized after going into a clinic in St. Louis, MO, where there have been 60 cases of patients sent to the emergency room since 2009, and another woman, 24-year-old Cree Erwin, died just three days after her abortion at Planned Parenthood in Kalamazoo, MI, after going to the emergency room for abortion complications. The cruel irony here is that abortion was supposedly legalized to protect women who were harmed by or died from “back-alley” abortions. Now the “back-alleys” are out in the open in clinics nationwide, protected under the new value of ease of access to abortion, instead of the protection of women.

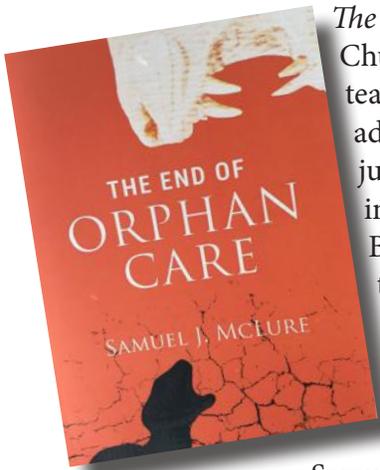
We are disappointed and grieved about the Supreme Court ruling and encourage everyone to pray for the unborn and the women who are now endangered. But we will not give up our work to share the truth. We are ever recommitting ourselves to never being silent about the harm caused by abortion.

Book Review

The End of Orphan Care

by Georgette Forney

Many Christians are familiar with the teaching found in James 1:27, that pure religion means visiting the orphans in their afflictions. But who are “orphans”? What does it mean to “visit”? And why does the Church need to worry about this, anyway?



The End of Orphan Care calls the Church to not only follow James' teaching but to embody it, to adopt and care for the orphan just as we have been adopted into Christ. Through extensive Biblical study, a survey of the historical position of the Church, and an exploration of the potential methods that the Church can use today to care for the fatherless, author

Samual J. McLure issues a clarion

call to the Church—it is not only a recommendation to care for the orphan and the fatherless, it is the very definition of Christianity.

This is highly recommended to clergy and laity looking to understand the importance caring not only for the orphan, but all vulnerable people, from the unborn to at risk youth in our cities and neighborhoods.

You can purchase the book on Amazon.

In Honor

Anglicans for Life joins Janet Wilkerson in honoring the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Nancy & Joe Norton.

Life Leaders & Chapters in Action!

Light of Life Anglican Church, Heathsville, VA

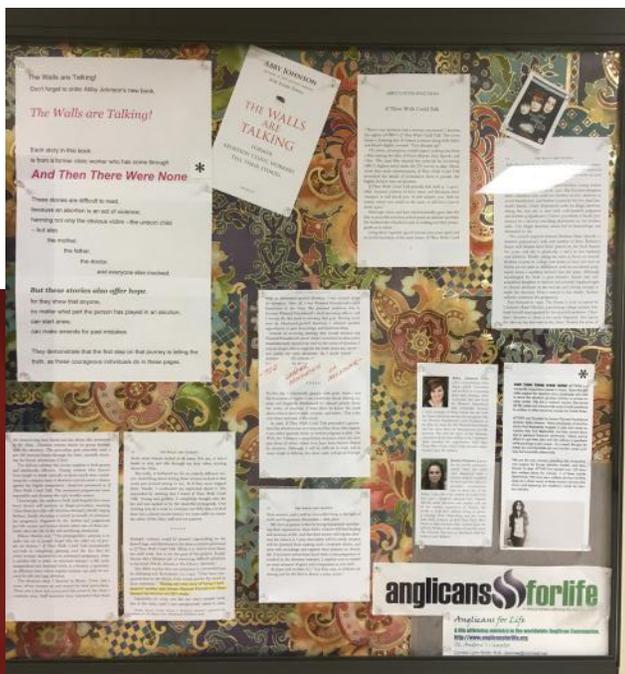


The women at Light of Life Anglican Church in Heathsville, VA have been actively addressing life issues this year. This April, at their Spring Gathering they collected baby clothes and participated in the Walk for Life in Richmond, VA to benefit the Pregnancy Resource Center. This fall, the women met and watched Human Life Alliance's new DVD, *INFORMED: Life is Worth Living* that focuses on current problems in the healthcare industry.



St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Mt. Pleasant, SC

Lynn keeps the congregation informed about life issues using a small billboard in the hallway. She updates it quarterly.



Lynn Smith is the Chapter Leader at St. Andrew's Anglican, Mt. Pleasant, SC. During a recent visit there, Lynn showed me how they sell their two after-abortion healing books, *Forgiven and Set Free* and *Living in Color*. They include a brief note from Bp. Steve Wood, rector at St. Andrew's that reads:

*If you have purchased this book, congratulations!
You have taken a big step toward recovery, and every journey begins with a first step.
Please start by reading the "Introduction," because it offers important suggestions to help you get the most from this book.
A useful recommendation is that you find either a support group (866-222-XXXX) or set up weekly one-on-one meetings with a mentor, counselor, or pastor to offer wisdom and encouragement to you as you complete the study.
If you would like assistance in finding a mentor through St. Andrew's, you may contact...*

We love this idea for your church if you have a bookstore or library. So many folks need to know that God forgives all sins, even abortion. This simple outreach could change the life of someone hurting after abortion.

AFL is pleased to announce that we are participating in the 2017 Combined Federal Campaign.

Government Employees who wish to donate to AFL may use this code:

22932



questions? email
admin@anglicansforlife.org



It's HERE!

The new Anglicans For Life website is up and running. Loaded with resources and educational information, it was created with you in mind! There is a special section for priests to find life-affirming sermons and a new feature on the front page that answers the most common questions people ask us.



Check it out today: www.AnglicansForLife.org



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Thursday, January 26, 2017
Summit 2017

at The Falls Church Anglican in Falls Church, VA

Anglicans will gather together to strategize, motivate, and mobilize our Church for Life-based outreach. The Summit will have great teachings, testimonies, and opportunities to network.

There will also be time for you and your team to meet and discuss how to mobilize your folks at home!

Friday, January 27, 2017
Pre-March Anglican Worship Service
Falls Church, VA
March for Life
Washington, D.C.



Registration Information:

www.AnglicanDOMA.org/Summit2017

Sponsored by Anglicans for Life & Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic