

carpe diem

for Life!

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Why Life Is Important by Georgette Forney

One of the most common themes revealed in an in-depth study of Scriptures is the sanctity of life. The Bible tells us that human life has value because we are created by God. Males and females are made in God's image (Genesis 1:27). In Jesus' death on the cross, God shows his love for human life in sacrificing His Son to redeem us. Finally, in our Lord's resurrection and victory over death, God declares the sacredness of human life by availing to us eternal life with Him through Jesus. (1 John 5:11-12)

The Bible is the Word of Life from beginning to end.

It declares the sanctity of life in its description of God's sovereignty. Deuteronomy 32:39: *See now that I myself am He! There is no god besides me. I put to death, and I bring to life, I have wounded, and I will heal, and no one can deliver out of my hand.*

It declares the sanctity of life in its discussion of the incarnation. John 3:16: *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

It declares the sanctity of life in its explanation of Christ's redemption. 2 Timothy 1:10: *But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*

It declares the sanctity of life in its exposition of ethical justice. Genesis 9:6: *Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.*

It declares the sanctity of life in its exhortation to covenantal mercy. James 1:27: *Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*

And God Himself declares himself to be life, as the author of life:

Deuteronomy 30:19-20: *This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life.*

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

In addition to Scripture, our Christian heritage reflects a legacy of bearing witness to the sacredness of all life, both born and unborn. A review of Christian history highlights the success previous generations had in obeying God's call to defend and honor His gift of life.

Early Christian church documents such as the Didache and the Epistle of Barnabas promote a reverence for life. The Didache is a compilation of the apostolic moral teachings from the first century and it states: "There are two ways: the way of life and the way of death, and the difference between these two ways is great. Therefore, do not murder a child by abortion or kill a newborn infant." Tertullian, a third century apologist connected the Sanctity of life with the very integrity of the Gospel in his Apology: "Our faith declares life out of death... We may not destroy even the fetus in the womb. To hinder a birth is merely a speedier man killing. Thus it does not matter whether you take away a life that is born, or destroy one that is coming to the birth. In both instances, destruction is murder." The early Christian Church also put their belief in the sanctity of life into action. Christians rescued babies that had been abandoned to exposure and adopted and taught the children the way of the Lord. Additionally, Christians offered charity and refuge to pregnant temple prostitutes, founded hospitals, established orphanages, and started rescue missions and relief agencies.

See "Life Is Important," on p. 2 →

"Life Is Important," from p. 1

The church continued its work in the upcoming centuries. In the 17th century Vincent de Paul discovered midwives performing illegal abortions in the slums of Paris and organized medical relief and lobbied for civil justice. He wrote that "Christ's gift to us as a people is life... To protect the least of these, our brethren, with everything that God has placed at our disposal is not merely facultative, it is exigent. In addition though, it is among the greatest and most satisfying of our sundry stewardships."

As well as individuals, the Church has also had a hand in preserving the sanctity of life. In the late 1880, after a series of articles began exposing the deaths of women from abortion, church leaders took up the cause for life, including the Right Reverend Arthur Cleveland Cox, Episcopal Bishop of the New York Diocese. In an interview for the August 4th, 1868 issue of *The Christian Mirror*, he stated "Though physicians and journalists have laid much of the groundwork for the exposure of this awful crime against God and man, it was the Christian churches, all of the churches across the broad spectrum of denomination and sect, that have brought hope and help to the innocents. For a glittering moment, I have seen Christ's Body as one." It was this unified effort among Christians, journalists, physicians, politicians, and feminists that made abortion illegal in the United States by the end of the 18th century.

Scripture and our church fathers' ministry for life both serve as a model, reminding us that with God's help we too can make a difference for life.

LAW OR LOVE?

Defending the sanctity of life is not one issue among many for Christians to consider getting involved in. Upholding the sanctity of life is a mandate in Scripture. The Bible directs God's people and His Church to protect life, care for one another, and make disciples. Historical precedent also indicates that the church and all of God's people must stand up for life in a fallen world.

However, should we consider defending the sanctity of life to be a Scriptural legal obligation? Or are we inspired by God's love to protect life in a culture of death?

The simple answer? Both.

Each day every human being makes a variety of decisions. Some decisions are critical, others are not. Deciding whether we want chocolate ice cream is not a life-changing decision. Deciding whether we believe in God and want to walk as a Christian is. Once someone becomes a Christian and accepts Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, he will still make many choices. However, what we don't get to decide is what is morally right and wrong.

As believers, we have Scripture as our authority. It starts with the basic facts: God is the Creator of everything. Scripture defines His

laws. It communicates His love and promises. It is also explicit in describing His judgment. The Bible is our relationship manual with the Triune God. Therefore, if we call ourselves Christians and conduct our lives as His Church, we must adhere to His Word. We don't get to choose what parts of Scripture we like and want to obey. For Christians, every idea, concept, and theory must be brought captive to Him and vetted by Scripture. Oswald Chambers says it best, "To become one with Jesus Christ, a person must be willing not only to give up sin but also to surrender his whole way of looking at things."

1 John 3:9-14 helps add perspective to this issue. *No one who is born of God will continue to sin... because he has been born of God. Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother... we know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death.*

Once we have been born again in Christ, we cannot continue sinning or hating our brothers—because our lives have been transformed by the love of Christ and His love for us. Therefore, a love of life—for lives of unborn children, elderly, and those most vulnerable—is a natural reflection of Christ's love for each of us; it is not as much a requirement of Christian life as a privilege of it. So while we must be obedient to God's word because we believe that the Scripture is our authority here on earth, we are also, as followers of Christ, inspired by the Holy Spirit to defend, love, respect and protect life.

So where is this natural and Gospel-required response to defend life in the church? Do God's people place life low on the priority list of Christian concerns? Has the abortion debate overshadowed the sanctity of life? Life is now tied directly to the question of whether abortion should be legal or illegal and is typically portrayed as a political and legal issue. Forty plus years of arguments about abortion has caused the majority of people (both Christian and non-Christian) to turn a deaf ear to any discussion that use the words "sanctity of life," "abortion," "pro-life," and "pro-choice."

We at AFL are committed to helping our Christian brothers and sisters go beyond the legal issues of life, to provide loving pastoral response.

Just imagine... what our world would look like if every person in every church did one thing every day for life? Something as simple as saying a prayer for life, or donating a package of diapers to a pregnancy resource center, or visiting a senior citizen at a nursing home?

Listen to what God has placed in your heart and ignore the lies of the culture of death, obey Scripture's authority, embrace the Church's historical stance on life-issues, and be inspired by Christ's love to defend the sanctity of life.

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. A financial statement is available upon request.

405 Frederick Avenue Sewickley, PA 15143-1522 800-707-6635 Email: info@AnglicansforLife.org

AnglicansforLife.org



What Can You Do to Affirm Life?

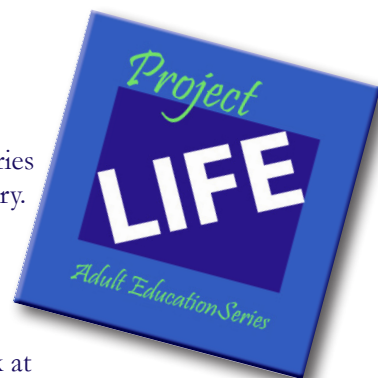
Here are more resources for your church from Anglicans for Life!

AFL's goal is to make abortion unthinkable and unnecessary!

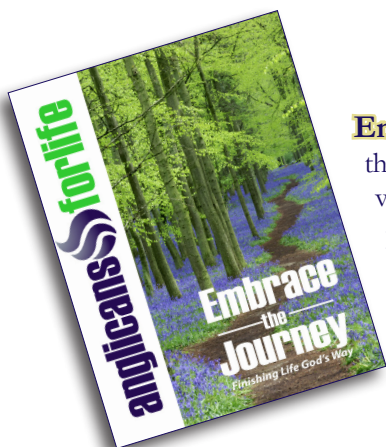
Visit our online catalog on our website for more info:

Adult Ed Curriculum

Project Life - An 8-week DVD Series that address all the life issues, and presents ideas for ministry.



Embrace the Journey - An 8-week DVD Series that takes the issues of aging and dying and provides a teaching on the variety of issues that surround the needs of the elderly. We look at planning for aging as well as what family members and the church can do to help.



Activities Calendar

Honor Life Calendar - Our unique way to educate people about life! Each month we feature a different life topic including prayers, Bible verses, activity ideas and facts on each subject.



WANT TO SEE THIS TABLE IN YOUR CHURCH?

Georgette would love to visit, speak, or present the Quasar Conference at your church.

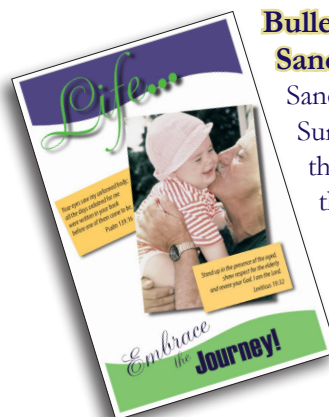
Contact Anglicans for Life today!



Service Sheet Inserts

Bulletin Inserts for Sanctity of Life Sunday

Sanctity of Life Sunday is usually the Sunday closest to January 22, the day the Supreme Court handed down the Roe v Wade decision, but it can be celebrated any time in the liturgical calendar.



AnglicansforLife.org

405 Frederick Avenue Sewickley, PA 15143
800-707-6635

AFL Prez, Georgette

spent the last 9 weeks traveling to different churches and diocese. She prayed with people, taught about the sanctity of life, and witnessed to God's grace and mercy.

Week 1

Marjorie Franko & Kathleen Demers, Life Leaders at Holy Trinity Anglican Church Marlborough, MA.

Carol Leonard, Chapter Leader at All Saints Attleboro, MA attended AFL's Workshop at the Rejoice Conference, hosted by Anglican Diocese in New England.

Week 2

Georgette with Silent No More Awareness Campaign Regional Coordinator Mary Houston & two members of the Jacksonville, FL SNMA Team.

Bob's BBQ hosted the 40 Days for Life kick off in Jacksonville, we improvised and spoke while standing on the booth bench so all could see & hear G!

Bishop Lebhar kicked off the 40 Days for Life Campaign in Jacksonville by praying in front of the local Planned Parenthood Abortion Clinic along with head of Mobile Pregnancy Center.

The children of Christ Our Hope Church parish presented AFL with this beautiful banner celebrating Life.

Week 3

Georgette spoke to the Students for Life at Colorado State University.

Christ Our Hope Church in Ft. Collins, CO hosted a Quasar Conference on Saturday, and G spoke at their Sunday Service. Pictured here: Fr. Steve Hoskins, Georgette, Chapter Leader Lee McKee, Deacons Fawn & Tom Corbin, and Lee's wonderful husband, Tom.

Week 4



Georgette got to meet Gretchen and Pat Coburn, featured in September's Carpe Diem, at the Kingdom Conference, Carlsbad, CA.

Week 5



The Rev. Christopher & Janet Leighton hosted Georgette & enjoyed a beautiful Fall afternoon at St. Paul's in Darien, CT. They held a Quasar Conference & had Georgette speak at Sunday services. Did you know Fr. Christopher was an artist?

Week 6



Life Leader Emily Miller, with Susie Dangerfield & the Rev. Tripp Jeffords from St. Paul's Conway, SC, hosted Georgette at the Adult Ed Sunday School.



Life Leader Emily Miller, Georgette, Chelsea Hamshaw, & Sam Dargan attended a Saturday AM workshop hosted at the Church of the Resurrection Surfside Beach, SC.

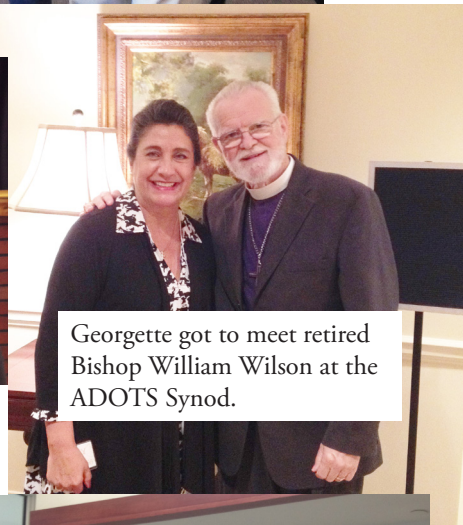
Week 7



In Atlanta, Georgette had lunch with Silent No More Awareness Campaign Regional Coordinator Jody Duffy.



Georgette attended the Anglican Diocese of the South Synod in Georgia; Life Leader Sybil Lash helped host the AFL exhibit table.



Georgette got to meet retired Bishop William Wilson at the ADOTS Synod.

Week 8

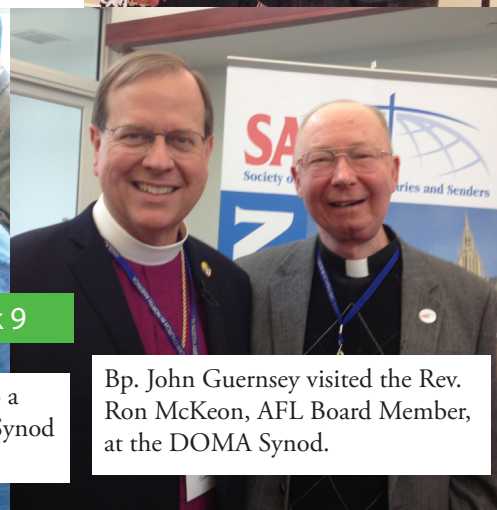


In Richmond, VA, the Rev. Canon Charles Nalls at St. Alban's Anglican Catholic Church hosted a Quasar Conference & the newly consecrated Bishop Donald F. Lerow graciously attended the conference along with 20 others from 3 different churches in the area.



Georgette explains Embrace the Journey to a visitor at the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic Synod where Georgette presented a workshop.

Week 9



Bp. John Guernsey visited the Rev. Ron McKeon, AFL Board Member, at the DOMA Synod.

In Memoriam: A Time for Grieving and A Time for Healing

by Robin Sencenbach

On a sunny Saturday in September, around 70 people gathered in a graveyard in Michigan. Both a Catholic priest and a pastor from a local Assembly of God church spoke to those attending. Children placed baby's breath on a grave marker. A dove was released, followed by a series of tolling bells. The solemnity and ceremony of the gathering would suggest a memorial service, possibly even a military funeral. And these mourners were, in fact, gathered to honor those who have lost their lives in battle—a battle fought in the consciences of the American people since January 1973 with the passage of *Roe v. Wade*.

September 14th, 2013 marked the first annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children. Memorial services were held at over 25 locations nationwide, honoring children who had been discovered in trash dumpsters behind abortion clinics, pathology labs, or shipping crates and had been rescued and given a proper burial. Some graves have hundreds or even thousands of bodies buried in them. "When the details of 'the day of rescue' were being told and the condition of these innocent little bodies explained, many of

us were crying," said Linda Raymond, Regional Coordinator for the Silent No More Awareness Campaign in Missouri, "It was very hard to hear." The memorial services offered prayer, preaching, and a time to grieve for the tragic loss of these children.

But the services also offered the opportunity for those who have lost children from abortion to experience healing and forgiveness. A number of Regional Coordinators with Silent No More attended the memorial services and found that they greatly helped with the healing process. "I believe it is beneficial for them to attend these memorials," said Kathy Gonzales, Regional Coordinator from Washington, "It is one more step that brings them closer to healing and to God's love and mercy." The location and experience even impacted those who are accustomed to sharing their abortion story. Regional Coordinator Laura Brown in Wisconsin was deeply moved by the service. "It was more emotional for me than I expected. I've given my testimony countless times, but this was a special opportunity to honor my son. It was the first time I included his name in my testimony."

The services also served to galvanize pro-life supporters and organizations. Linda Raymond wrote, "I felt as though the event had touched the hearts of some of the mourners and inspired them to take action and to be more dedicated pro-life warriors." By memorializing the gravesites of aborted children, the pro-life community both honored the children who had been lost to abortion and compelled others to see the victims of abortion not as statistics but as real human people who suffered real consequences.

Emotions were running high during most of the memorial services. "I was told afterwards that there wasn't a dry eye in the audience after my testimony," Laura Brown said, "so I hope it helped open hearts to forgiveness for post-abortive women and spread the word that there is healing." We hope and pray that hearts will remain open and that the National Day of Remembrance in September 2014 would bring out not only more mourners to honor the victims of abortion but a renewed spirit to fight for the rights of the unborn—so that one day there will be no more memorials over which to grieve.

If you or someone you know wants to learn more about abortion recovery, there is help.

AbortionForgiveness.org

www.SilentNoMoreAwareness.org

New to AFL? Welcome! We're glad you picked up our *Carpe Diem* newsletter. And if this is the first time you've heard of Anglicans for Life, read on to get an idea of who we are, what we do, and how you can join us!

God's Word is our guide when it comes to what we believe about Life. We have a passion to inspire the Church to uphold the sanctity of life in teaching and providing pastoral care. Anglicans for Life's ministry encompasses all of the life issues – abortion, abstinence, adoption, euthanasia/end of life, and embryonic stem cell research. We develop educational materials and resources and maintain a comprehensive, current website full of information about these issues.

We are a 501(c)3 para-church ministry in the Anglican Communion, with friends of many denominations. All our funding comes from individuals and local churches only.

Anglicans for Life is co-sponsor of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, which raises awareness of the devastating impact of abortion on women, men and society – and the need for healing through Christ.

Right now, there are churches and individuals sharing and applying AFL resources and the biblical view of life in all 50 states in the USA and in 22 countries around the world!

If you have a passion for life issues, get in touch with us now on our website: www.anglicansforlife.org or by calling 1-800-707-6635.

Together, we can make a difference...for LIFE!



For The Person Who Has Everything...Give Them A Gift that Honors Life!

Send a gift, of any size, as a memorial or in thanksgiving, using the form below, and the person you want to bless will receive a card from Anglicans for Life acknowledging the gift you sent in their name.

AFL, please send a Christmas Blessing card to this person:

Person(s) to be honored _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Person(s) to be honored _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please list my name in this fashion on the card:

My Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount Enclosed _____



~~ Make your tribute by December 31 ~~

To send multiple Christmas Blessings, enclose a sheet with additional names & addresses.



Make checks payable to: *Anglicans for Life*
Return this form to:

Anglicans for Life
405 Frederick Avenue
Sewickley, PA 15143



RECOMMENDED WEBSITE conceivedinrape.com

A new video just released on-line, "Conceived In Rape" is a fantastic resource for all churches. It addresses pregnancy and rape, as well as special needs children. There are lots of great interviews which will bring tears to your eyes.

This film is an absolutely blessing and AFL has complete confidence that it will change many hearts and minds!

Prayer for Life

Lord God, thank you for creating human life in your image.
Thank you for my life and the lives of those I love.
Thank you for teaching us through Scripture the value you place on life.
Help me to uphold the sanctity of life in my church and community.
Give me the strength to stand up to those forces that seek to destroy the lives of those most vulnerable, the unborn, the infirm and the elderly.
Today I commit myself to never be silent, to never be forgetful of respecting life.
I commit myself to protecting and defending the sacredness of life according to Your will, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Join Your Bishop!



March for Life

Washington DC
January 22, 2014

Walk for Life

San Francisco
January 25, 2014

The Bishops are Marching *FOR LIFE!*

✓ Please join us in Washington, DC on Wednesday, January 22, 2014!

The Rally on the Mall begins at Noon

Anglicans along with our Bishops will gather at Noon at the corner of Madison Dr. & 7th St., by the Sculpture Garden.

The March begins at 1:15 pm and concludes at the US Supreme Court

You can hear women and men from the Silent No More Awareness Campaign share testimonies at the Supreme Court.

You are welcome to the National Memorial for the Preborn and their Mothers and Fathers

Constitution Hall at 8:30 am, Wednesday morning. More info: NationalPrayerService.com

✓ And in San Francisco on Saturday, January 25, 2014!

Silent No More Awareness Campaign Testimonies

10:45 am at Civic Center Plaza

The Rally at 12:30 pm

AFL & the Bishops will meet at 12:30 pm at the Silent No More Awareness Campaign stage, on the right side of the main stage.

The Walk begins at 1:30 pm



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