



Carpe Diem

Anglicans For Life's Quarterly Newsletter



OCTOBER 2022

Seeing the Sanctity of Life as a Mission Field

The Great Commandment – Matthew 22:36-39

Canon Georgette Forney, AFL President

The Pharisees asked Jesus, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

As a new Christian attending a bible study, I remember the first time I read this passage, I thought how simple this makes being a Christian. Two rules to follow – Love God, and love my neighbor.

That seemed doable until I started asking myself "who is my neighbor?" Is my "neighbor" the people in the apartment next to me or the families living in the adjacent houses? Does it include people living across town, but in the same zip code? Who qualifies as a neighbor? While the Bible never explains in detail who we should consider a neighbor, Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37, after the lawyer asks, "who is my neighbor?" indicates that it can be a stranger or someone in need of help.

I have found some of my "neighbors" are easier to connect

with than others. Shared interests, kids around the same age, and members at the same clubs as me all make it easy to build relationships and love my neighbor. Regardless of this, it is important to remember the two things we have in common with everyone; we bear the image of God, and we are sinners!

As believers who are mission minded, and evangelical in obedience, I think we must be more intentional in seeking out the neighbors who need to hear the Gospel and feel His love. In particular, Anglicans For Life believes there are two people groups that are often overlooked when we think of our neighbors.

The first group is the elderly. Those over 65, 75, 85, or 95! Because we are living longer, most of us now know someone over 95. But how can we care for them, and love them?

Based on the 2020 census report, there are currently 338 million people in America. Of that, the Merck Manual of Geriatrics reports that 17% of the American population is now 65 years or older. This is a significant increase from

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AFL Board Update

Bishop Derek Jones, AFL Board member



*Above: Front Row L to R: Lesley Hackman, Greg Plizga, Chairman of the Board, Georgette Forney
Back Row L to R: Tom Hay, Treasurer, Ed Speare, Bishop Derek Jones (Rev. Dr. W. Ross Blackburn is missing from the picture.)*

Anglicans For Life's Board of Directors met together, face-to-face, for the first time since COVID on September 7 at the AFL headquarters in Leetsdale, PA. "Zoom is good – clearly being physically together works much better," said Mr. Greg Plizga, Chairman of the AFL Board. "After years of Zoom meetings, everyone was delighted to meet and greet each other with hugs and handshakes!"

Among the significant matters discussed during the meeting, a great deal of time was spent discussing the various strategies AFL should consider adopting in this new post-*Roe* state. The entire Board is continuing to pray for God's guidance and wisdom, and invites all AFL supporters to hold this ministry's future before God.

The Board also learned that Deacon Georgette Forney, who has been leading this ministry since 1998 and was

ordained into the vocational Deaconate in 2014, was officially elevated ecclesiastically, and given the preferment of "Canon" in the Anglican Church in North America. The Right Reverend Derek Jones, Bishop of the Jurisdiction of the Armed Forces and Chaplaincy, who is a member of the AFL Board of Directors, made the announcement during the meeting. Bp. Jones noted, "While Deacon Georgette's service to the Anglican Communion doesn't change with her new title, the elevation to "Canon" for Georgette is at least one way a grateful Church can acknowledge her nearly 25 years of service to God's people and to the Sanctity of Life."

The Board joins Bp. Jones in congratulating Canon Georgette!

Anglicans For Life is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, supported by churches, individuals, & foundations. Your contributions allow AFL to uphold the biblical principles of life and equip the Church for Life-Affirming ministry. Please use the enclosed envelope to make your donation. A financial statement is available upon request.



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20 Years of Being Silent No More!

Canon Georgette Forney, AFL President



I recently received a phone call from a woman who contacted the Silent No More Awareness Campaign to say 'thank you' for helping her face the truth of her abortion experience. She had seen two women at a March for Life event carrying the "I Regret My Abortion" signs associated with the Silent No More Awareness Campaign. She told me that the words on the signs jolted her out of years of denial, and while she was having a hard time on the phone saying the word, abortion, she recognized that she needed help as her abortions had negatively impacted her life over the last 30 years.

After I hung up the phone, I wept tears of joy for God's grace, as He continues to use the Silent No More Awareness Campaign in people's lives. I have lost count of the number of phone calls, just like that one, that I have been privileged to receive from women who have found hope and healing after years of silent grief and guilt.

The Campaign began 20 years ago when Janet Morana, Executive Director of Priests for Life, and I launched it on November 11, 2002. Anglicans For Life and Priests for Life continue to co-sponsor the Campaign and provide the financial and operational support that underwrites it. We have three simple goals:

1. Reach out to people hurt by abortion, encourage them to attend abortion after-care programs, and invite those who are healed to break the silence and speak the truth about abortion's negative consequences and the hope found in healing.
2. Educate the public that abortion is harmful emotionally, physically, and spiritually to women, men and families, so that it becomes unacceptable for anyone to recommend abortion as a 'fix' for an unplanned pregnancy.
3. Share our personal testimonies of hurt and healing to help others avoid the pain of abortion

As of April 2022, the Silent No More Awareness Campaign has held 2,268 Gatherings in 17 countries across all 50 states with 6,926 women and men sharing their abortion testimonies. Testimonies have also been shared at 174 high schools and universities in the last 12 years.

We have 3,045 testimonies posted on the Campaign website (www.SilentNoMore.com), and 635 of those are shared via video! Currently, 20,380 people are registered with the Campaign, representing 77 countries. People who are not ready to join the Campaign, are invited to "register their regret." So far, 6,729 women and 716 men have said they regret their

abortion or lost fatherhood, and 612 women and men have posted memorials to their children. Silent No More is, by far, the largest mobilization of those who have lost children to abortion, have found healing, and want to share their stories.

In 2015, the Silent No More Awareness Campaign launched a special initiative called "Healing the Shockwaves of Abortion." It is an effort within the Campaign that highlights how abortion wounds many groups of people, including siblings, grandparents, friends and the abortionists themselves. To learn more visit AbortionShockwaves.com.



Above: Woman reads her testimonial outside of the US Supreme Court.

I recently attended a Campaign event at the Pennsylvania March for Life where the women of Silent No More continued the tradition of sharing their testimonies at pro-life marches – it was the first one since the fall of *Roe!*

The tradition dates back to Nellie Gray who, upon hearing in 2003 that there was a new mobilization of moms and dads who had lost children to abortion, welcomed us to share our testimonies as part of the annual March for Life in Washington, DC. Nellie Gray knew that the day abortions cease, the process of healing would need to become the priority. That is why, as a "closing act" at the March for Life, she invited marchers to pause at the US Supreme Court and listen to the testimonies of those who were involved in abortion. Since 2003, we have continued the tradition, and it has even been adopted annually by the Walk for Life West Coast.

We all know someone who has had an abortion, so I encourage you to visit the Silent No More Awareness Campaign website (SilentNoMore.com), share the powerful testimonies found at AbortionTestimonies.com, and pray for those hurting so that they will be healed, and more people can be silent no more!

Chapter Updates

Canon Georgette Forney, AFL President



All Saint's Anglican Chapter

Chapter Leader, Ed Speare and the All Saint's Anglican Church Chapter in Woodbridge, VA hosted a table in their lobby, inviting more people to join their Chapter and get involved in upholding the Sanctity of Life.



Above: All Saint's Anglican Church's Chapter information table.

The Falls Church Anglican Chapter

The Falls Church Anglican Chapter led by Jeanne Lee in Falls Church, VA is now offering a Hope & Healing Bible Study for those in their church and community who have been impacted by abortion. They decide to use the *SaveOne Abortion Recovery program* after learning about the organization at an AFL's annual Life SUMMIT.

Holy Cross Cathedral Chapter

Paulette Ivey, Chapter Leader for the Holy Cross Cathedral Chapter in Loganville, GA recently held a baby shower, and all the gifts collected were distributed to the local pregnancy center for their clients.



AFL is Pleased to Welcome new Partners!

- Holy Cross Anglican Church in Abilene, TX, has appointed Trey Rogge as their new Life Leader.
- St. Luke's Anglican Church in Montrose, CA, has appointed Taylor Schor as their new Life Leader.
- Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church in Nampa, ID, has appointed Joyce Alexander as their new Life Leader.
- Church of the Ascension in Ranson, WV, has appointed Karen Reyes as their new Life Leader.

New Chapters!

- The Church of the Advent in Boston, MA, Officially formed the Church of the Advent Chapter, Lauren Mojarrab will serve as the New Chapter Leader.
- St. Timothy's Anglo-Catholic Church in Charleston, SC, has formed the Chapter of the Holy Innocents and their new Chapter Leader is Paula Tisdale.

New Life-Affirming Churches

- Church of the Resurrection, Clifton Park, NY
- Church of Our Savior-Oatlands, Leesburg, VA
- Christ Church Plano, Plano, TX



Above: Chapter of the Holy Innocents Chapter. Pictured left to right: Dr. Robert Wise, Jack McGovern, Father Peter Towle, Emily Towle, Paula Tisdale, ad Vickie Smith.



Advocating for Life

Life Leader, Denise Simone, St. John's Anglican Church, Southampton, PA, attended the March for Life in Harrisburg, PA with a friend (pictured to the right) and shared the following story.

Supporting Fellow Parishoners

G, a young, unmarried woman serves on the music team every Sunday morning. She is such a blessing to us and really enhances our service experience. Several months ago, our priest, Fr. Mark Rudolph called to tell me that G was pregnant and was going to keep the baby despite ending her relationship with the father of the baby. Fr. Mark asked me and several other women to pray for G in front of the congregation at the end of the service. It was a beautiful moment. At the end of the prayer time, I let G know I was an unplanned pregnancy for my 18 year-old Mom. I told G that my mom chose life for me, and I was so grateful she had made the same decision for her baby. I'd like to think she was encouraged to share her news with us because she knows we are a Life-Affirming church and would not condemn her. We had a baby shower for her on August 28, just before she gave birth to her daughter, H, on September 7! We look forward to meeting this little baby and welcoming her into our church.



Above: Denise and her friend at the March for Life in Harrisburg, PA.



Editor's note: Initials used to protect the identity of mother and baby.

November is Adoption Awareness Month!

AFL has written a special prayer that can be incorporated into the *Prayers of the People* or shared with parishioners to pray throughout the year. Additionally, Johnston Moore, AFL's Adoption/Orphan Care Consultant has recently written three blogs that dive deeper into this important ministry in the church.

You can access these blogs on AFL's website at AnglicansForLife.org/blog. The specific posts related to adoption, foster care, and related topics were posted on August 1, 2023, September 8, 2023 and September 22, 2023. These articles feature a variety of helpful resources, detailed information, and even suggestions for your parish to assist in adoption, orphan care, and foster care efforts in your community. These article even provide ways you and your church can honor families in your church who have been touched by adoption.

Prayer:

Lord God, we thank you that all life is made in Your image and as we acknowledge the needs of orphans this day, we pray You would reveal Jesus as Lord and Savior to them and those who care for them. May all children be treated with respect, and allowed to grow up in loving homes, but especially for those whose families of origin have been broken, provide protection and caring homes, so they know Your loving provision for them. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, work supernaturally in their hearts to heal the losses and traumas they have faced, so they are freed to become the people You created them to be. Protect them also from all who might intend them harm. We pray too, for the birth parents, and families of origin, console their mother and father hearts as they grieve the separation from their children. Reunite where possible and encourage our culture to embrace the blessing of adoption, and foster care to help both children and parents. May our adoption into Your family inspire us to care for orphans. All this we pray in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Meet the Christmas Card Design Contest Winner!

Kristen Nagy, AFL Director of Marketing and Communications
Sydney Alleyne, AFL Social Media Specialist

This summer, we hosted the inaugural AFL Christmas Card design contest. The contest, which is open to all Anglican students, gives students the opportunity to submit their original artwork. This year's theme was Luke 2:1-20.

We received a number of beautiful submissions, but ultimately, thirteen year-old Nate Caughran's artwork won! Nate is from Charlotte, NC, where he lives with his mom and dad, three younger siblings, Isaac, Peter, and Eva, and their dog, Bentley. Nate's father is an Anglican Priest at their church, and his mom homeschools him and his siblings.

Nate was initially interested in the contest because he has a love for art, specifically drawing and stop-motion video for his YouTube channel **AnimatorX studios**. In fact, when he grows up, he hopes to be a comic book artist or work on a movie set.

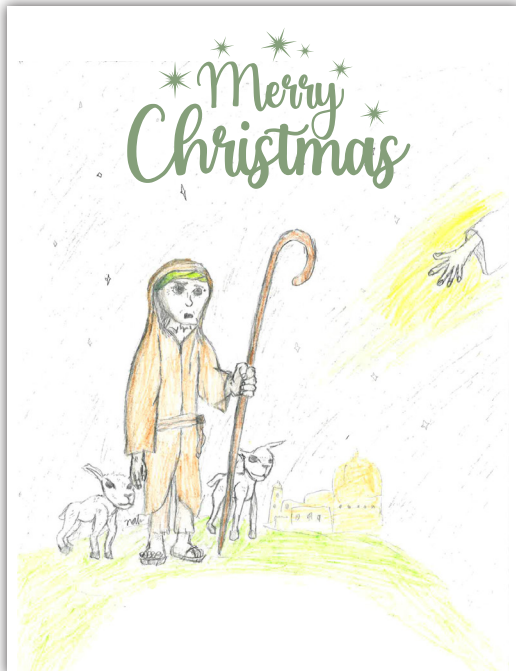
While his interests are heavily seated in art and creativity, Nate is also very active in his church. He serves as the acolyte and every Friday he participates in morning prayer. His church supports a local pregnancy center, and hosts a "Walk for Life" that he attends. He and his siblings also participate in their church's "baby bottle blessings," which encourages parishioners to fill the baby bottles with change, cash, and checks. The bottles are then sent to pregnancy centers that need financial support.

When Nate discovered the prize for the contest included a \$100 giftcard, and publication of his art on the annual Christmas Cards, he thought participating would be fun. When asked what inspired his drawing he replied, "I was inspired by the contest verse and wanted to use the scene of the shepherds because it's not commonly used on Christmas cards. The shepherds are rarely seen visiting Jesus; I wanted something different than the typical Christmas card." He also explained that he used colored pencils and a variety of shading techniques in his drawing.

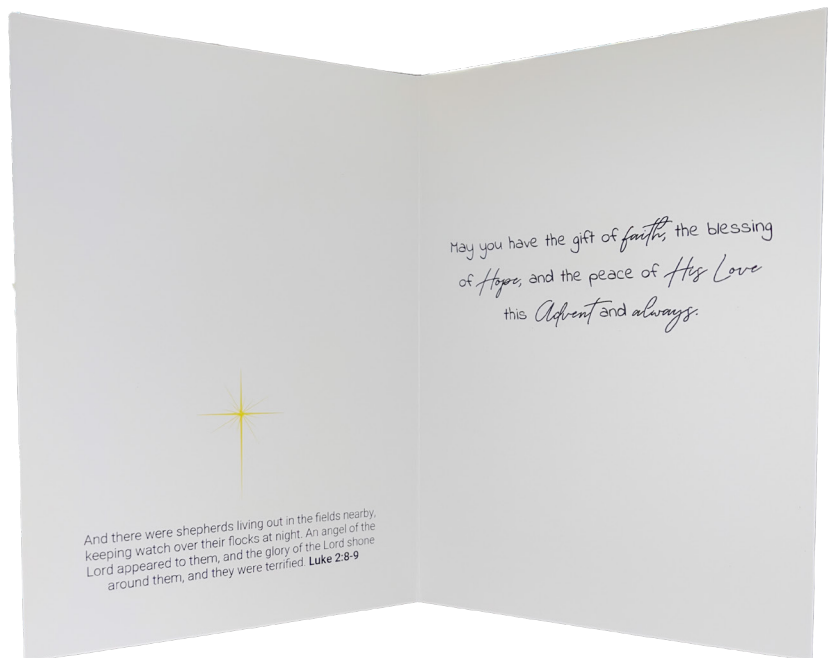


When asked about his advice for other interested in submitting to next year's contest, Nate recommended, "Don't create a scene you see often on Christmas cards. Use the verse provided for inspiration, but try to look at it from different points of view. Draw big, and capture the smaller details."

Anglicans For Life plans to continue the contest in the coming years. We love engaging with our fellow Anglicans while providing them with opportunities to express their faith. For more information on AFL ministry and news, be sure to sign up for our communication list at eepurl.com/g1hubb.



Front of this year's card



Inside of this year's card

Order yours at shopafl.org/products/2023-Advent-Card



Church's Unique "Garden" Provides Healing

Canon Georgette Forney, AFL President



Anglican priest Fr. Steve Kelley and his wife Lorita have been uniquely called to serve St. John Lutheran Church in Roanoke, VA. Lorita contacted Anglicans For Life to share news of their church's Remembrance Garden project in hopes that additional Anglican churches would be interested in replicating their efforts.

"The Remembrance Garden for the Unborn" honors all babies that do not have a grave. As many as 26% of all pregnancies end in miscarriage. According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, miscarriages usually occur in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. In addition to the number of miscarriages, there is the loss of life through infertility, abortion and stillbirth –any of which may cause depression and grief for individuals connected to the unborn baby. Many of these reproductive losses are compounded because there is no memorial or grave to acknowledge the grieving process. Men and women need a personal place to mourn their child's death, no matter how long ago it occurred.

St. John Lutheran Church members identified this need to create a sacred outdoor garden to honor the unborn, and allow people to move forward in their grief. Designed and built by local businesses and church volunteers, it was dedicated in September 2021. The memorial boasts a large, intricate ironwork window. The ironwork was designed so padlocks can be attached in honor of an unborn child. These padlocks can be decorated or personalized with initials, or customized with jewelry and art to memorialize the loss of each life. The padlock keys are usually kept by a parent in remembrance of their loss.

In addition, a unique, interactive website has been developed to coexist with the actual Garden. The goal of the website is to reach affected individuals virtually and offer healing and

reconciliation at a global level. To access the website, visit **GardenForTheUnborn.com**.

Through this innovative "Garden experience," people can access the website while visiting the garden, or in the privacy of their home, to experience healing through art, poetry, blogs and music.

Anyone is welcome to visit the Remembrance Garden for the Unborn and attach a padlock to remember their pregnancy loss. Individuals who cannot visit the Garden in-person, but wish to participate, can mail a padlock to the church, and it will be secured to the lattice for them. The Garden is open year-round and located next to the visitor parking at St. John Lutheran Church, 4608 Brambleton Avenue in Roanoke. **For more information, visit GardenForTheUnborn.com.**





AFL Announces Life SUMMIT 2023

Created by God, honored by man

Canon Georgette Forney, AFL President



Anglicans For Life (AFL) and ACNA's Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic invites you and your church, to attend Life SUMMIT 2023. This three-day event is focused on the Sanctity of Life.

As Anglicans, we believe all life is sacred and that it is important to come together annually to learn, celebrate, and affirm our commitment to honoring life. Over the course of the three-day event, students and adults will learn about the value of life, mourn the hastened death of the unborn and elderly, worship our Creator, and get equipped for Life-Affirming ministry. Life SUMMIT 2023 will address the historic overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, and how the Church can serve the thousands of lives that will be saved as a result of the decision.

According to AFL President, Canon Georgette Forney, "This year we have a lot to celebrate, but we also recognize there is still a lot to accomplish. Now, more than ever, it's important that we equip churches and individuals with resources for women facing unplanned pregnancies. In fact, the future of the unborn and elderly rests in our hands. The goal of the Life SUMMIT 2023 events is to empower attendees to be effective ministers of His Word through Life-Affirming ministry."

Life SUMMIT 2023 kicks-off Thursday, January 19, 2023 and ends on Saturday, January 21, 2023. For individuals who cannot attend in-person, virtual attendance options

are available for individuals, youth groups, and churches to host who wish to participate independently or as a group in the form of a "watch party."

The daily events include:

- ySUMMIT (Youth SUMMIT) on Thursday, January 19
- Prayer & Worship Service and March for Life on Friday, January 20
- Life SUMMIT (adult event) on Saturday, January 21

Life SUMMIT 2023 will feature an outstanding line-up of speakers focused on how the Church and individuals can prepare to minister to women facing expected pregnancies and protect the aged and terminally ill. Learn more about the speakers, explore the event schedule, register for the events, and navigate the Life SUMMIT experience online at AFLlifeSUMMIT.org.

Register at
AFLlifeSUMMIT.org



Above: ySUMMIT attendees at the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Did You Know That Your Grandmother Carried Part of You Inside Her Womb?



One of the many blessings we experience here at Anglicans For Life is getting mail from you! This past May, Kathleen Fletcher, sent me a beautiful teaching illustration. We share it here to remind us all of God's perfection in His creation of the human body. Male and female, similar but distinctly different. Please read the information below that Kathleen sent us and share it with others to proclaim the sacredness of life and the awesomeness of our Creator!

This is so amazing...Did you know that your grandmother carried part of you inside her womb? But how? Well, a female baby is born with all the eggs she will ever have in her lifetime. So, when your grandmother was carrying your mother in her womb, you were a tiny egg in your mother's ovaries. The three of you have been connected for a very long time. Women are amazing because God is amazing!

When pregnant, the cells of the baby migrate into the mother's bloodstream and then circle back into the baby. It's called "fetal-maternal microchimerism".

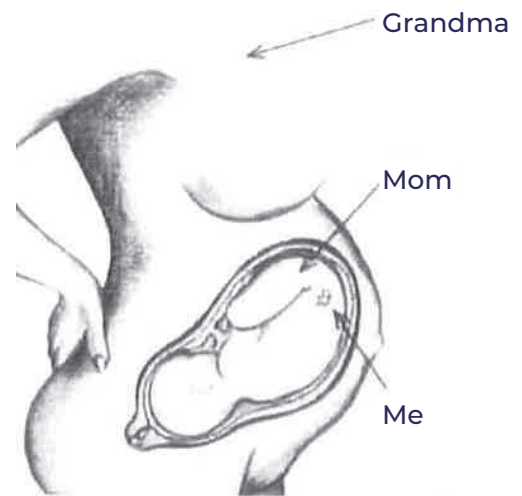
For 40 weeks, the cells circulate and merge backwards and forward; and, after the baby is born, many of these cells stay in the mother's body, leaving a permanent imprint in the mother's tissues, bones, brain, and skin, and often stay there for decades. Every single child a mother has will leave a similar imprint in her body, too. Even if a pregnancy doesn't go to full term, or if a woman has an abortion, these cells still migrate into the bloodstream.

Research has shown that if a mother's heart is injured, fetal cells will rush to the site of the injury and change into different types of cells that specialize in mending the heart. The baby helps repair the mother, while the mother builds the baby – how cool is that? This is often why certain illnesses vanish while pregnant.

It is incredible how the mother's body protects the baby at all costs, and the baby protects and rebuilds the mother back, so that the baby can develop safely and survive.

Think about crazy cravings for a moment. What was the mother deficient in that the baby made her crave? Studies have also shown cells from a fetus in a mother's brain 18 years after she gave birth. How amazing is that?

If you are a mom, you know how you can intuitively feel your child even when they are not there. Well, now there is scientific proof that moms carry them for years and years, even after they have given birth to them.



IN MEMORY

Anglicans For Life joins...

Erica Chapman made a donation in honor of those in her generation who have been lost.

Lee and Tom McKee made a donation in honor of John Gray Blount.

David and Jessie Morra made a donation in honor of Jonathan and Victoria Deyton.

The Rt. Rev. Peter Riola made a donation in memory of Martha Riola.

Mr. Daniel and Michelle Townsend made a donation in honor of Marty Pollack and in memory of Ava Elliot Thornton.

Seeing the Sanctity of Life as a Mission Field (Cont.)

Canon Georgette Forney, AFL President



1950 when only 8% of the population was 65 or older. There are now about 6 million people over the age of 85. For perspective, consider that in 1900, 75% of our population died before the age of 65. Today, 70% die after age 65.

The other neighbors that are often overlooked are the widows and orphans – which in today's culture, are referred to as single moms. We must see single women who are facing an unplanned pregnancy and wondering whether they should abort, parent, or place their child for adoption as similar to the widows in the Bible. Their babies are today's orphans, being raised in single families.

According to Census.gov, 25% of US households are headed by a single parent, and 86% of those families are led by mothers. In the US, as of 2019, there were 15.76 million children living with their single mothers, and 3.23 million children living with their single fathers.

Now that *Roe v. Wade* has been overturned, abortion legislation will be determined at the state level. If a woman lives in a state where abortion is illegal they may assume that they can't have an abortion even though there are states that will still allow it. While that would be a good thing, we (the church) need to be prepared to help those women and their babies, –both before and after birth. They will need neighbors who will love them, and I believe God wants His Church to provide ministry, discipleship, and practical support—especially as there will be more of them.

Typically, when we think of missionary work or evangelism, we envision going overseas, but I think it is important to recognize that sometimes God calls us to be missionaries in our own communities.

As we look at the two groups of people I noted earlier – the elderly and the widows and orphans – I would like to share some practical ways you can connect with them in an effort to open the door to God's redeeming love.

For the elderly, many are dealing with loneliness and a fear of becoming a burden to others. In addition, aging bodies can create some physical limitations that younger folks take for granted, like driving at night. If events at your church end after dark, organize rides so they can attend. A priest in California has older people in his parish who mentor younger people. They help them learn how to grow in their faith, discuss things like Bible study styles, and learn how they were disciplined.

Our local school district invites older members of the community to read to the kindergarten classes. Many children don't have grandparents living nearby, so this gives them the opportunity to interact with older folks coming into their classes.

The elderly can be great prayer warriors, too. Visit them with a list of things that need prayer in your church community. Invite them to participate with prayer from their home. In other words, include them in the ministry of your parish. Do not dismiss the elderly in your parish by assuming they cannot contribute. Instead, recognize they still can, just in a different way.

We need to remind those in retirement that they still have purpose. Psalm 92:12-15 declares:

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, "The Lord is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."

But what about those who are in a more diminished mental state? How can we serve these neighbors? Most often, these people will be in a nursing home, they have become frail, and their memory is often failing them. They have dignity, they still bear the image of God, and we need to serve them with love.

However, depending on their mental acuity – it might be the perfect time to share the Gospel! All the distractions in life are gone and they have time to consider what eternity is – where will they go when they die? There are a lot of folks sitting in nursing homes that are very bored, staring at TVs, their mind is active, even if their bodies are not! They can receive the Gospel.

Nursing homes are, in a fact, great mission fields, and there is a ministry in the Anglican Church in North America called St. Lazarus Mission. (LazarusMission.org). They plant churches in nursing homes where the residents become the members of the church, along with staff members, the families of the patients, and the workers' families. They have wonderful success in bringing people to Christ because they are at a place in their lives where they're ready to pay attention and think about eternity.

For those who are in memory care units, it's important to know that music is one of the few things that they will often retain. Betty, one of the dear ladies I cared for, no longer remembered my name, yet when I started singing the Doxology, she would join in. When she heard Amazing Grace, she'd perk right up and start singing!

Music is powerful and you can make it more fun by having your children's choir visit the nursing home to recite nursery rhymes, sing worship songs, or Christmas carols. These are all simple things you can do to love your neighbor.

Let's remind our neighbors that God is faithful in His love and care for them – regardless of their age. Listen to what the prophet Isaiah declares to God's people:

Listen to me, you descendants of Jacob, all the remnant of the people of Israel, you whom I have upheld since your birth, and have carried since you were born. Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you. Isaiah 46:3-4

Now, let's discuss some practical ways you can help today's widows and orphans; the single moms and their babies, both preborn and born!

Remember, since *Roe* has been overturned, more women are going to be keeping their children, even in states where it is still legal to have an abortion. This means churches need to prepare to help both neighbors – the mothers and their babies.

First, I recommend doing some research related to support services provided by either the county or city, or other agencies and ministries for moms and babies in your community. Find out if there is a pregnancy resource center nearby. If so, visit it to learn what resources they provide to mothers, and ask what ways you and your church can help support them.

See if there is a maternity home where women can live through pregnancy and birth – can you offer to teach a discipleship class for them? Train them with a skill? Provide financial support?

If either a pregnancy center or maternity home doesn't exist within a 75 mile radius of your church, consider starting one. There is an Episcopal church in upstate New York that has a pregnancy center right in their church building. It's a wonderful outreach to their community.

Other ways your church can help single moms, include partnering with auto-mechanics in your parish so they can offer car repairs for free or at discounted pricing. At my church, we have a ministry called Side by Side, where parishioners



donate gently used children's and maternity clothing. The women of the church set up a gigantic closet in one area of the church building, and two days a week, women in the community can come with their children and get clothes for free.

Once a month, you can offer child-care on a Saturday or weeknight, this gives moms a chance to run errands alone or grab a coffee with a friend. A lot of churches hold diaper drives that provide mom's with diapers from a pregnancy center.

Finally, include a simple announcement in your weekly bulletin or newsletter that states *"If you are facing an unplanned pregnancy, we are here to help you with non-judgmental support and care. Call our office or visit OptionLine.org to find a local pregnancy center. You and your baby are welcome here."* The message is clear that you are in a safe, non-judgmental haven equipped to help.

I'd like to close with one simple reminder, we are not going to be able to save every baby or help every elderly person, but I do believe God is calling us to try. The church must lead our culture in modeling care and love for our neighbors – especially the most vulnerable, which in my opinion, is the elderly and the unborn and their mothers.

I interviewed J.I. Packer in 2015, and I asked him what he would say about how the church should be helping women who are pregnant. He brought up the verse

about loving your neighbor as yourself. He said, "Neighborliness, according to Jesus' teaching is a matter of seeing the other person to whom you're relating as someone of equal value with yourself. That means someone of infinite value to God. Someone who should be regarded as having infinite value in the community. And so, you protect, you guard, you preserve, you enrich a person. Furthermore, a person is a person from the moment of conception. I don't mean the fetus is going to be a person one day, someday. I mean that from the moment of conception, we must regard the fetus as our neighbor. And that, in a pregnant woman, means that we have two neighbors, not just one."

I appreciate the emphasis of the scriptures that I quoted at the beginning of this article regarding the great commandment. Love God, and love your neighbor, especially when there are two, not just one!

New Resource!



2023 Sanctity of Life Sunday Bulletin Inserts

\$10 for 100 inserts

Sanctity of Life Sunday is usually the Sunday closest to January 22, the day in 1973 that the US Supreme Court handed down the *Roe v. Wade* decision that made abortion legal all nine months of pregnancy. Each year, Anglicans For Life designs a new bulletin insert that can be used for Sanctity of Life Sunday (or any day you'd like). These 2-sided, 5.5" x 8.5" sheets can be inserted into your weekend service sheet or brochure rack. You may order our bulletin inserts year-round.



Take a look at this year's design!



Scan the QR code or visit AnglicansForLife.org/BulletinInsert to order yours today!



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