



# Carpe Diem

Anglicans For Life's Quarterly Newsletter



MAY 2023

## Resurrection Requires Death

Canon Georgette Forney, President, Anglicans For Life

AFL's ministry is all about life and death, but over the years I have found that people much prefer to talk about life rather than death! But as we celebrated Lent this year, I was reminded that you can't have a resurrection without first experiencing death, and this truth is really beautifully illustrated by the story of Lazarus in the Gospel of John.

The story starts with Lazarus being ill. We don't know what kind of illness it is, but it must be critical, as his sisters are very worried, and they send word to Jesus that Lazarus, the one whom He loves, is ill. Obviously, the sisters are hoping Jesus will come quickly and heal him. But, as is often the case, Jesus doesn't respond to situations the way people expect or want Him to!

His response reveals His omniscience; He knows everything that must happen for the sake of God's will being done. He tries to explain this to His disciples when He says that Lazarus has just fallen asleep, but He is going to wake him up. The disciples start trying to advise Him that sleep will help Lazarus recover, because they don't understand what He means. So, Jesus states Lazarus' condition more directly – in verse 14 He declares that Lazarus has died.

Jesus doesn't try and soften the reality of their friend's death. In fact, He discusses death very differently than many of us do today. My dad recently died, and as is custom, I received a number of lovely condolence cards, which was a real blessing. But while I appreciated the messages conveyed through them, I noticed that all of them used phrases like "time of sorrow", "prayers for your loss", "during this difficult time", "saying goodbye to someone you love". Not one card used the word death, dead, or died! In my experience, most people directly avoid using words such as "death" or "died" and instead say that someone "has passed." Why do we do this? Why do so many of us struggle to discuss death—our deaths or the deaths of loved ones?

In 2012, I decided to write a curriculum called *Embrace the Journey*, which addresses issues concerning aging and dying. I did it for two reasons. First, assisted suicide was being legalized in various states, and it seemed like a topic the Church should be addressing. Second, my parents were aging and, in all honesty, while I was comfortable with addressing dying in general terms, I recognized there was a lot about it that felt mysterious and unknown and, therefore, a little scary when it came to acknowledging that they would someday die.

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# Canon G

Canon Georgette Forney, AFL President



Often when I talk to people about Anglicans For Life, I list the five main topics we address; Abortion, Abstinence, Adoption, Euthanasia, and Bioethical Research. Recently, in the midst of telling a group of people the five topics that AFL covers, I realized sharing the five subjects doesn't capture the breadth and depth of the many issues we teach, preach and counsel on!

When I got back to the office, I wrote down all the topics and sub-topics Anglicans For Life actually has expertise and knowledge to address.

## Abortion

- Fetal Development
- Abortion & Women
- Abortion Aftercare (women, men, siblings, grandparents)
- Breast Cancer & Abortion
- Down Syndrome & Abortion
- Partial Birth Abortion
- Rape & Abortion
- Chemical abortion pills
- Abortion Pill Reversal

## Adoption

- Adoptive Parents
- Birth Parents
- Family Preservation
- International
- Snowflake Adoptions
- Special Needs Adoption
- Orphan care/Foster care ministry

## Sexual Risk Avoidance

### Education

#### (aka Abstinence)

- Sexual Brokenness
- Contraception
- Sexually Transmitted Disease
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Morning After Pill/Plan B Contraception
- Teen Pregnancy

## End of Life Issues

- Assisted Suicide
- Euthanasia
- Hastening Death
- Futile Care Theory
- Organ Donation
- Terminal Sedation
- Advance Care Planning
- Advance Directives
- Ventilators
- Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Orders

## Bioethics

- Cloning
- Stem Cell Research
- Baby Body Part Harvesting/Research
- Chimera Genetic Research

## Pregnancy

- Assisted Reproductive Technology
- Miscarriage & Stillbirth
- Adverse Pre-Natal Diagnosis
- Infertility

## Other Topics

- Planned Parenthood
- Sanctity of Life
- Capital Punishment
- Pregnancy Resource Centers
- Vaccinations
- Disabilities

Have any of these topics personally touched you, your family, or your friends? If so, how can Anglicans For Life help, counsel, or educate you?

While AFL's mission is to eradicate abortion and euthanasia through ministry, education, pastoral care, and advocacy, our vision is to inspire every believer in every church to do one thing every day to protect life.

As you look at this list of actual topics we cover, can you see that the vast array of issues addressed by AFL provides you with a broader choice of ministry opportunities, educational options, pastoral care needs and areas that need biblical advocacy?

I hope that as you review this list covered by AFL, one or two subjects will stand out to you. Is the Lord calling you to learn more about one these issues so you can be prepared for ministry? Or maybe God will open the door for you to educate others about it. Is there a topic in the list that you have identified in Scripture that you could address and/or share with students or your grandchildren?

As believers, all of us have a role in protecting, celebrating, and honoring life! We pray that this list will inspire you to contact AFL about our resources for the topic.

We are here to serve you for life!

For His glory,

Canon Georgette Forney  
AFL, President



Follow Me  
@CanonGeorgette

*P.S.*

I would like to introduce the newest member of the Forney Family and AFL's first mascot! Daisy is a toy poodle born January 9, she often accompanies me to the office and has been seen on many Zoom calls as she is a snuggly puppy who loves sleeping on my lap.



## Editor's Note

View the list of topics above as an animated video at <https://youtu.be/wDiddS5E1Kg>.



# New Data Show a Large Decline in Abortions Post-Dobbs

Michael J. New, Senior Associate Scholar, Charlotte Lozier Institute



*The following article was originally published on April 12, 2023 at 6:11 PM in response to the recent calculations pertaining to the number of lives lost since the Dobbs case. Anglicans For Life agrees with the author regarding the number of abortions the Dobbs decision has decreased. Nonetheless, our ministry praises God for the lives saved.*

Yesterday, the #WeCount project of the Society of Family Planning released new data on the number of abortions that have been performed in the United States since the Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision. The #WeCount project compares abortion declines in states that have enacted pro-life laws with abortion increases in other states. Overall, they have found, 32,260 fewer abortions were performed in the United States in the first six full months after the *Dobbs* decision. That is an average of 5,377 fewer abortions every month. Good news for pro-lifers.

As I have commented before, the #WeCount estimate likely **understates the actual abortion decline** resulting from state-level pro-life laws. This is for two reasons. First, some states were already enforcing strong pro-life laws prior to the *Dobbs* decision. Texas started enforcing a Heartbeat Act on September 1, 2021. My Charlotte Lozier Institute analysis of Texas birth data found that the Heartbeat Act alone was preventing approximately 1,000 abortions from taking place in Texas every month. Additionally, Oklahoma started enforcing a Heartbeat Act in May 2022, which also resulted in a large pre-*Dobbs* abortion decline.

Second, the #WeCount analysis fails to account for the fact that abortion numbers were already increasing in many politically liberal states prior to *Dobbs*. This is partly due to the trend in rising abortion rates that started in 2018, driven by an increase in chemical abortions. It is partly due to policy changes. In recent years, pro-life parental-involvement laws were repealed in Illinois and weakened in Massachusetts. Also, state Medicaid programs in Illinois and Maine have started covering elective abortions. Some of the abortion increases in these blue states is due to trends and policy changes. It is not all due to women from conservative states seeking abortions in states where abortion laws are more permissive.

All in all, the #WeCount report is good news for pro-lifers. Supporters of legal abortion often try to downplay the effects of pro-life laws. It is heartening to see a group that supports legal abortion publish a report acknowledging that pro-life laws lower abortion rates. Pro-lifers should take heart. Laws legally protecting preborn children in 13 states have already saved tens of thousands of lives. Furthermore, we can be confident that future legislative efforts to protect the preborn will result in even more lives being saved.



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## Proposed UDDA Revisions Expand Law That Allows Euthanasia of Organ Donors



*The following report was compiled using information provided by Dr. Paul A. Byrne and Dr. Heidi T. Klessig. Dr. Byrne has been a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Toledo, College of Medicine for decades, as well as a writer and speaker on "brain death", organ donation, and much more. Dr. Klessig, a retired anesthesiologist, is a speaker and writer who co-authored *Harvesting Organs & Cherishing Life: What Christians Need to Know About Organ Donation and Procurement*. Videos of Dr. Byrne and Dr. Klessig are available at <https://halovoice.org/organ-donation/>.*

In August of 1968, an ad hoc committee of physicians at Harvard Medical School wrote a landmark paper that defined people in irreversible coma as dead. This utilitarian pronouncement was made to skirt the ethical and legal issues involved in procuring organs from people who were biologically alive (i.e., have a beating heart, respiration, blood circulation, and other signs of life). In 1981, the Uniform Determination of Death Act (UDDA) codified into law the Harvard committee's recommendations.

The UDDA provides two definitions of death: 1) irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions (a.k.a. "cardio-pulmonary death") and 2) irreversible cessation of all functions of the brain, including the brainstem (a.k.a. "brain death"). According to Dr. Byrne, "Neither requires evidence of destruction that is the morally and medically certain way to ensure 'irreversible' loss of functions and change in state to death." This law allows people who are alive to be killed for their healthy organs.

### Proposed Revisions to the UDDA Will Make Matters Worse

Dr. Byrne states, "The UDDA and Proposed Updates are seriously inadequate if a determination of death is to be the signal for excision of a person's vital organs, autopsy, embalming or cremation, which are certain, if a mistake has been made, to kill the still-living patient."

Dr. Klessig ("Revisions to the UDDA Considered by the Uniform Law Commission") explains the proposed changes to the UDDA, including a crucial change in wording. "The

first change would seek to replace the term irreversible in the standards with the term permanent. 'Irreversible' is commonly held to mean 'not capable of being reversed.' The term 'permanent' is being offered as meaning that 'no attempt will be made to reverse the situation.' Since doctors will not attempt to correct the person's problem, it becomes permanent rather than irreversible. Thus, people whose prognosis is thought to result in death will be viewed as dead before they die."

### Dr. Byrne points out other problems with the revised UDDA:

- It would exclude testing of some functions of the brain, such as that part of the brain that controls thyroid function. Testing and treating low thyroid could possibly save the life of the so-called "brain dead" patient.
- It would take away the rights of patients or their families to prevent declarations of "brain death".
- It would allow "brain death" determination to be done without notifying relatives and surrogates. Thus, it would take away from loved ones and surrogates the possibility to decline or consent to the dangerous apnea test. (The apnea test includes disconnection from the ventilator for 10 minutes or longer, causing carbon dioxide to increase. Rising levels of carbon dioxide in the blood cause intracranial pressure to rise, further damaging the already traumatized brain. This test has no benefit for the brain-injured patient, only potentially lethal effects.)

Dr. Klessig warns, "If adopted, the revisions will uphold an unethical law that euthanizes registered organ donors, most of whom gave uninformed consent for the medical procedure to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) window attendant years prior."

**“ Medicine and Law ought to protect the life of the person, especially the person who cannot protect his/her own self. ”**

Paul A. Byrne, MD

### Protecting Innocent Human Life

Dr. Byrne advises repeal and replacement of the UDDA with this model statute that protects life until true death: "No one shall be declared dead unless respiratory and circulatory systems and the entire brain have been destroyed. Such destruction shall be determined in accord with universally accepted medical standards." [Byrne P.A., et al, "Brain Death—the Patient, the Physician, and Society," *Gonzaga Law Review* 18:3 (1982/83): 429-516] This definition of death is solidly based medically and ethically.

The model statute should also require that full and complete information about any tests used to determine "brain death" be provided to families and surrogates with the freedom to decline tests and refuse determinations of "brain death". Furthermore, the ideal law would require that treatment options aimed at protecting and preserving the life of the

patient be offered and not denied based on quality-of-life judgments made by caregivers, even though patients or their surrogates may refuse them on the basis of being extraordinary.

The Uniform Law Commission (ULC) is reviewing the proposed revisions to the UDDA, and its report should be forthcoming by the end of this year. Please contact ULC members and urge them to repeal and replace the UDDA with the model statute that will protect life until true death.

Contact: The Honorable Samuel Thumma, Chairman  
Members of the Determination of Death Act Committee

Uniform Law Commission  
111 N. Wabash Avenue, Suite 1010, Chicago, IL 60602  
info@uniformlaws.org,  
(312)450-6600

For more Information visit Dr. Paul A. Byrne's website at [www.lifeguardianfoundation.org](http://www.lifeguardianfoundation.org)

### Citations

<sup>1</sup>Heidi T. Klessig, MD, "Revisions to the UDDA Considered by the Uniform Law Commission"; [https://www.respectforhumanlife.com/post/revisions-to-the-udda-considered-by-the-uniform-law-commission-utc?utm\\_campaign=06c46d53-0d0a-43ea-9244-31281a4a31d8&utm\\_source=so&utm\\_medium=mail&cid=41644b5e-ea30-49b0-b592-1209065d9ad9](https://www.respectforhumanlife.com/post/revisions-to-the-udda-considered-by-the-uniform-law-commission-utc?utm_campaign=06c46d53-0d0a-43ea-9244-31281a4a31d8&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=41644b5e-ea30-49b0-b592-1209065d9ad9)

<sup>2</sup>D. Alan Shewmon, MD, "Statement in Support of Revising the Uniform Determination of Death Act and in Opposition to a Proposed Revision"; <https://academic.oup.com/jmp/advance-article-abstract/doi/10.1093/jmp/jhab014/6275576>



### Editor's Note

This topic was covered in detail at Life SUMMIT 2023 by Christopher Bogosh. You can view the recording and all Life SUMMIT 2023 presentations on AFL's YouTube Channel at [www.youtube.com/AnglicansForLife](http://www.youtube.com/AnglicansForLife)

## IN MEMORY

### Anglicans For Life joins...

- The Stone Family in memory of George G. Nutting.
- David and Jessie Morra in honor of Jonathan & Victoria Deyton.

Anglicans For Life's online store features a variety of resources, products, and information to get you, your church, and family involved for life. Explore the store online at **ShopAFL.org**



“A FATHER  
TO THE  
FATHERLESS...  
GOD SETS THE  
LONELY IN  
FAMILIES...”

-Psalm 68:5-6



## Adoption Update

Johnston Moore, Anglicans For Life Adoption/Orphan Care Consultant

As God's adopted children, we have a wonderful opportunity to share His heart for children, and for adoption, by helping children find their forever families.

The Anglican Adoption Fund (AAF) was started in 2015 as the Anglican Chaplains Adoption Fund. Originally developed and administered by the Armed Forces and Chaplaincy of the ACNA, the fund's committee consisted of Anglican Chaplains who, themselves, are adoptive parents, and who wanted to bless other Anglican families by assisting with the cost of adoption. While under the direction of the Chaplains, the fund helped eight Anglican families welcome children into their homes.

In August 2021, the AAF was passed on to Anglicans For Life. At Anglicans For Life, we believe that helping families adopt children is a tangible way to affirm life and it underscores our belief that all people are made in the image of God, worthy of love, and deserving of families. Since taking responsibility for the fund, we updated the grant application and formed a committee which votes on each application we receive. This



Above: Baby Brynn Louise

past fall, we were blessed to be able to give our first grant to an adoptive couple under Anglicans For Life.

In the time leading up to their marriage, Tae and Chris talked about their hopes to adopt one day. After having two biological

children, Ella and Asher, they started the process to adopt. The process was a lengthy one, but they were eventually matched with a birth mother, and on October 17, 2022, their beautiful daughter, Brynn Louise, was born. Brynn is now growing and thriving in her family, enjoying her time with her mom, dad, sister, and brother.

Tae had this to say:

*"We are so grateful for the generous grant and support we received from the Anglicans For Life Adoption Fund. Our adoption process started several years ago and after many months of waiting, we were blessed with the arrival of our baby girl. In the whirlwind of a recent military move, adoption fees, and long hospital stay required out of state to be with our little girl after her birth, we were touched by the kindness of the Anglicans For Life staff and beyond thankful for the blessing of financial assistance towards our adoption expenses."*

At AFL, we are so blessed and honored to be able to help couples like Tae and Chris welcome children into their homes. If you feel led to partner with us (through your family, your small group, or your church) in helping children and families come together through the miracle of adoption, please visit [AnglicansForLife.org/AnglicanAdoptionFund](https://AnglicansForLife.org/AnglicanAdoptionFund). If you, or someone in your church, are pursuing an adoption, and might want to apply for a grant, please use, or share the URL above.

If you want to know more about adoption, foster care, or ways you and/or your church can support foster families, adoptive families, and the birth parents of children placed for adoption, visit [AnglicansForLife.org/issues/orphans-and-vulnerable-children](https://AnglicansForLife.org/issues/orphans-and-vulnerable-children).

# Leadership Updates

## New Chapter

AFL is excited to welcome a new Chapter established at Emmaus Anglican Church in Castle Rock, CO. We celebrate Deacon Deborah Robbins and Scott Gough who are serving as co-leaders for the Chapter. In addition to attending the Pro-Life for Colorado rally on the steps of the Capitol building, they have also written 3 prayers that will be incorporated into the Liturgy on Sundays.

**Anglicans For Life Chapter Collect:** Almighty and Holy God, the author and sustainer of all life, in sorrow and repentance for the scourge of abortion and any practices which promote or hasten unnatural death, we appeal to Your mercy and love for the lives of all people and families; the born and unborn, wanted and unwanted, capable or limited, healthy or suffering; that Your perfect will be fulfilled and life ever be cherished as a gift from You, to the Glory of God, our Master, Redeemer, and Friend. Amen.

*Collect inspired by Candis Matejka, March 2023*

**Shorter Prayers of the People:** Give us Your divine and bountiful love that we might rejoice in all life and cherish all the people of this world, for You have created us all in Your image.

Give us Your divine love that we might value all people and cherish the life You have made in Your own image.

*Prayers inspired by Lucy Tuttle, March 2023*

## Prayers of the People particular to abortion:

We remember and commend your loving embrace all children who are the victims of abortion. We ask you to be with and guide all mothers and fathers as they make life and death decisions about their unborn children. We fervently pray you remove the scourge of abortion from the face of the earth.

*Prayer inspired by Scott Gough, March 2023*

## Leader Updates

- Ann Wong and Elizabeth Carrouth, Co-leaders for the St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral Chapter, Tallahassee, FL took a love offering on Sanctity of Life Sunday for Anglicans For Life. They also hosted a Life ministry fair with several local pregnancy center ministry partners, as well as AFL, 40 Days for Life, and Big Bend Hospice represented. They also held a Life healing prayer service for the second year in a row in conjunction with another local church that was a beautiful time of worship, liturgy, testimony, and prayer.



*Allie LaCourse presents "Her Plan" and "Embrace Grace" at All Saint's.*

- Ed Speare, Chapter Leader of All Saint's Anglican Church, in Woodbridge, VA recently hosted their Spring Meeting featuring Allie LaCourse, the Virginia coordinator for "Her Plan" who did a presentation covering both "Her Plan" and "Embrace Grace."



*Mark Robbins (Deacon Deborah Robbins's husband) Scott Gough, and Candis Matejka at the March in CO.*

## New Life Leaders

AFL welcomes new Life Leaders: Cindy Sanders from Christ Anglican Church in Gardnerville, NV; Susan G. Parsons from Church of Our Savior, in Jacksonville Beach, FL; and Patti Burt from Christ Church Anglican in Butte, MT.

## New Life-Affirming Churches

We are excited to announce the following churches have signed-up to become Life-Affirming Churches since our last newsletter:

- Christ Anglican Church, Gardnerville, NV 1/23
- Christ Church Anglican, Butte MT 11/22
- Church of the Ascension Anglican, Kearneysville, WV 12/22
- Church of the Resurrection, Odessa, FL 12/22
- Emmanuel Anglican Church, Fresno, CA 5/23
- Holy Cross Anglican Church, Abilene, TX 12/22
- St. Michael's Church, Charleston, SC 1/23
- St. Barnabas Anglican Church, Bellville, TX 2/23

## Leader Updates (cont.)

- St. Michael's Chapter of AFL, Mt. Pleasant, SC has appointed Ashley Watford, as Co-Chapter Leader to serve with Duval Acker!
- Katherine Booth, Co-Chapter Leader at Christ Church, Vero Beach, FL was interviewed by the TC Palm newspaper. She was asked to describe the "other side" of the abortion debate — the pro-life side!

**Interested in AFL leadership opportunities at your church?**

Find out how to get involved at [AnglicansForLife.org/ministry](https://AnglicansForLife.org/ministry) opportunities



**Sammie Gallo**, Anglicans For Life Youth Ministry Outreach Coordinator

Why is pro-life relationship education an important effort of Anglicans for Life and the larger Church, especially when it comes to the next generation?

One of the reasons I am so big on empowering young people is because of this: Satan continues his efforts to make sin less offensive, Heaven less appealing, hell less horrific, and the Gospel less urgent. A long time ago, I decided that I wouldn't let him get away with that. That's why I keep showing up in this space.

*"The thief does not come except to steal, to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and they may have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)*

At Anglicans For Life, our desire is to see the next generation fully understand the sanctity of life and advocate for every life, standing against abortion and the damage that it does to women, men, and preborn children. But before we tackle those issues, we first have to make sure students' identities are rooted in Christ. That's why we created our youth initiative, Abundant Life: You Were Made for More, in 2019.

Nationally, Planned Parenthood is the largest sex education provider in public school systems. Let that sink in for a moment. The nation's largest abortion provider is going into schools and teaching students how to have "safe, healthy sex," and what

their options are if they encounter an unwanted pregnancy or STD. In essence, they meet the culture where it's at and have no desire to change this culture. They support students in making decisions that, developmentally, they aren't yet ready to make, creating potential damage that will last for the rest of their lives.

Over the past few years, as I've become a parent and continued working with middle school and high school students, I've become even more convinced that teaching students about the importance of healthy relationships goes hand-in-hand with being pro-life. When a young person knows that their identity is in Christ, as well as their partner's, they affirm that all life is sacred – not just their own.

That's why our focus as a ministry in the months of June and July is on relationship education and why it is so important in the lives of our students. We hope to engage, equip, and partner with you all as we seek to uproot lies and plant the truth. Each week, we will zoom in on one specific, cultural lie, uncover the roots of it, and refocus on planting the truth in the hearts and minds of our teenagers. We will do this through a main educational piece, which will include active ways to engage in conversations in homes, youth groups, or churches. Our goal is to start the process of having deeper conversations and diving into difficult and controversial facets of the pro-life movement that we need to be talking about.

For more information about the weekly teachings and this initiative, please visit  
**[YouWereMadeForMore.org/UprootingLies](https://YouWereMadeForMore.org/UprootingLies)**



## Weekly Teachings Schedule

WK	LIE	TRUTH
1	Abortion is a constitutional right.	What <i>Dobbs</i> ultimately decided was that abortion is far from a constitutional right.
2	The Abortion Pill is completely safe and easy.	The Abortion Pill has caused a 500% increase in ER visits and flushing the contents of the womb is harmful to the environment.
3	Abortion is healthcare. <i>Roe v. Wade</i> made abortion safe.	Abortion does not improve (and can even jeopardize) a woman's life and health. There is nothing safe about legal abortion.
4	Motherhood & unplanned pregnancies result in throwing your life and dreams away.	Motherhood is a gift.
5	My body, my choice. To be pro-woman, you have to agree with this narrative.	There is humanity in the unborn – even pro-choice arguments acknowledge that there are two sets of DNA.
6	Gender identity is fluid, and we must affirm those we love who are struggling.	God created humanity man and woman to reveal His divine image in the world.
7	The treatment for ectopic pregnancy, septic uterus, & miscarriage is abortion – if you can't get them, you die.	Effective ectopic pregnancy care doesn't entail the intentional killing of a baby, therefore, miscarriage is not abortion.
8	Sexual activity is risk-free.	All actions have consequences.
9	The fight against abortion is null after the <i>Dobbs</i> case decision.	The <i>Dobbs</i> decision, while encouraging, does not ensure every unborn child's life is protected in the womb nationwide.

Since it has been about a year since the *Dobbs* decision, abortion legislation is now being addressed at the state level, and we must recognize where we are as a nation—that there is still work to be done if we want to make abortion unthinkable in America and that we need to be educating, equipping, and partnering with others in this movement more than ever. Our hope is that this "Uprooting Lies and Planting the Truth" initiative will help inspire and propel students, parents, youth groups, and churches as we head into the 2024 March for Life season. Every year, we hold the ySUMMIT in conjunction with the annual March for Life in Washington DC, and this year we have a great vision of the larger Church coming together in a big way. Our ultimate goal is to mobilize the Church for life and to educate

students about knowing the pro-life message, taking pro-life action steps, and equipping them to take those plans back to their own communities.

Join us this coming year on Jan 18-19, 2024 for engaging speakers, worship, and fellowship – virtually or in-person. More details to come, so make sure you check our event website at [AFLlifeSUMMIT.org](https://AFLlifeSUMMIT.org).

Just a reminder: The Sanctity of Life begins when we understand our own worth and what the purpose of relationships are. Then, and only then, can abundant life begin.

## 40 for Life Update



The World's Largest Baby Shower continues until the end of May. As a result, we won't have a total count of items donated in this issue, but be sure to check the next newsletter for a complete overview of the campaign's success.

Uprooting Lies and planting the truth is our June/July 40 for Life programming. Over the course of two months, we will focus on uprooting pro-abortion lies and planting pro-life truths in the hearts of young people. AFL believes it is important to engage people in educational opportunities that equip them to speak the truth about the Sanctity of Life in a culture that uses misinformation to mislead people about abortion.

During the months of August and September we will focus on celebrating Adoption & Caring for Orphans & Vulnerable Children. The key goal of this effort is to prepare churches to host events during Adoption Awareness month in November that highlight engaging and exciting ways that the Church can care for orphans and vulnerable children, and support the Anglican Adoption Fund that people can donate to and receive grants from for adoption related expenses.

# Resurrection Requires Death (Cont.)

Canon Georgette Forney President, Anglicans For Life



I finished the program on April 1, and my mother died six weeks later. I was so grateful that I had done all the work, research, and interviews to become familiar with all the realities I had to think about when someone dies. In all honesty, as I look back on that season of my life, I can say with certainty that, had I not been prepared through writing the curriculum, I would never have survived my mother's death. We were incredibly close, and my grief was overwhelming for the first three years after she died.

I now say that I was the first student of *Embrace the Journey*, and it was extremely helpful in preparing me for my mom's death. The death of someone you are really close to, someone you love, is one of the hardest experiences to go through and, yes, talk about.

But we as God's people need to start thinking and talking about death—because our culture, as usual, has developed a skewed response to it. On a personal level, death seems like something to be avoided, ignored, or denied. Yet death is a common and prevalent theme in entertainment. We often see people die in movies, and television dramas regularly show murder victims on stainless steel tables in the morgue. Even costume dramas like *Downtown Abbey* feature several deaths. We watch people die on screen regularly.

Yet, contrarily, there are endless supplements, beauty products, plastic surgeries, and medical procedures that are designed to keep us young and healthy—all to stave off aging and dying. And how many of us have heard someone say or said it ourselves – please keep them alive at all costs – I'm not ready for him or her to pass!

I think our culture struggles to discuss or acknowledge death, because we can't control it; death is the great unknown,

and it is permanent and inevitable. Death reminds us we are not immortal, that we are not gods. So, when we say that someone has "passed", does it feel less final, more like they passed to the next level of being or hit a new frequent flyer status? What do we pass to? And why is it all so hard to talk about?

I don't know where I read this line, but I agree with the point—*We can't get life right until we understand death*. So, let's bring our attention back to the story of Lazarus and see what God's Word shows us about responding to death.

Let's start with Lazarus. Verse five says, "Now Jesus loved Martha, her sister, (which is Mary) and Lazarus." Clearly this indicates there was a close relationship between the four of them and, as such, when they send word to Jesus that Lazarus was sick, the siblings are expecting Jesus to come back to Bethany immediately. Can't you imagine Lazarus lying there, sick, anticipating Jesus coming through the door at any moment? But as Lazarus gets worse, his energy and hope start to wane. Maybe he begins to doubt Jesus' teachings and promises. Did he wonder why Jesus would heal others but not him? Then, his body, his spirit, succumbs to death.

Now let's look at Martha. She must be anxious because, when she hears Jesus is coming, she doesn't even wait until He gets to their house. Verse 20 says she went out to meet Him and says, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." I can relate to Martha; she is a fixer, gets things done, and seems to graciously reprimand Jesus in her statement. She also adds, "But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." She is almost challenging Him to perform a miracle. And then, even when Jesus assures her, "Your brother will rise again", Martha engages in a

theological discussion. She replies to His comment with, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Could she be trying to cover her grief, her anger, her disappointment? I wonder what the tone of her voice was when she says, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

Let's look at Mary next. Mary's response to Lazarus' death is what I would expect from her. She feels deeply, loves ferociously, and is dedicated and loyal to Jesus and her family. So, she is home grieving, surrounded by the many Jews who had come from Jerusalem to console and support Lazarus' family. The interaction between Mary and Jesus is tender and reflects their mutual respect and devotion to one another. "When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'" (Verse 32) Just like Martha! But I sense she wasn't angry that Jesus didn't heal Lazarus; she was just brokenhearted and grieving.

We recognize common responses to death in Lazarus, Martha, and Mary. But how does Jesus respond? "When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled." Everyone in this scene is sad and truly struggling with Lazarus' death. Words like bereft, inconsolable, heartbroken, and grief-stricken seem like appropriate descriptions. And Jesus doesn't brush aside their pain or say, "Calm down, I'm going to fix this". No, in their moment of pain, Jesus feels it with them. Jesus weeps with them.

As I have been grieving for my dad, I've come to realize some folks don't understand grief or are uncomfortable seeing it. They say things like, "He was old, and you knew he was going to die."

"Aren't you glad he is in heaven with your mom?" I appreciate they are trying to offer comfort, but it feels as though they are trying to discourage or downplay the importance of grieving. Instead, I look at our Savior's comforting example. I am grateful that Jesus is deeply moved by their pain, as it affirms the validity of grieving for myself and everyone who mourns. As God and man, Jesus isn't afraid to express empathy when we are hurting. While as God He can assure them and us that all will turn out fine. But as He mourns with those who mourn, He doesn't reach for platitudes or dismiss their feelings. Instead, He joins them and us while we're hurting. I think this allows us to deepen our trust in Him, because He cares for these grieving friends of Lazarus, as well as us in our times of sorrow and pain.

But He does not leave believers then or now to wallow in grief forever. Instead, He calls out to the dead man with a loud voice: "Lazarus, come out!"

Can you imagine how Lazarus felt when the power of the Holy Spirit raised him up? Suddenly his eyes open, his ears hear his name being called. He stands up – his legs work! I wonder if the odor of four days dead lingered, or did it evaporate when the Holy Spirit resurrected his body? And can you imagine what everyone thought and felt when they saw Lazarus walking out of the tomb in his grave clothes? Everyone went from weeping to praising. Mary, Martha, the disciples, and the Jews had just witnessed the resurrection of someone who had been dead for four days!

Still, while the resurrection of Lazarus is remarkable and amazing, the most famous part of this story are Jesus' words: "I am the resurrection and the life." But we must take a closer look at this verse, because it's the next sentence in Jesus' declaration that matters most for us. Jesus says: "I am the resurrection and the life, and the one who believes in me will live, even though they die."

Jesus knew His crucifixion and death were around the corner. But He also knew His resurrection would follow. In

resurrecting Lazarus, Jesus is giving us a peek into the eternal plans of the Father.

At Easter, we shout for joy as we observe the most world-changing moment in history. Jesus' resurrection opened the door for us, as believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, to also be resurrected and live eternally in heaven! Because we know Jesus is God incarnate, we can acknowledge and accept His Divine Resurrection as God, but in raising Lazarus, we are given an assurance that sinners, broken humans like us, can be resurrected and inherit eternal life, too.

While it is Christ's resurrection that changed the world, His resurrection brings God's promise of our resurrection into focus. When we accept Christ as Savior we no longer need to fear death, because we are assured of being resurrected. This is great news for us and our loved ones when we die – they have the assurance of seeing us again in heaven, if they believe as well!

If you have loved ones who don't believe, discussing death and what happens between heaven and hell can be a great way to share the Gospel. Knowing that my parents are in heaven and I will see them again takes the sting out of their deaths. Even though I grieve, it is with the hope of being reunited eternally in heaven.

The Scriptures echo this hope. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4 that we can live out the Christian life "knowing that he who

raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence." His assurance is actually a promise. Paul also goes into great detail about the resurrection of the dead in 1 Corinthians 15, which declares the victory Christ won for us in His death and resurrection, and why we can trust that we too will be resurrected and spend eternity with Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit in heaven.

I'll share one more verse, which I came across a few weeks before my dad died. In the first chapter of Revelation, as John begins describing his prophetic dream, he writes, "When I saw him, (Jesus) I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.'" Jesus is saying He has the keys in His hand, keys that open and lock Death's and Hell's doors. He not only has conquered death, but he controls death! None of us will die until Jesus declares it to be so.

This verse truly blessed me, as I knew my dad's days on earth were coming to an end, but they wouldn't end until it was God's will. This declaration can give us all comfort and assurance, trusting that every detail of our lives—including when we die—is ordained by God. We can trust Him with our lives, our deaths, and our resurrections to come.





Life SUMMIT 2024

SAVE THE DATES

JAN. 18-20



Anglicans For Life (AFL) invites you to attend our annual Life SUMMIT events which coincide with the annual March for Life. The events kick-off Thursday evening, January 18, 2024, and run through Saturday, January 20, 2024. Over the course of three days, students and adults will celebrate life, mourn the hastened death of the unborn and elderly, worship our Creator, and equip the Church for Life-Affirming ministry! Learn more at [AFLlifeSUMMIT.org](https://AFLlifeSUMMIT.org). Life SUMMIT 2023 presentations are now available on AFL's YouTube Channel at [YouTube.com/user/AnglicansForLife](https://YouTube.com/user/AnglicansForLife).



## SECOND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN CONTEST ANNOUNCED!

Submission Deadline: July 31

Anglican students of all ages are invited to submit their original artwork for a chance to have their design featured as the cover image of the 2023 Christmas Card. Official rules and contest rules can be found online at [AnglicansForLife.org/40-for-life](https://AnglicansForLife.org/40-for-life).

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