



Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am grateful that the Lord has called you to serve Him in life-affirming ministry. My hope is that as you learn about Anglicans for Life's ministry, mission, and resources, your interest in partnering with AFL to establish an AFL Chapter in your parish for life ministry, advocacy, and education will be used by God for His glory and kingdom.

Chapter Leaders are a critical part of Anglicans for Life, as you serve as the primary link between your Chapter, your church and our ministry. As the key connection to AFL, it is important that you work closely with your rector when planning or promoting any AFL-related activities or events. We have found that the most effective leaders work in close partnership with their church leaders.

Anglicans for Life's goal is to empower and equip you to develop the life-affirming ministry God is designing for your Chapter and parish. There are folks both in your church-family and community that are struggling with real life issues like unplanned pregnancy, infertility, care for aging loved ones, and many more.

Serving as a Chapter Leader allows your AFL Chapter to create a life ministry with the resources and the support of a national ministry to meet local needs. Your Chapter's ministry will be unique to your community, and AFL's promise is to work alongside you and your parish to fulfill God's vision for it. AFL encourages you to take ownership of your Chapter's ministry, make it what your community needs.

Thank you for following your passion, and willingness to process the information in this book to establish an AFL Chapter. We are praying that God will make your call clear, and you and others in your group will say 'YES' to serving Him for life as a Chapter of Anglicans for Life!

Please know that you are not alone in your efforts; feel free to contact my office at any time. The AFL Board of Directors, staff, and I are available to answer questions you may have and provide the support you may need. The role of AFL Chapter Leader is not always an easy one, but we know from those who serve this way that it is a rewarding and fulfilling one!

For His Glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georgette".

Canon Georgette Forney, AFL President

Learn More About AFL

WHAT IS ANGLICANS FOR LIFE?

This is a question we hear a lot! Some may remember us as NOEL or the National Organization of Episcopalians for Life. The reality is that *Anglicans for Life is the only Anglican/Episcopal organization dedicated to ending abortion and euthanasia, protecting embryos from research abuse, and promoting abstinence and adoption.* Anglicans for Life is a para-church organization, which means that we are not run by the church but rather minister within it.



WHAT DOES ANGLICANS FOR LIFE BELIEVE?

Anglicans for Life believes that, as Christians, we need to uphold the sanctity of every human life as a form of worship to God, our Creator. As believers, we need to understand all of the issues (abortion, stem cell research, euthanasia, abstinence, and adoption) that threaten life in our culture—Anglicans for Life is a vast resource for information on life!

WHAT DOES ANGLICANS FOR LIFE DO?

One of the most visible things we do is publish educational resources – newsletters, brochures, booklets, bulletin inserts -- and maintain two outstanding websites (AnglicansforLife.org and SilentNoMore.com) – so that those who receive our materials can learn the truth about life issues and educate others. In addition, we help individuals and churches who feel called to life-affirming ministry, education, and advocacy find or develop ministry and outreach opportunities within their churches and communities.



HOW DOES ANGLICANS FOR LIFE OPERATE?

Anglicans for Life's headquarters publishes educational resources and materials to provide information, support, and guidance to clergy and laity so everyone can do life-affirming ministry. Anglicans for Life works to build people individually and corporately to have ongoing life affirming activity happening in every church and diocese. Currently, there are over 90 Anglicans for Life groups or

individuals in the US and around the world. Anglicans for Life's President travels throughout the country speaking to adults, college students, and teens about life issues. Through the work

of the Anglicans for Life Board of Directors, the President, staff, local Life Leaders, AFL Chapters, Chapter Leaders, and volunteers, Anglicans for Life's ministry reaches worldwide with the love of Christ. Anglicans for Life is headquartered on the St. Stephen's Church Campus in Sewickley, Pennsylvania.

The Archbishop and Bishops of the *Anglican Church in North America* also strongly support the mission and ministry of Anglicans for Life.

The Canons of the Anglican Church in North America include our Declaration of Life Statement

TITLE II

Worship and the Administration of Sacraments

Canon 8 of Standards of Sexual Morality and Ethics

Section 3 - God, and not man, is the creator of human life. The unjustified taking of life is sinful. Therefore, from conception to natural death all members and Clergy are called to protect and respect the sanctity of every human life. Section 4 - The Church is called upon to show Christ-like compassion to those who have fallen into sin, encouraging them to repent and receive forgiveness, and offering the ministry of healing to all who suffer physically or emotionally as a result of such sin.

A VERY SPECIAL PROJECT OF ANGLICANS FOR LIFE

Anglicans for Life, along with Priests for Life, co-sponsors the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, a campaign whereby Christians witness to make the public aware of the

devastation abortion brings to women and men. The campaign seeks to expose and heal the secrecy and silence surrounding the emotional and physical pain of abortion.



Since officially launching the Campaign in 2003, 6,270 women and men have shared their testimonies at 1,803 Gatherings that have occurred in 50 states and 17 countries with hundreds of thousands of spectators having heard the truth about abortion's negative after-effects. More than 17,000 people have registered online to be silent no more. The countries where Gatherings have taken place include: United States,

Canada, Ireland, England, Spain, Scotland, The Czech Republic, The Netherlands, Belgium, and Mexico. The Campaign has 105 Regional Coordinators worldwide, i.e.: France, The Czech Republic, UK, US, Canada, Spain, The Netherlands and Uganda.



Anglicans for Life History: Standing for Life since 1966

1966 – The Rt. Rev. Joseph M. Harte of the Diocese of Arizona founded Episcopalians for Life, the successor to Anglicans for Life and started forming Chapters

1973 – Chapters formed in dioceses across the country, in response to the United States Supreme Court’s ruling in Roe vs. Wade

1983 – Articles of Incorporation were developed and the National Organization of Episcopalians for Life Research and Education Foundation (N.O.E.L.) became an official ministry, operated in Fairfax, VA

1984 – First Board of Directors convened; Bishop Harte elected Chairman Emeritus
Rt. Rev. John Howe (then rector of Truro, Fairfax) elected President



1996 – N.O.E.L. headquarters moved to St. Stephen’s Church in Sewickley, PA

1998 – Georgette Forney hired as the Executive Director

2000 – Prayer Team established; currently more than 350 members in 38 states

2002 – Co-founded the Silent No More Awareness Campaign (SNMAC)

2003 – Forney elected President



2005 – Declaration of Life statement adopted as a recommended guideline for anyone seeking to set a standard and received 501 C3 status

2006 – Ministry’s name changed to Anglicans for Life, to reflect outreach to the wider Anglican body and the broader secular world



2009 – Lobbied ACNA to include Sanctity of Life Declaration in founding Canons; unanimously approved in June 2009

2010 – Board approved addition of new position, Marketing Director, to drive the expansion of Chapters, intensify AFL visibility and involvement within the Church, and increase funding sources

2014 – Forney ordained into the Jurisdiction of the Armed Forces and Chaplaincy as a Permanent Vocational Deacon. Established Anglicans for Life Canada outreach.

2015 – Silent No More Awareness Campaign introduces new Healing the Shockwaves of Abortion initiative to help people grow in their understanding of the impact abortion has on individuals, families, and society.

Anglicans for Life's Vision & Mission

WHO WE ARE:

ANGLICANS FOR LIFE is the only global Anglican ministry dedicated to inspiring the Anglican Church to understand and compassionately apply God's Word when addressing abortion, abstinence, adoption, euthanasia, and embryonic stem cell research.

WHAT WE DO:

Anglicans for Life mission is to encourage, equip, and empower Anglican Churches to fulfill Scripture's mandate to protect the vulnerable, defend the fatherless, and plead for the widow. How do we do that?

PASTORAL RESPONSE

In a world of profound confusion concerning life issues, we offer our expertise to ordained and lay leaders in their pastoral response to people facing difficult life decisions at all stages of life.

DISCERN CALL

Because God calls people specifically to this work, we help people discern and live out their call to life ministry in roles such as Prayer Team Members, Volunteers, Life Leaders, and Chapter Leaders at the local church level

PUBLISH RESOURCES

Finding biblically based Anglican life resources is challenging, therefore Anglicans for Life publishes user-friendly, effective resources for ministry and outreach.

GOSPEL OF LIFE

In a world where abortion is promoted as an exercise of a 'right' and consequence-free choice, we co-sponsor the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, a movement raising awareness through personal testimony of the devastating impact abortion has on women, men and society and the need for Christ-centered healing.

CHURCH WITNESS

Life ministry is often misunderstood and considered optional in the Church: we make it plain that life issues are Gospel issues, and that, in Jesus Christ, God's promises of forgiveness, hope, provision, and healing are available for all.

NETWORK HELP

Because those in need often do not know of others who can help, we provide networking expertise in connecting needs with life resources.

KINGDOM MINDED

Recognizing the constantly changing political atmosphere, Anglicans for Life does not affiliate or endorse any party or candidate nor do we receive funding from any national church body. AFL seeks to cultivate relationships with individuals and local churches that want to invest in Kingdom-minded ministry.

WHY WE DO IT:

AFL envisions an Anglican Communion that actively seeks justice, loves mercy, and walks humbly with God, consistently proclaiming the Gospel of Life as the foundation for fulfilling the Great Commission. Imagine every Anglican Church preaching and teaching God's love for life and then actually providing ministry based on that love.

Anglicans for Life employs the following strategies to address our mission:

1. Prevent abortion by affirming adoption and marriage as alternatives to abortion; encourage people/churches to develop emotional and financial resources to help pregnant mothers, and promote abstinence for pregnancy prevention.
2. Help people hurt by abortion by raising awareness about the physical and emotional pain experienced afterwards and offer resources for healing.
3. Prevent Assisted Suicide/Euthanasia from being accepted as a reasonable way to die, by working to meet the needs of those who are desperate enough to believe hasten death is an acceptable solution to suffering.
4. Help people who contact Anglicans for Life to become active in life ministry/outreach.
5. Educate the Church about policies and legislation, so they understand the connection between laws and pastoral care needs in the parish family.
6. Market and network Anglicans for Life so that people are aware of the organization, its resources, campaigns, and projects.
7. Develop and maintain outstanding resources, materials, and website to educate, inform, and activate people to protect and respect life.
8. Employ good day-to-day management practices and on-going fundraising to support our strategies.

Most of our ministry work focuses on the first three strategies—preventing abortion, assisted suicide/euthanasia, and helping those hurt by abortion. We approach the first two strategies from the perspective of the woman as well as the unborn baby. We believe that by helping pregnant women we can empower them to choose life for their babies. Furthermore, we have found the voice of women with abortion experience to be the most influential in helping people to see that abortion harms women and kills unborn babies. Anglicans for Life wants to extend the love of Christ to those women and their families.

We also approach the abortion issue from a loving, life-affirming perspective which opens the door to those who may not identify themselves as 'pro-life,' but who are willing to help women. Anglicans for Life discourages descriptions like 'anti-abortion' and 'pro-life' to describe our work as it gives people an excuse to dismiss us.

Anglicans for Life's Local Outreach

WHY IS LOCAL LIFE -AFFIRMING OUTREACH NEEDED?

God's church is called to be a light in the world; a light to display the love and truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every aspect of life. We live in a world that does not value life but embraces darkness and death. Abortion, embryonic stem cell research, and assisted suicide are just some examples of how our culture supports death, targeting the most vulnerable among us: the pregnant woman, the unborn child, the disabled adult, the sick grandparent. There are



men, women and children in our pews, in our families, and in our neighborhoods whose lives have been touched by death and darkness, living with the pain and hurt from abortion, abuse, long-term illnesses, loneliness, and violence.

As followers of Jesus Christ, Anglicans for Life believes we are called to reach out and minister to the lost, the needy, the sick, and suffering – those living in the darkness. *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”* (Ephesians 2:10). Anglicans for Life sees the need to be an advocate for life in our culture, and we want to equip you to do the same in your church, community, region, diocese, province, convocation, or seminary.

ANGLICANS FOR LIFE, A TRADITION OF FELLOWSHIP & PRAYER

Being a Christian is sharing fellowship in Christ with one another; Anglicans for Life is an extension of our Christian commitment to fellowship. We can have no greater strength than when we gather in the Lord’s name to work for truth, justice, and peace, which is what Anglicans for Life is all about. Our Lord Himself has promised, “Where two or three are gathered in my Name, I shall be in the midst of them.”

Ultimately the truth must prevail, and Anglicans for Life seeks to be a voice of grace and truth in the life issues prevalent in our Church and in the world. Quite frankly, many of those who advocate and support our current culture of death just do not know the facts and are completely unaware of the profound theological and moral problems posed by the “tolerance” or “politically correct at all costs” philosophy. Remember to be a gentle witness in your church for the sanctity of life by affecting the community with a ‘celebrate life’ attitude. A gentle-spirited approach will bear more fruit than a zealous ‘anti-abortion’ stand.

This is why Anglicans for Life’s Chapter Leaders are so important. In our work to advance the cause of Christian knowledge and the sanctity of human life, we must not overlook

spiritual needs. We must not only be knowledgeable, but also prayerful. For this reason Anglicans for Life urges all of its members to develop a strong spiritual presence personally and with others. Join in common intercessions at the Eucharist and Daily Office. Pray for the work of Anglicans for Life, and above all, for the plight of the unborn, all those touched by abortion, all those at risk of falling victim to euthanasia. Establishing a prayer chain to report current legislative concerns or community concerns is a great way to build your fellowship spiritually.

WHY LIFE CHAPTERS MATTER!

We keep ourselves very busy at the Anglicans for Life office—contacting churches, researching and writing articles to inform our readers, updating educational curriculums and other informational materials, working with people harmed by abortions, and organizing events and talks. And we know a lot about the life issues threatening our culture today, from abortion to embryonic stem cell research to assisted suicide.

But we cannot always know and act on everything—we do not always know about the young woman contemplating having an abortion in Albany, NY, the couple silently grieving and suffering from their shared abortion experience in Tulsa, OK, or the elderly man feeling depressed and considering assisted suicide in San Diego, CA. It's just not possible.

But with the help of AFL Chapters in churches nationwide and globally, we as God's people can honor and protect the unborn and the vulnerable in every city, town, and neighborhood!

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF AFL CHAPTERS?

The purpose of Chapters is to bring the Anglican Communion and the wider body of Christ, who value the authority of Scripture, and the sanctity of life, into an organized fellowship that will advocate for life within the local church body and provide the much needed life-affirming ministry in the local community. Organizing people at the parish or diocesan (grassroots) level is very important to the mission of Anglicans for Life. The AFL Chapters and Chapter Leaders are the local ambassadors for Anglicans for Life working to uphold the sanctity of life within a specific church and community.

While our office can provide resources, information, connections to help people or organizations, and a sense of authority and community, Chapter Leaders and members use their discernment, knowledge of their individual or church's talents and abilities and passion for Life to direct their ministries in protecting the unborn and vulnerable. Chapter members are the hands and feet of Christ as they seek to protect His gift of Life.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF AFFILIATING WITH ANGLICANS FOR LIFE?

1. You and your team are making yourselves available for God to reach people in your church and community. You are bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a particular area of ministry that is often ignored or politicized. You are reaching the people who need specific help!
2. Your AFL Chapter helps your church live out its commitment to help families and individuals who are dealing with a variety of life and family issues. By knowing the issues, the resources for help, and the love of Christ, you are prepared to help your church reach out more effectively.
3. Anglicans for Life is a banner under which we as the body of Christ can work together. Affiliation provides access to ministry resources and programs developed by Anglicans for Life such as the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, Project Life, and Embrace the Journey curriculums, and the network of parishes across the nation.
4. Your partnership gives Anglicans for Life more influence and opportunity to impact our culture with the life-affirming witness of Scripture.
5. You will receive monthly emails with updates on life news, publications, and materials for education, advocacy, and ministry support. Additionally, we send bulk quantities of the newsletter for distribution in the parish. The national office shares creative and successful ideas as they come along to help you accomplish your goals. Anglicans for Life's national office also works with leaders of other pro-life organizations, which allows us to build a grassroots network with which to connect. *The national office is your resource center for life-affirming information within the Anglican Communion.*
6. Your ministry will be listed on Anglicans for Life's website by name, parish, city, and state. You are strongly encouraged to connect with the other Chapter Leaders, particularly those in your area to create a life network. Whether there are other Chapter Leaders in your area or not, it is always a good idea to seek out like-minded individuals from other churches or life-affirming agencies. Individuals from within the network can keep one another informed about upcoming events or can plan events of their own in which they share the cost. It is a win-win situation.

Chapter Leaders in The Church

Anglicans for Life is grateful that the Lord has brought you to our life-affirming ministry. We recognize that the most important place where we should do life ministry is within the Church. Therefore, we welcome and ask both lay and ordained members of the Church to join Anglicans for Life in ministry, education, and advocacy.

AFL offers two different levels of involvement as a leader. In most situations, an individual making initial contact with AFL would serve as a *Life Leader* and could then move into the *Chapter Leader* role as your local church and/or individual needs and interest dictate. Both levels need to be prayerfully approached and blessed by the rector of your parish.

CONSIDERATIONS: *IMPORTANT FOR INVOLVEMENT AT ANY LEVEL.*

1. **PRAYER:** We ask you to seek God's guidance and discernment as you make the decision to take on any of these roles, realizing that involvement in life ministry is ultimately a call from the Lord and anointed by the Holy Spirit. Your role, as well as any specific actions and involvement in life issues, will unfold in God's timing and through His strength, perfect wisdom, and your ongoing discernment.

Ultimately, it's a task that should be accepted with a great deal of confidence in the Lord - who will work through you and equip you. Realize that humility does not mean that you are always hidden but rather that you are wherever the Lord wants you to be. So if He wants you to be out front, get out front - realizing that the good He will accomplish through you is all credited to Him. Know that we at Anglicans for Life will also be praying for you and your church.

2. **SELF-ASSESSMENT/DISCERNMENT:** As you prayerfully consider taking on a role with Anglicans for Life, ask yourself some questions:
 - *How strong is my relationship with the Lord? Life issues can be tough, emotionally draining, upsetting, and frustrating. We have found that a strong faith and prayer life are invaluable in this 'world.'*
 - *Do I feel called by God to this ministry? Why is the sacredness of life an important issue to me?*
 - *How are my leadership skills? Do I have experience communicating a vision, laying out action plans, and rallying people to make things happen?*
 - *Do I have the time – and the emotional and spiritual energy – to commit to becoming involved with AFL?*

Consider asking a good friend to work through these questions with you and offer their input.

3. **CHURCH LEADERSHIP APPROVAL:** Since all new church ministries should have approval of the church's rector, Anglicans for Life requires approval from your rector.

As part of the registration process, we believe that it's very important that you share your passion for life with your rector or spiritual director. We will assist you by providing background information on our organization and our ministries. Your job will be to schedule time with your rector to discuss your interest in life issues and to get his approval before moving forward. If your rector has additional questions or concerns, members of the Anglicans for Life staff or Board of Directors will be happy to answer them.

4. **PERSONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:** From experience, AFL knows that strong leadership is vital to the success of any of these roles within the Church. Successful leaders need to have vision, integrity, creativity, and humility. They must be strong communicators, effective delegators, and consistently dependable people.

AFL is your partner in your life mission; we are here to help you succeed! We will provide opportunities for leadership development through telephone/web conferences, printed literature, and internet resources. You are also encouraged to seek and pursue opportunities to increase your leadership effectiveness during your involvement in life ministry.

Chapter Leader

When your church and rector support the development of a chapter, here are the ongoing responsibilities of a Chapter Leader:

- Learn about AFL's mission, publications and other resources, as provided in this *AFL Chapter Handbook*
- Discern interest level of life issues within your church
- Begin to educate about life issues by distributing *AFL NewsBriefs* within your church. Stay informed about AFL and life issues and be prepared to share what you learn with others
- Seek to do one activity from the *What Can You Do to Protect Life.com* AFL website
- Arrange to have your name/church information included on AFL's website's list of Life Leaders
- Respond to information/communication updates as requested by AFL home office

- Together with your rector, consider coordinating one (1) special LIFE offering each year in your church as a donation to AFL.
- Stay informed about AFL events, life news, resources, etc. by checking AFL website regularly; receiving AFL e-communications; reading and using materials sent by AFL home office, and by following AFL on social networking sites if possible
- Accomplishing at least one project/initiative each year. Familiarize yourself with other pro-life groups, such as “The 40 Days for Life Campaign”; stay informed of local partnership opportunities with these groups
- Publicize activities and results within your church, e.g. in church bulletins, newsletters, etc.
- Place a link to AFL’s website on your church’s website
- Continuously recruit new members
- Keep members/church family informed
- Plan an annual AFL Chapter meeting to establish Chapter goals and action plans
- Stay informed of life issues and events that provide ideas for involvement/action. Examples of ACTION IDEAS include:
 - Arrange for pro-life guest speakers to participate in church services or as separate church event
 - Publicize the annual “March for Life” within your church and coordinate arrangements for church group to attend
 - Through AFL, arrange for “Sanctity of Life” bulletin inserts for your church during the month of January
 - Communicate life affirming community activities, news stories, etc. within your church
 - Organize a diaper drive or other fundraiser to support a local pregnancy resource center
 - Join AFL’s Prayer Team – and recruit others to join the Team as well!
Never underestimate the immense power of PRAYER to the life mission!
- Serve as liaison between AFL and your Chapter
- Provide photographs and Chapter news for Life Leaders section on AFL newsletter

- Provide leadership for ongoing development of Chapter outreach and ministry
- File Chapter Update forms annually, keeping us up-to-date with any changes in your chapter membership, location, contact information, etc.
- Responsible for any fundraising needed to carry out Chapter activities

Brief Overview of the Steps for Starting a Chapter:

- Recruit initial members
- Use available technologies for communications
- Plan formal meeting to officially establish chapter entity
- Identify your Chapter's areas of interest and type of activism
- Send completed Chapter Formation Statement and Chapter Member list to AFL office – see Section 2 of this Handbook
- Display AFL Life Chapter Certificate in visible location in your Church
- Rally your Chapter and begin to Protect Life Now!