What will I find in the newsletter?

◊ A Note From Hannah Brehm, Executive Director
◊ List of Upcoming Events
◊ March For Life Information

Melissa Ohden shares her story of growing up in Western Iowa. A normal teenager, Melissa was part of a loving family and always knew she was adopted. At age 14 she found out she was a survivor of a saline abortion. This led her life in a direction she could never have imagined. This book chronicles Melissa’s life through her struggles of accepting her past to finding the strength to fight for an end to abortion.

Stop by the office today to check out You Carried Me and many more from our lending library!

- Bottled Water
- Postage Stamps
- Colored Copy Paper
- Drivers for 40 Days for Life, Cedar Rapids
Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. is a non-profit, non-sectarian, education organization dedicated to preserving and fostering respect for human life from conception to natural death. We educate the public about the dangers of abortion, euthanasia and infanticide.
Happy September!

With the kids all heading back to school and the parking near Loras filling up, it is hard not to think about sitting at little desks with freshly sharpened pencils and a clean black board. I have always loved the smell of books and the Loras College library became a second home to me during my days as a Duhawk. But the best thing about school (besides recess and chicken nugget Mondays) was the opportunity to learn.

There are so many things to learn. To quote the good man Dr. Seuss, “There are so many things you can learn about, but you’ll miss the best things if you keep your eyes shut”. DCRTL is here to help you learn! We have a lending library with a wide variety of books, from personal stories of handling an unplanned pregnancy to the science behind the “hook-up” culture. We also have a monthly meeting with a well-informed speaker on the first Thursday of each month. These meetings are open to everyone!

These next few months will bring many more opportunities to learn- from the Assisted Suicide Informational Night to our Pro-Life Awareness Month speaker David Cordaro. We are dedicated to helping you keep your eyes open on all pro-life issues.

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go” – Dr. Seuss

#CHARLIEGARD UPDATE

Little Charlie Gard passed away on July 28, 2017, just one week shy of his first birthday. Charlie was diagnosed with mitochondrial depletion syndrome just after birth and needed a ventilator to breathe. The London hospital decided that it was not in Charlie’s best interest to continue living and ordered the ventilator to be removed against the wishes of his parents. Charlie’s parents, Chris and Connie, had raised over $1.5 million to cover his costs and had found a hospital and doctor who were willing to try and help. After U.S. neurologist Dr. Michio Hirano flew in to examine Charlie, he discovered it was too late. Too much time had passed while Charlie’s parents had fought the legal system. In an article from liveaction.org, Nancy Flanders lays out the question quite clearly. She wrote, “Charlie’s parents believed that despite any challenges Charlie might have faced as the result of mitochondrial disease, his life was valuable and worth living. The hospital felt the opposite. This leaves the world questioning who has the right to choose the care a child receives- doctors or parents?”
STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES ON WELCOMING “ANTI-ABORTION” CANDIDATES BY PROGRESSIVES

In August, a group of Progressives released a Statement of Principles. This came in response to the disagreement among some Democrats on whether pro-life politicians would be welcome in the party. This statement is not something that all Democrats prescribe to but some particularly vocal groups have backed it. These groups include NARAL Pro-Choice America, Emily’s List and Planned Parenthood Action Fund. While their intent is to help women, they forget about how damaging abortion is to both women and their unborn children. The statement is printed below in order to help keep pro-lifers informed on where certain groups stand on pro-life issues.

“As progressives, we know we cannot have a real conversation about economic security that does not include the ability to decide if, when, and how to raise a family; that being able to plan a pregnancy has a powerful effect on educational attainment, career trajectory, and chance to define our own destinies.

As progressives, we stand united in understanding that policies that limit access to abortion and force medically unnecessary procedures are oppressive to women, especially low-income women and women of color.

As progressives, we stand united in the belief that a woman’s autonomy over her own body is not a secondary issue or a “social issue,” but rather a human right and a necessity in order to attain and preserve economic security in her life.

As progressives, we acknowledge that the current economic system is exceptionally punishing of mothers, single mothers, and mothers of color whose wages, job opportunities, and economic advancement suffer due to the “motherhood penalty.”

As progressives, we stand united in our belief that 21st century economic populism must include an understanding of how race and gender affect our economic reality and our economic opportunity.

As a progressive movement, we recognize that over the last decade there has been a massive erosion of access to abortion and attacks on contraception and we cannot back away from this fight without abandoning people and undercutting core constituencies in our base.

As we always have, progressives share our party with people who personally don’t believe that abortion is an option for them. This includes self-identified “pro-life” legislators up until the moment they seek to impose those personal views on their constituents and the country. If they vote to restrict abortion access or contraception access, they then undercut the party platform and they undercut the welfare of women. We strive for and believe in personal evolution and growth so, if they have voted to do so in the past, the burden of proof is upon them through subsequent votes and/or public statements — not in the heat of a campaign — but prior to running for office or reelection.

Thus, as progressives, we know to organize, mobilize, and win elections we must field candidates who understand the integral nature of these core values and bring the full power of our collective base to win.”
**NOT ENOUGH KIDS?**

A recent tweet from Tesla Motors CEO and cofounder, Elon Musk has caused some people to pause and think. He tweeted “The world’s population is accelerating towards collapse, but few seem to notice or care”. Musk is referring to an article by New Scientist that looks at Japan’s low birth rate, which is 1.4 children per woman, well below the replacement rate.

There are many theories about the world’s population. Pro-lifers will sometimes hear the argument that there are too many people already on this earth, that abortion could help eliminate “unwanted” children who would just contribute more to our problems. However, some studies show differently. Almost half the world’s nations have fertility rates below the replacement level. According to the World Fertility Patterns 2015 study, 46% of the world’s population lives in countries where women have fewer than 2.1 children on average. These countries include all of Europe and Northern America as well as many countries in Asia and Latin America. The total fertility rate for the world is 2.5 children per woman. This is mostly due to the high fertility rates in Africa, which has an average of 4.7 children per woman. In order for the population to exactly replace itself from one generation to the next the average amount of children born per woman would need to be 2.1.

This low fertility rate could cause many problems in the near future. Human beings are innovative and the youngest generation usually helps drive those innovations. Lower birth rates lead to fewer people joining the workforce and fewer advancements. Also, the care for the elderly is financed largely by taxes to the younger generation. Low birth rates lead to a smaller tax base to finance that care. In short, we need people to help the world continue and progress. Overpopulation can no longer be used as an excuse to defend legalized abortions.

**ASSISTED SUICIDE INFORMATIONAL NIGHT**

Have you ever wondered where the Catholic Church stood on the issue of assisted suicide? Or have you ever struggled with knowing how to defend the pro-life position against assisted suicide and euthanasia? We offer you a chance to learn more!

**Thursday, September 14, 2017** will be an Assisted Suicide Informational Night starting at 6:30pm in the O’Brien Room at Nativity Church in Dubuque. Three speakers will approach the topic from different angles. Hannah Brehm will begin with the negative effects assisted suicide has had so far, along with addressing many of the common arguments for assisted suicide. Dianne Fasselius from Hospice of Dubuque will explain how palliative care helps patients to live until they die. She will share how Hospice fits into the end-of-life debate. Dr. Janine Idziak will end the evening explaining what the Catholic Church teaches on assisted suicide and euthanasia. There will be a time for question and answer at the end.
October is **Respect Life Month** and we have plenty of ways to celebrate! We begin the month with Life Saver Sunday and the Life Chain on October 1st. Our membership meeting will feature the new movie Voiceless at Mindframe Theaters. Pro-Life Awareness week will be October 16-20, 2017. We are excited to have David Cordaro join us as our distinguished speaker.

David is the Upper Midwest Regional Coordinator for Students for Life of America. In May of 2017, he graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Architecture degree. During his studies, he served as President of ISU Students for Life for two years, implementing the Pregnant on Campus Initiative, among other things. In 2016, he was accepted into the William Wilberforce Fellowship with SFLA, where David found his calling to work in the pro-life movement.

Starting in 2013, David served as a member of the Iowa Right to Life Speakers Bureau and spoke on numerous occasions defending the dignity of human life. In 2014, he was featured in ‘Catholic Digest’ magazine as an Extraordinary Young Adult for his work and commitment to the pro-life cause. In 2017, David was hired onto the SFLA team and currently covers Iowa and Illinois. His passion is breaking down stereotypes of pro-lifers and finding commonalities among all people.

David will speak in several area schools, civic groups and DCRTL functions this October. Watch our future newsletters for further dates and times of events you will not want to miss!

**Wednesday, October 18, 2017**  
11:30am- 1:00pm  
Best Western Plus Hotel- Dubuque  
Cost: $10/ DCRTL Member; $20/ Non-Members  
(Please pay at the door)  
**Reservations necessary:** call 563-556-5960 by Monday, October 9, 2017.
**You’re Invited!**

Iowan’s for Life Annual Banquet
Thursday, October 12, 2017 – 6:00 PM
The Meadows Bishop Ballroom, Altoona
Keynote Speaker: MATT BIRK
“Standing Ground: NFL Pro Says No”

Matt Birk is an NFL star and pro-life warrior who stands up for his beliefs. He was named the 2011 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year for his off-the-field service as well as his playing excellence. He is a member of the Super Bowl XLVII champion Baltimore Ravens. Matt and his wife Adrianna are raising seven children, all under the age of 14.

You can register at [www.iowansforlife.org](http://www.iowansforlife.org) or call 515-255-4113
Cost: $50 per person; $500 table of 8

Register at [www.IowansForLife.org](http://www.IowansForLife.org) or call 515-255-4113

According to the 40 Days for Life website, “The mission of the campaign is to bring together the body of Christ in a spirit of unity during a focused 40-day campaign of prayer, fasting, and peaceful activism, with the purpose of repentance, to seek God’s favor to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life, thus bringing an end to abortion.”

With Planned Parenthood gone from Dubuque, it is our chance to help close the next closest location. We can help our pro-life friends at Coalition for Life in Cedar Rapids by taking a few hours at their 40 Days for Life Campaign. This year it will take place from Wednesday, September 27- Sunday, November 5, 2017. DCRTL will be taking a few hours of prayer throughout the month. Join us on Thursday, **September 28th at 11am** and Tuesday, **October 31st at 2pm**. Contact the office (563-556-5960) if you would like to join us! Feel free to grab a few friends and sign up on your own as well!

**Check out our advertisers.**
Thank You!

Fr. Jim Miller, for copy paper & bottled water
Karen Hunt, for copy paper

Those who helped with the Membership Picnic especially
Monie Anstoetter and Irene Scherrman for picking up the chicken

Those who helped with the prayer service and Mass for Life especially
Tim Duggan and Cassie Schetgen

Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of:
Erin O'Connor, given by Dick & Jean Mescher
Jay Kiernan, given by Jim & Kathy Conlon
Marion Greenwood, given by Larry & Irene Scherrman
Ruth Urbain, given by John & Sue Lukasik
Vince Crimmins, given by Dr. Virgil & Marian Bourek and John & Sue Lukasik

In Honor Of:
Fr. Verbest’s birthday, given by Fred & Janell Timmermans
Kathy Seremin’s birthday, given by Jim & Kathy Conlon
Katy McGuire’s retirement, given by Dr. Virgil & Marian Bourek
Marvin & Mary Jane Schieltz’s 50th Wedding Anniversary, given by Jim & Kathy Conlon

When a gift is given in memory or in honor of a loved one, an acknowledgement card is sent to the person or family you designate. With gifts of $250 or greater, their name is engraved on our memorial plaque which is displayed in our office. Simply send us, along with your gift, the name of the person you are honoring and the name and address of the family to whom you’d like the acknowledgement sent. We’ll be happy to send out cards.

A QUOTEABLE QUOTE

When we consider that women are treated as property it is degrading to women that we should treat our children as property to be disposed of as we see fit.

—Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 1868
The 45th anniversary of the infamous Roe v. Wade decision that decriminalized abortion will be observed in our nation’s capital with the annual National March for Life. Since 1994, DCRTL has led pilgrimages to this event. Our message to the Iowa Congressional Delegation- and all of America- is that we must return protection to the unborn children. The violence of abortion must stop.

Would you like to be a part of this year’s pilgrimage? Approximately 300 people from our area will be participating. There is room for YOU! Some details are subject to change, but the general schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, January 17: Departure from Dyersville and Dubuque in the evening
Thursday, January 18: Arrive in D.C./Attend Pro-Life Mass
Friday, January 19: M4L Rally/March/Night Tour of Monuments
Saturday, January 20: Free Day/Depart for home after Mass in the evening
Sunday, January 21: Arrive at home – approximately noon

We will continue our pilgrimage to Washington in the years to come. We’ll stand up and speak out until the hearts, minds and laws of America reflect protection for the children. We’ll continue our travels and our efforts until that victorious day when we travel to Washington for a Celebration of Life!

Call DCRTL today to register for this amazing pro-life pilgrimage or send in the registration form (below) along with your $150 deposit. Total cost of the trip is $400.

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March for Life Pilgrimage

Name ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________

Phone __________________________ Cell ____________________________

Email ____________________________________________

Others traveling with you: ____________________________________________

________________________________________

Call DCRTL if you have questions.