

# LIFERS

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## WORKING TO WIN THE “FIGHT FOR LIFE”

On Sunday evening, October 11, members of CSC Pro-Life Group attended a LifeFront training session in Overland Park, KS. LifeFront is an apostolate that focuses on prayer and sidewalk counseling at abortion clinics.

The apostolate began outside Planned Parenthood when two young women realized that they needed to find a way to fight for life. LifeFront has since been a physical presence at the Overland Park Planned Parenthood where 6,000 abortions are performed yearly. Every Saturday morning from 6:30-10:00 a.m. the group is there counseling and praying for the people who are entering the facility. This group, with God’s help, has aided twenty-five mothers in choosing to bring their child into this world.

This training session was focused on the importance of physical presence outside of the abortion clinic. The presenter said, “Presence at the abortion mill is witness.” She went on to explain that this witness is powerful because it makes it impossible for people to forget what is really happening.

The pro-life group left the session with a greater understanding of what can be done to win the fight for the culture of life. Through the session they were given a strong determination to do whatever it takes to stop the atrocity of abortion, even if it means they have to pray a few rosaries in the snow. Whatever it takes, they will remain dedicated to fighting for life at all stages.



**LIFEFRONT** CSC students Eric Martin (background) and Allen Kirchner listen to a presentation on the LifeFront organization on Oct. 11 in Overland Park, KS.

– Eric Martin, Diocese of Jefferson City

## A REFLECTION ON HUMANAE VITAE

As Catholics we know that life is sacred because it is made in God’s own image. Furthermore, we do not even own the life we live because it is a gift from God. Thus, is it really my choice to interrupt the life of a human being, a life that is a gift from God?

The issue of contraception has played a large role in the development of nations in the recent past. Science is always looking for methods to benefit people, and as the 1960s approached, science ventured further into the realm of sexuality. Pharmaceutical enterprises developed “the pill” and other contraceptives which prevent procreation. These soon led to one of the greatest moral crises in our world, abortion, and helped create a culture which today is experiencing a

moment of self-satisfaction, where what feels good is what holds peoples’ attention. Part of this mindset is the idea of sex without consequences. However, this misses the point, because life is not about selfishness. Life is beyond that, and sex for its own sake does not lead to the fullness of love meant for the other person in matrimony. This is because “marriage and conjugal love are by their nature ordained toward the procreation and education of children. Children are really the supreme gift of marriage and contribute in the highest degree to their parents’ welfare” (*Humanae Vitae*).

When *Humane Vitae* was promulgated by Paul VI on July 25, 1968, its teaching sparked great

controversy in the United States even among Catholics. Many Catholics had expected the Church to be open to the idea of contraception, and when Pope Paul VI proclaimed a solid message about the protection of life and procreation, many reacted against it or just simply ignored it... “But it comes as no surprise to the Church that she, no less than her divine Founder, is destined to be a sign of contradiction, but also of continuity of the Church’s doctrine and tradition... What was true yesterday is true also today.” (Benedict XVI quoting *Humanae Vitae*)

– Ignacio Olvera,  
Diocese of Wichita



**LIFE CHAIN 2009** Twenty-five seminarians from Conception joined approximately eighty other pro-lifers along Main Street in Maryville, MO for the annual Life Chain prayer event held the first Sunday of October. The participants, ranging in age from infancy to the elderly, stood silently with signs sharing messages such as “Abortion Kills Children,” “Adoption: The Loving Option,” and “Abortion Hurts Women.”

Tri-County Right to Life, the organizers of the local Life Chain, said that it may have been the largest turnout since its inception. National Life Chain reported that in 2008 there were over 1,400 cities and towns that hosted Life Chains. More information on the event is available at [www.nationallifechain.org](http://www.nationallifechain.org). Seminarians pictured are (left to right) Chris Aubuchon, Zach Williams, and Ben Boyd.

## CARING ABOUT THE HEALTH CARE BILL

The next time you are home, remember to send a letter to your congressman and senator to tell them, “I won’t support the current health care reform bill unless it excludes mandated coverage of abortion, incorporates longstanding policies against abortion funding, and is in favor of conscience rights.” The current health care bill can’t be supported as it stands right now for a number of reasons.

Our bishops, in a letter through the USCCB to Congress, said that there has not been any progress on three points: First and most importantly, the health care bill should explicitly exclude mandated coverage of abortion, incorporate longstanding policies against abortion funding, and favor conscience rights.” Second,

the bill should “adopt measures that protect and improve people’s health care”. Last but not least, it should “include effective measures to safeguard the health of immigrants, their children and all of society.”

Now that the bishops have spoken, what are we going to do about it? Well, like any good American citizen, we should let our senators and representatives know about it. Michael Ramos, a friend of mine who works for Congressman Phil Hare of Illinois told me that the best way to lobby someone in Congress is to visit them face to face. For many of us though, Washington D.C. is out of the way. The next best thing is to visit a local office in your congressional district. You can find your representative by going

to [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and entering your zip code in the upper left hand corner of the homepage. I should warn you that one should probably make an appointment and not just arrive unannounced at an office. When arranging the appointment, also make sure to state exactly where you are from.

The second best way is to send your congressman a hand-written letter. Since these take time and effort on the part of the writer, they tend to be personally read by a staff member. Be sure to include your home address and telephone number so that they know you’re from the area. A local postmark also helps because most mail is thrown away that’s not from the district represented. Be sure to only address one issue at a time and be short and sweet, a half page at most stating why you’re passionate about an issue.

The third best way is a phone call. Washington D.C. may be hard to reach, but I would suggest calling your local senators and representatives at both their Washington and district offices saying, “Hi, I’m so and so from (place you’re from) and I will not support the health care bill if it supports abortion.” Phone calls are good when there’s little time before a bill is voted on.

Finally, a recent new trend is e-mail. As long as it’s not a generic e-mail message, someone will read it, but remember that staff members read many e-mails and these carry little weight, as anyone can mass e-mail a system. Whichever way you choose to communicate to your elected officials about the health care bill, do so quickly before it’s too late.

- Guillermo Treviño,  
Diocese of Davenport

**“Hey, check out this website!”**

**USCCB Pro-Life Activities Home Page: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/>**