**2019-2020 GCRTL Events & Program Ideas**

**Anytime Projects:**

* Organize a day or hour to pray at a local abortion clinic: weekly, monthly, or with 40 Days for Life
* Volunteer to co-sponsor a GCRTL program at your church
* Invite a GCRTL speaker to come to your church for a special event
* Host a “pulpit pitch” for GCRTL during Sanctity of Human Life Sunday or Respect Life Month
* Bring the Memorial of the Unborn to your church, group, event, or festival
* Offer a Holy Hour, Mass, or Prayer Intention for pro-life work
* Host a pro-life movie night or coffee club

**Special Programs:**

* 40 Days for Life: Fall Campaign (Founders): September 25-Nov 3. Spring 2020 Campaign (TBD) Lent
* Join us for Carols at the Clinic (Saturday, December 14th), or help us to sponsor a “Carols at the Home” for an area nursing home. Note: we have beautiful carol books available that combine well-loved Christmas carols/hymns with readings of the Christmas story. It makes and approximately 45 minute program).
* Roe Remembrance: Noon on January 22nd inside the Atrium at the Ohio Statehouse (following the 10:30 am Respect Life Mass)
* Attend, serve as a table host, or sponsor our Annual Banquet (TBD, probably June 15th)
* Join our sidewalk team for an hour of prayer at a local abortion clinic (gcrtl.org/pray)
* Sign up for our twice monthly emails ([www.gcrtl.org](http://www.gcrtl.org) – signup is at the bottom)
* Host a mini-fundraiser to benefit our work

**Volunteer Needs:**

We are currently recruiting for the following volunteer positions, visit www.gcrtl.org/volunteer:

* Sidewalk Counselor
* Sidewalk Prayer Partner
* Office Admin (5 hours, weekly)
* Thank-you coordinator (10 hours, monthly)
* Social Media assistant (varies)
* Intermittent support (envelope stuffing, mail prep, etc)
* Church coordinator
	+ Clergy recruitment
	+ Church liaisons

**Special Needs:**

We recently moved our office to be next door to the HQ of Planned Parenthood. While this is an excellent move, we have lost access to our large conference room. If your church would like to co-host an event, we are happy to bring all materials and speakers!

**Program Ideas and Information**

**Greater Columbus Right to Life**

**40 Days for Life:** 40 Days for Life is an international program focused on prayerful and peaceful witness at a local abortion clinic. Greater Columbus Right to Life has sponsored the Columbus 40 Days for Life program for ten years. The program is offered twice each year, in the spring and in the fall. The spring campaign coincides with Lent, and the fall campaign is the 40 Days leading up to the general election. The fall campaign starts September 25 and runs through November 3rd. Prayer times are available from 7am-7pm in front of Founder’s abortion clinic: 1243 E Broad Street, 43205.

 Program idea: Sign your church up to adopt a full day or a few hours. Invite other groups within the parish to join you in sponsoring the event, or ask your Priest or Deacon to join you for an hour of the campaign.

**Memorial of the Unborn:** a display of baby socks, shoes, and booties to represent each baby lost in abortion in our community. Available in a traveling exhibit for a day, week, month, and year-to-date (in some communities). Can be used as part of an unmanned display or as part of a dialog and discussion/presentation.

Program idea: We still need to collect about 1000 pair to have the complete year. Ask about bringing a collection program (Soles for Souls) to your church! Learn more at gcrtl.org/unborn.

**Sidewalk Counseling and Prayer:** Greater Columbus Right to Life maintains a prayerful and peaceful presence at Ohio’s first abortion clinic every day that it is open. In the past three years, we have helped hundreds of women turn away from the clinic. Sidewalk Counselors go through an intensive 8-hour training program that equips participants to minister to women who are entering the abortion clinic. Prayer partners are needed to help provide the spiritual and physical support to sidewalk counseling team members and do not require any specific training.

Program ideas: Sponsor or host a sidewalk counselor training session at your church, or invite one of our Sidewalk Counselors to come in to speak about his or her experiences in front of an abortion clinic at your next meeting. You are also invited to share the opportunity to become a sidewalk counselor or prayer partner via a bulletin notice, which we can provide.

**GCRTL Bulletin Content & Life Ambassadors:** About 40 local churches regularly share GCRTL programming through bulletin content. If your church is not and you would like to help us spread information on pro-life activities, let us know and we will make sure we are in touch!

Program ideas: We can also help by providing specialized and custom bulletin inserts for respect life month, sanctity of human life Sunday, or any other opportunity that comes up!

**Spiritual Adoption:** Spiritual adoption programs invite your group or parish to pray for the life of an unborn child. We have information available that includes getting life-like fetal representations at varying stages of development (cost may be involved), providing prayer cards with Ven. Fulton Sheen’s spiritual adoption prayer, (no cost).

*Program idea:* Share weekly or monthly information on fetal development in the appropriate place at your church or school. We have some fetal models available to borrow or we can help with a full program kit purchase. Include development information in the bulletin and provide all participants with a prayer card and an opportunity to name the “adopted” child.

**Prayer-a-Thon and Grant Opportunities:** If you would like to host a peer-to-peer fundraising program to benefit GCRTL or pro-life efforts at your church (or both), we have software to facilitate that. With walks and runs becoming increasingly popular, we can help you to organize one of those. If you would like a more unique approach, such as our prayer-a-thon effort. GCRTL will be hosting our first ever “prayer-a-thon” this fall. Individuals and teams are welcome to participate on their own or as part of a grant-earning team, which will allow your group an easy, pro-life fundraiser.

**Movie Nights:** We have or can access licenses for a variety of movies and documentaries on pro-life issues, and for most we have an accompanying talk, presentation, or materials. We can also bring the popcorn!

**Educational Areas:** We can provide a speaker, content, or material on a wide array of pro-life issues. Our programs touch base on current and historical issues in the pro-life movement including abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, end-of-life, bioethics, religious freedom, and rights of conscience. See additional program information.

**Materials**: Greater Columbus Right to Life has access to a variety of printed materials, pro-life tee shirts, little feet pins, bulletin inserts, balloons, and more. Consider giving us a call before your next festival or meeting to see if we can provide free or reduced cost items for your use.

**Leadership roles:** We are actively seeking individuals to serve on our Board, Program Committees, or the Host Committee for the fundraiser(s) that make our work possible in the community. We invite you to prayerfully consider if taking a more active role in GCRTL is for you!

**Pro-Life Project Idea: Speaker Series**

*We are happy to bring a speaker to your church or group on pro-life topics. There is no charge for this, but we do gratefully accept any donations to cover mileage and staff time costs. We are also happy to do a collection to split between GCRTL and your group*

**Talk Examples:**

* **Pro-Life at the End of Life:** (1 hour): understanding the basics of pro-life bioethics and the pro-life Health Care Power of Attorney
* **Pro-Life Bootcamp** (1, 2, or 3 hour versions): covers basic apologetics and current events
* **Sidewalk Bootcamp** (1, 2, or 3 hour versions): covers the basics of sidewalk counseling and prayer, including local resources
* **Sidewalk Counseling** (3 or 6 hour class): Generally offered at GCRTL once every two months, but additional trainings can be brought to your location with 5 registrants interested. Can be split between two sessions. A mini-session is now available as a 2.5 or 4 hour class (size depending)
* **Changing Hearts, Changing Minds, Changing Laws** (1 hour): Provides a general overview of the basic laws in Ohio that regulate abortion. 30 minute add-in available that looks at Constitutional/Judicial decisions.
* **Prayer as a Foundation of Pro-Life Activity** (45 minutes):
* **The PRAYERS Method:** (45 minutes)
* **Threats at the End of Life** (1 hour): looks at the status of assisted suicide and euthanasia laws, and/or review the pro-life principals that guide advanced medical directives.
* **The 4th Wound of Abortion** (45 minutes – 1.5 hours): explores the traditionally understood wounds of abortion, but also explores the need for pro-life advocates to be strengthened in their faith. Looks at the basic principles of compassion fatigue as they can be experienced
* **You are Pro-Life, Are Your Documents?** (45 minutes): A look at advanced medical directives in the context of pro-life beliefs
* **Stewards, Not Owners** (1-1.5 hours): (Note: will be presented to anyone, but is based on Catholic Social Teaching and the Theology of the Body). Many of us are able to construct a basic theological and secular basis to defend our pro-life values at its earliest stages, but it can become trickier to do so when it relates to end-of-life and other related issues. Our ED takes a look at what the Catechism means when it says that “we are the stewards, not the owners” of the life God has given us, explores why purely secular approaches to the dignity of human life are incomplete, and explains the ramifications for incomplete apologetics at life’s end.
* **Memorial of the Unborn Presentation (**1 hour or unmanned): Using the Memorial of the Unborn, GCRTL breaks down abortion at the National, State, and local levels and shares how each of us can work to end abortion.
* **Current Events or Custom Talk**: Have another topic or idea in mind? Check with us. Chances are strong that we have an existing program or a great recommendation for you.

**Movie Nights:**

GCRTL owns the viewing rights to several pro-life films and can work with you to obtain others. Bring a pro-life movie night to your church and we will even provide the popcorn! After the movie, we will stay around to lead a discussion, answer questions, or provide a short program. Some of these movies we hold an unlimited license for. Others we are required to obtain a license in order to legally show the movie.

* **Unplanned** (original version): The documentary based on Abby Johnson’s book, Unplanned. This is NOT the theatrical version recently released.
* **Unplanned** (theatrical version): We can help arrange a license for the Unplanned theatrical film, which is currently $199. This price is set by the distributor, not us. We also have copies of the DVD available to borrow, but by law this is for informal/unpublished/private groups only. Example: if you want to host a showing of the movie at your church and plan to hang signs and invite people within or outside the church, you need a license. If you would like to invite a few friends or the members of your Bible study to watch it, you are welcome to borrow our copy (or buy/rent your own).
* **Voiceless:** A lost man discovers purpose and sidewalk counseling
* **The Euthanasia Deception:** A secular approach to look at the problems with Europe’s assisted suicide laws
* **Fatal Flaws:** An updated look at how a rise in “right to die” legislation has ushered in Euthanasia
* **Gosnell:** (license pending): Based on the real-life story of Kermit Gosnell’s “House of Horrors”

**Steps:**

1. Check with Pastor, principal, or other appropriate person
2. Decide on a date (we suggest identifying 2-3 potential dates).
3. Contact Beth @ GCRTL (beth@gcrtl.org) to arrange a time and date.
4. Connect with appropriate groups to help publicize or co-sponsor (Bible Study, KoC, RL Committee, MOPS, etc)
5. Publicize in bulletin or other appropriate location
6. Hang signs or posters. You can make your own, or contact Beth for customized options. Social media emblems, etc., also available.