

On the Sidewalk The PRAYERS Method

Greater Columbus
Right to Life
Growing a Community of Life
www.gcrtl.org 614-445-8508

Partner Up— Always take a minimum of one partner with you to the abortion clinic. More is better. Youth: Make sure your parents know where you are going and who you will be with (better yet, invite them to come join you). Abortion clinics tend to be located in urban areas with high poverty levels. This can also mean that they are in higher crime areas. Observe basic safety protocols, keep a cell phone on you, and take turns praying and keeping a lookout.

Respect and Love—Treat the women going into the clinic, their support person (if they have one), and the clinic staff with Respect and Love. Our respect for the unborn (and the elderly and infirm) comes from a perspective that all human life is valuable. Your words of love and compassion will plant a seed in their hearts. GCRTL volunteers also respect the confidentiality of every person we meet on the sidewalk at all times. GCRTL volunteers are expected to adhere to the standards found in our Statement of Peace .

Always Obey the Law—While the First Amendment affirms the right to peaceably assemble in promotion of our beliefs, this does not mean you can do anything anywhere . **Never trespass** onto private property (either belonging to the clinic or a neighbor). **Never block** the sidewalk or an entrance to a parking lot—even if your intention is to move out of the way when someone comes by, you should still allow room for someone to pass without waiting for you. Never threaten violence, and report anyone who does. **Never grab or touch** a person you meet on the sidewalk. **Always obey the lawful request of a police officer.** If you are not sure if it is lawful—obey anyway and follow up with GCRTL. We maintain a good relationship with CPD; let’s keep it that way.

You Can Do It—One of the biggest obstacles to praying on the sidewalk or becoming a sidewalk counselor is the belief (or fear) that you cannot do it. That simply is not true. Not only can you do it, but we need you to help. There are many areas to serve in the prolife movement, but everyone –regardless of his or her gifts, can pray.

Educate Yourself—Learn more about your prolife beliefs and how to effectively communicate them to others. Consider taking a sidewalk counseling class if you’d like to branch out to that sort of ministry. Don’t forget to keep tabs on what the pro-abortion community is saying, because it will help you to be better able to rebut their arguments. Be Familiar with the local pregnancy resource center and post abortion recovery programs. There is always something new to learn and someone new to learn to love.

Report Back—When you get back from the clinic, report back what you saw, if you talked to anyone, if something strange happened (get a picture), or if a woman turned away.

Spiritually Grounded—The sidewalk is a place of spiritual warfare, so be prepared. If you are not yet ready to pray on the sidewalk or become a sidewalk counselor, that is ok too; please keep us in your prayers!

So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. 1 Cor 3:7

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On the Sidewalk Prayer and Intercession

Prayer can sometimes be very difficult, especially for the person who is not accustomed to praying for long periods at a time. While we welcome individuals from all faith backgrounds to join us in the form of prayer or silent solidarity that most fits their religious beliefs, we offer a few suggestions to help guide a full hour of prayer.

Pray

For all unborn children:

that our love for them may keep them safe until the joyous day of their birth

For every little child, and especially for those who live in their mother's womb, that they might grow in the image and likeness of the God who made them;

For the children who have died from abortion, and for their mothers and fathers, for mercy, peace and the loving embrace of Christ:

For children who are unwanted by their parents, that God's grace might send others to love and care for them;

For the children of our country, especially those forgotten or neglected, that their presence might remind us of the infinite value of human life;

That the life of every human person, from conception to natural death, might be protected in our laws;

For all mothers, particularly those who are with child, that they may be supported by loved ones and warm friends, and that they may be understood and blessed;

For fathers, especially those who are very young, they might assume the great responsibility God has given them;

For an end to all laws which legalize the taking of a human life, that our nation might embrace truth and justice;

Scriptural Passages for Contemplation:

Jeremiah 1:4-5
Deuteronomy 27:25
Matthew 18:1-2, 10
Isaiah 49:1,5
Galatians 1:15
John 3:16

For everyone who is haunted by the memory of abortion, that they might know repentance, mercy, and peace;

For those who pray before abortion clinics, who march for life, or who witness to the rights of all human beings: that God strengthen & guide them;

For those who long for the equality of all persons: that their dedication to the unborn, the old, the condemned, and the forgotten, may grow every day;

For all young professionals, especially doctors, lawyers and those in public service: that they might come to know and cherish the truth of the Gospel of Life;

For all who do not embrace the rights of the unborn that, in love, they may come to know and treasure the infinite value of every human person;

For those who provide or cooperate in abortions, that by our love for the truth and for them, they might turn from darkness and death;

For doctors who perform abortions and those who assist them, that by our love, patience, and unswerving dedication to the truth, they choose life.

**Adapted from the USCCB's Intercessions for Life*

The PRAYERS Model was developed by Greater Columbus Right to Life. To obtain more copies, learn about our programs or support our work, visit us online at www.gcrtl.org

Psalm 139
Psalms 22
Matthew 1:20-21
Psalm 128
Psalm 127
Genesis 1:26-27
Matthew 6:26
2 Kings 8: 12

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