

### 40 Days for Life Explanation

**Can also be used as a pulpit announcement or bulletin insert. Edit as necessary!**

*If you could save a life from the destruction of abortion, would you?*

#### Getting your Group/Church Involved

40 Days for Life (40DFL) is an incredible opportunity to unite members of your church or group in prayer and action. For the campaign to work, we need dedicated volunteers who are willing to give of their time and talents to be coordinators for their churches and groups. As a coordinator, we are counting on you to communicate all of the necessary info to your members to ensure that their participation is fruitful, peaceful, and rewarding.

- **Prayer and Fasting to End Abortion**

- The power of prayer cannot be overstated. Encourage your members to commit to daily prayer and fasting during the 40 days, and encourage use of the prayer on the 40 Days for Life Prayer Card. Whenever you meet as a church/group, pray this 40DFL prayer.
- Visit [www.40DaysForLifeNOLA.com](http://www.40DaysForLifeNOLA.com) to find the 40DFL prayer and order prayer cards.

- **40 Day for Life Vigil at Women's Health Care Center.** Join us for a peaceful and compassionate vigil at the Women's Health Care Center abortion facility at 2701 General Pershing St, New Orleans. The vigil will begin Wednesday, Sept. 26 and will span from 7 AM – 7 PM every day until it ends on Sunday, Nov. 4th. It is the goal of 40 Days for Life to have at least 2 people present every hour during the campaign.

- **Adopt-a-Day:** We encourage churches and groups to "adopt-a-day" at the 40 Days for Life vigil. Visit [www.40DaysForLifeNOLA.com](http://www.40DaysForLifeNOLA.com) to view the vigil calendar and sign up online for a date. Most groups adopt one or two days.
  - It is best for groups to **adopt their date at least a month before** the beginning of 40 Days for Life and to advertise it to their group at least two weeks before the beginning of the campaign so that their members can participate in campaign events.
  - By adopting a day a group agrees to have 2-3 people at the site in shifts for the entire day. Most coordinators pick one meeting or weekend of church services to speak to their groups about signing up for individual hours of the campaign.
  - Note: During business hours it is ideal that at least one woman be present. At night at least one man should be present for safety's sake. Encourage your men's group to take evening hours.
- **Individual Hours:** Individuals are welcome to visit the 40 Days for Life vigil any time during the 40 Days for Life Campaign. We encourage you to go online to [www.40DaysForLifeNOLA.com](http://www.40DaysForLifeNOLA.com) to sign up so we can know that the time is covered.
- **Guidelines:** There are very important guidelines and laws that every person must know before engaging in sidewalk ministry. The guidelines are included in this packet and can be found online. It is dangerous and imprudent for participants to be on the sidewalk without knowing these norms. It is a group coordinator's responsibility to ensure that they are communicated to group members. Please go over every point. (See the statement of peace, and "do's and don'ts".)

- **Resources-** The following documents should be familiar to you and your group members:

- **Statement of Peace:** For coordinators and participants. Everyone who wishes to participate in 40DFL must read and sign this document to do so, thereby ensuring that

we are the most effective and peaceful presence that we can be. This document should be made available to group members when they sign up for the vigil, but more copies are made available at the site.

- **Sidewalk Guidelines: “Do’s and Don’ts”**: For coordinators and participants. Must be reviewed carefully before participating. Again, should be made available when individuals sign up, but more copies available at vigil site.
- **Vigil Adoption Schedules**: For coordinators. You can use these sheets, or any other means you prefer, to sign up your group or church members for your day.
- **Campaign Sign-Up Forms**: For coordinators. This form ensures that you have adequate contact info for your participants. Please save this information, and make sure that you contact these individuals the following year.
- **Vigil Reminder Card**: For coordinators and participants. Have vigilers complete and keep reminding them of their time commitment.
- **Flyer (8.5x 11) & Poster (12x18)**: For coordinators. Every group should obtain fliers and posters from the New Orleans Right to Life office, to use for promotion.
- **Prayer Cards**- The cost for prayer cards is \$60 for 1,000 cards. You may order any time. Visit our website to order: [www.40DaysForLifeNOLA.com](http://www.40DaysForLifeNOLA.com)



## Statement of Peace

40 Days for Life is an effective and dynamic outreach in 44 countries and 636 cities. As a result of the peaceful and respectful outreach and prayer of half a million participants, more than 16,000 women have reported choosing life, 190 workers have quit, and 103 abortion facilities have closed.

This is a very effective ministry. In order to ensure that we are being the peaceful representatives for life we are called to be, all participants are required to read and sign a statement of peace. If you choose not to read and sign this document, you are not considered a participant in 40 Days for Life.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, testify to the following:  
Print Name

- I recognize that I am acting as a representative of 40 Days for Life and the pro-life movement as a whole. As such, I will be an example of peace, respect, and calm.
- I will show compassion and reflect Christ's love to all abortion facility employees, volunteers, and clients. I understand that my primary concern is to be peaceful, compassionate, and prayerful, leaving all of the results to God.
- I recognize that pushing the limits of the rules only serves to misrepresent the pro-life movement as disrespectful and arrogant, and will not do so.
- I understand that acting or speaking in a disrespectful manner to employees or clients of the abortion center immediately and completely disassociates me from the 40 Days for Life campaign.
- I am in no way associated with any abortion facility or its affiliates by way of employment, informant, volunteer, client, or otherwise.
- I recognize that acting or speaking in a violent, harmful, or threatening manner while participating in 40 Days for Life immediately disassociates me from the 40 Days for Life campaign, and that the proper authorities will be notified.

While in front of the vigil site:

- I will keep moving at all times and will be careful to yield to cars and pedestrians entering the parking lots. I will not obstruct the driveways, sidewalk or doorways. I will not set up chairs or sit on the private or public property.
- I will not interfere with operations at adjoining businesses/offices, including pro-life pregnancy resource centers. I will not pace/pray in front of it or other buildings, as this gives the impression to passersby that they are part of the abortion industry, and interferes with their business/ministry.
- I will not physically touch anyone, even in a friendly manner.
- I will not trespass on the private property of the abortion facility, including the parking lots.
- I will closely attend to any children I bring to the prayer vigil.
- I will not shout at anyone. If a person asks me to stop speaking to them I will respect their wishes (failure to do so can constitute harassment).
- I will not vandalize private or public property. I will not touch the building, litter, or throw anything into abortion facility garbage cans/dumpsters.
- I will cooperate with local city authorities if they are called to the facility.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Sidewalk Ministry Do's and Don'ts

### Don'ts

- Don't trespass
  - Do not cross the edge of the sidewalk on to the property line, including the parking lot.
  - Many people like to push this rule to its limit. Don't. It's that simple. Don't cross the line. Not even for a moment, not even with the tip of your shoe or your arm.
  - Do not throw anything onto the property, or into their dumpsters.
  - Do not vandalize anything, or touch private property.
- Don't act in a violent or harmful manner. It is completely counterproductive and can lead to legal action.
  - Don't be hostile or disrespectful. Do not shout at anyone.
  - Never threaten or verbally abuse anyone.
- Keep moving at all times.
  - You may not set a chair even on the public side of the property. That constitutes loitering.
  - If you need a break you must take it elsewhere, such as your car.
  - Don't block the sidewalks or driveway.
- Don't touch anyone, even in a friendly manner.
- Only one sidewalk counselor at a time should try to get a woman/worker's attention.
  - Similarly, don't join a conversation that a sidewalk counselor is having, unless you're invited to. (An exception to this is if you see someone having a conversation which breaks some of the norms outlined above or below.)
- Don't be alone. Always have another person with you. You can act as a witness to each other's actions should the facility call the authorities.
  - It is best to have a mix of men and women. In particular – don't have groups purely comprised of men.

### Words you should never say/hear while sidewalk ministering:

- hell, murder, hate, kill, die, etc.
- If someone else begins using such language, you can (and probably should) speak to them about the fact that they are being counterproductive.

### Do's

- Pray before you ever go out on the sidewalk.
- Be peaceful. Be compassionate.
  - The workers, women, and passersby are expecting you to be a somewhat arrogant and judgmental person. You have a golden opportunity to show compassion instead.
- Cooperate with authorities if they are brought into a situation. However always have a second person with you to act as witness to any interactions.
- Be sure to closely attend children.
- Avoid laughter and chatty conversations. This does not mean that you cannot smile or convey joyfulness. But we need to remember that this is a serious place. No need to give the impression to passersby that you don't recognize that.
- If there is a Crisis Pregnancy Center (e.g. Woman's New Life) do not pace in front, as this discourages clients from coming, and can give the impression to others that they are an abortion center.

Note: Some like to push these boundaries, as though that's somehow a small victory. However:

- This confirms preconceived notions that pro-lifers are arrogant and disrespectful.
- It closes off workers and women from wanting to talk to other pro-lifers.
- In other places, disregard for the law has led to harsher laws, such as "bubble zones" preventing pro-lifers from coming in a certain radius of the abortion facility. If you see people breaking rules you can (and probably should) point out that this is counterproductive, and paints pro-lifers as petty.

### Words you should hear (or say if you've been trained in sidewalk counseling):

- Hi! Can I talk to you for a minute?
- There is support available for you. Can I talk to you about it?
- You're not alone. We would love to help you.
- Can I give you some information?
- Can I talk to you about other options?

Keep in mind that most people are not wanting to know if the unborn is human. They're wanting to know if you are. They have many preconceived notions of who you are and why you are there. Many before you have fed into these misconceptions. So first and foremost, be an example of respect & compassion. That speaks louder than any words.





### **40 Days for Life New Orleans Campaign Sign-up**

*Please take this commitment to pray, fasting, and participate in the vigil seriously!*

- 1: Check the **Vigil Schedule** to sign up for a time. Try to take times that have not yet been filled.
- 2: Read, agree to, and sign the **Statement of Peace**.
- 3: Fill out the form below (participants are encouraged to participate in the vigil beyond their adopted times.)
4. Coordinators: Please forward this information to our office (40daysforlifnola@gmail.com)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read** and agreed to the "Statement of Peace: \_\_\_\_\_ YES Phone H #: \_\_\_\_\_ C #: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Vigil dates and times I have adopted (Remember, you are not *limited* to participating during these dates and times. They are a commitment, but everyone is encouraged to participate as often as they are able.)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Can you be present for other time slots during the 40 day vigil? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

General days and times I might be available: \_\_\_\_\_

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Can you be present for other time slots during the 40 day vigil? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

General days and times I might be available : \_\_\_\_\_



**I plan to be at the 40 Days for Life Vigil held at 4636 S Claiborne Ave, New Orleans for prayer on these dates:**

Date	Time		Date	Time

Vigiler Keeps This Form



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Vigiler Keeps This Form



## Vigil Adoption Schedule

Group: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time	Name (First and Last)	Phone (required)	Email (required)
7-8 a.m.			
8-9 a.m.			
9-10 a.m.			
10-11 a.m.			
11-12 p.m.			
12-1 p.m.			
1-2 p.m.			
2-3 p.m.			
3-4 p.m.			
4-5 p.m.			
5-6 p.m.			
6-7 p.m.			

- We need at least 2 people per hour in prayerful and compassionate vigil outside of the facility.
- It is essential that, as community members, we not limit ourselves to one hour out of the 40 days. Please make it your goal to participate in this year's vigil (and outreaches) multiple times.
- Please don't forget to make a prayer and fasting commitment as a group and as individuals.