



Spring 2024 Campaign Overview and Parish Packet Instructions

The Diocesan Pro-Life Commission is again promoting '40 Days for Life' in Western Massachusetts. This autumn's 40 Days for Life Campaign will run from February 14th through March 24th with our local campaign outside Planned Parenthood at 3550 Main Street in Springfield running from 7:00 A.M to 7:00 P.M. every day except Sunday.

This International Campaign is based on 2 Chronicles 7:14:

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

The 40 Days for Life is an ecumenical, faith-based effort made up of three key components:

- **Prayer and Fasting:** inviting people of faith throughout our city to join together for 40 days of fervent prayer and fasting for an end to abortion
- **Peaceful Vigil:** standing for life through a 40-day peaceful public witness outside the local Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts at 3550 Main Street in Springfield, MA (streetside parking on Birnie Ave.).
- **Community Outreach:** taking a positive, upbeat pro-life message to every corner of our city through media efforts, church presentations, petition drives, and public visibility.

The best way that parishes can participate is to **Adopt a Day** during the forty days. Parishioners can make their prayer and fasting in any way that works for them: fasting in simple ways in their daily lives; praying at their parish but all are encouraged to visit and pray at the vigil site, 3550 Main Street, Springfield, MA near the intersection with Wason [wah-son] Avenue.

Bulletin announcements should be placed in the parish bulletin *beginning* the First or Second, weekend in February (2/3, & 2/10/23) and throughout the 40 Days for Life campaign.

This campaign's parish packet includes the following documents (two of which are MS Word docs. so they can be edited/customized for your parish):

- A letter to the Pastor explaining the 40 Days for Life campaign;
- Talking Points explaining more about the 40 Days and how to explain it;
- 8 possible flyers, 4 in English the other 4 in Spanish, that can be posted or used as bulletin inserts;
- Bulletin & Pulpit Announcements (MS Word);
- Pew cards (MS Word)
- Statement of Peace (and Declaración de Paz) which each participant must sign (either before or at the vigil);
- Vigil Schedule Sign-up Sheet (simple version) both 8.5x11 and 11x17; &
- Vigil Sign-up (Response) Card (2-up on a sheet) (good 'fridge' reminder for those who've signed up for certain times, circle the date(s) & write in their hour(s).

We have a local website up at: www.40daysforlife.com/springfield.

and/or you can check out the national website: www.40daysforlife.com for more information.

There's also information about the 40 Days at the Diocesan website: www.diospringfield.org

TBA: We may be having a kick off event to launch the 40 Days. Interested people please check the local 40 Days or the Diocesan websites for more information. Other notifications will be made via social media.

If there any questions, please feel free to call Tim Biggins at 413/342-0340.

Yours in Christ,

Timothy Biggins

Chairman, Pro-Life Commission & Campaign Director for 40 Days for Life