

How to use the 40 Days for Life Campaign Packet in 9 Steps

Thank you for stepping up to come to 40 Days and lead others there to pray for an end to abortion.

Step 1 Please get familiar with the contents of the packet and the basic campaign information via the Program Overview (1 page) and the Talking Points.

Step 2 Either present the Pastor Letter to your Pastor and/or discuss the 40 Days for Life program with him. Be sure to have a cheerful and hopeful disposition. Gentle enthusiasm is contagious. The event is best described as time spent in peaceful prayer on the public right of way (the sidewalk) outside the abortion center. It is known from former abortion center employees that anytime people are outside the abortion facility, there is as much as a 75% reduction in abortions! Work with your pastor to **select a date** that your parish/church will attend the vigil with the aim of covering all 12 hours, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. with **at least** 2 people every hour.

Step 3 Call or email Tim Biggins (413/342-0340, 40daysWM@gmail.com) with your selected date.

Step 4 Decide (with your Pastor?) how you'd best like to announce the event to the parish. Several methods have been used. Usually, a combination of these methods are typically used together:

- Post Flyers, (4 different flyers, in both English & Spanish are in the 40 Days packet)
- Use one or more Flyers as bulletin inserts,
- Use the Bulletin-Pulpit announcement to announce the date of the parish's/church's day at the 40 Days for Life vigil from the pulpit over the weeks before that date,
- Insert a written announcement into the bulletin(s) (consult the parish/church secretary),
- Use the Pew Cards to get parishioners/church members to commit to a certain time,
- Have people outside at the church exits after Mass/Services with the sign-up sheets either at tables or via clipboards,
- Have them complete a Statement of Peace (Declaración de Paz),
- You can give them a Response Card with their hour(s) written on the date for them to take home with them and post it prominently (on the refrigerator?) as a reminder.

Step 5 Recruit another person or a few other people to help you spread the word and help parishioners/church members commit to a time at the vigil via the following steps.

Step 6 Communicate the 40 Days to the parish/congregation. Post flyers in your parish/church buildings where applicable. Utilize the Bulletin-Pulpit announcements to cut & paste into the bulletin and/or to be read aloud when upcoming events are announced from the pulpit.

Step 7 Collect the pew cards during/after Mass/Service (perhaps your Pastor will have a preference), and/or collect commitments on the Sign-up Sheets from the people for a particular hour during the Parish's/Church's day. Remember to encourage those that commit or show interest, to invite others to join them at the vigil.

Step 8 Make telephone calls or other contact (e.g. social media) to invite other parishioners/members that you know asking them to join you at the vigil.

Step 9 Attend the vigil on your parish's date. You will probably want to make reminder calls/texts/emails the day before your vigil date.

Keep in mind, the thought of going to the vigil is intimidating for many people. Most people have not done anything on a sidewalk out in public for any reason let alone something based upon their faith and about a controversial issue, but, some have. Encourage them that many people, over 1 million to date have participated in the 40 Days for Life in exactly the same way.

It's important to describe what attending the vigil looks like. It is primarily a time of prayer, while on a sidewalk near the building where women are going to get an abortion. All attendees should be peaceful & prayerful, some will likely be holding signs to let people know it is a 40 Days for Life event.

Please have participants complete & sign the Statement of Peace/Declaración de Paz.