



## **PRAY TO END ABORTION OUTSIDE AN ABORTION FACILITY**

The Sanctity of Life team invites you to join with us to pray outside an abortion facility. If this is your first time, this document will help you know what to expect.

There are many ways that we can help people in crisis pregnancies who are entering an abortion facility. Here are some of the ways:

### **Prayer**

When praying at an abortion facility, you are asking the Holy Spirit to help people seek life-giving alternatives. We know that Jesus hears our prayers and works miracles beyond what we could hope to accomplish on our own. Couples have decided not to have an abortion when they have seen people outside praying!

#### **A few prayer points:**

- That the couple will see the personhood of the child they are carrying
- That the woman or couple will see that they could be good parents
- That they will allow the child to be adopted if they cannot keep him or her
- That they will be open to receiving information about crisis pregnancy centers

### **Distributing Brochures that Offer Alternatives**

When couples in crisis pregnancies receive brochures describing how much help is available to them, they may decide instead to schedule an appointment at a crisis pregnancy center, such as Avenue Women's Center.

As we are not allowed on the property, including the parking lot, the distance between the patient and prayer volunteers is often a barrier to passing out brochures. However, keep brochures in your pocket for when patients are willing to stop and talk before entering the building. You can find brochures at the Sanctity of Life Table at Church of the Resurrection and from members of the Sanctity of Life team.

### **Sidewalk Counseling**

Sometimes a woman or couple having second thoughts about an abortion will stop and talk to people praying outside the building. Unfortunately, at Access Health Center (our most regular prayer spot), this is difficult because we are separated from the clients by the parking lot. If a couple does stop to talk, you can be someone willing to listen, help explain the alternatives to abortion, and direct them to Avenue Women's Center. Don't worry about not knowing what to say; the Holy Spirit helps us in our need. The simple actions of listening and helping point a patient in the direction of a crisis pregnancy center can help save the life of a child. More suggestions can be found at

<http://vigilforlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Sidewalk-Counseling-Training-Packet.pdf>

## **Carrying Signs (Sensitively)**

Women or couples entering an abortion facility may be afraid to talk to someone carrying a sign. Therefore, most volunteers praying outside carry no signs or signs with only the phone number of a crisis pregnancy center or other places that women can receive help (for example, [abortionpillreversal.com](http://abortionpillreversal.com)). You may occasionally see people from local churches carrying signs that depict the harsh reality of an abortion. However, our focus is prayer rather than protest.

**Here are additional logistical details to help you prepare for your time at the facility:**

## **Bringing Children**

We welcome parents and children. However, to ensure the safety of your children, please only bring those who can be carried in baby slings or who are old enough to understand that they must keep away from the edge of the road.

## **Time and Location**

Several congregants from Church of the Resurrection pray weekly outside the abortion facility on most Fridays from 8:45 to 11:00 am. Access Health Center is located at 1700 75th St., Downers Grove, IL 60516. Please contact Michelle Lapeyre at (630) 815-6255 or email [booksbb2003@yahoo.com](mailto:booksbb2003@yahoo.com) if you would like to pray on a Friday with a Rez congregant.

As property owners, Access Health Center will prosecute for trespassing anyone who crosses the parking lot onto private facility property. The Sanctity of Life team meets for prayer on the sidewalk in front of and along the side of the property only.

## **Weather Conditions**

It's always a good idea to bring an umbrella in case of rain. Also, please dress very warmly in winter, as it is often colder in the morning than the forecasted high temperature of the day.

## **Parking**

We are not allowed to park in Access's parking lot. However, there is ample parking on neighborhood streets.

**Thank you for your commitment to coming out to pray for the unborn and couples in crisis pregnancies!**

In Christ,

The Sanctity of Life Team

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