

40 Days for Life

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 40 Days for Life?

40 Days for Life is a 40 day prayer vigil on the sidewalks of Austin abortion facilities. It is a grassroots, community-based campaign that draws attention to the injustice of abortion through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a constant, peaceful prayer vigil at local abortion facilities.

Who participates?

Hundreds of people from all political and faith backgrounds from all over Austin participate in 40 Days for Life.

How effective is it?

So far 58 women in Austin have chosen life for children they had planned to abort as a result of interacting with 40 Days for Life sidewalk counselors. During the Fall 2010 campaign, one abortion facility experienced over a 87% drop in Saturday traffic as a result of the peaceful prayer presence. Finally, hundreds of volunteers had positive, peaceful conversations with workers and clients about the love of Christ.

When is it?

The Spring 2011 40 Days for Life campaign starts on March 9th and ends on April 24th. The daily vigils start at 7:00 AM and end at 7:00 PM. Prayer volunteers sign up to pray at the same time and location each week. You can sign up for as many hours per week as you want at your location of choice.

Where do I pray?

This Spring, Austin will hold vigil at two locations simultaneously:

- The South Location - I-35, just south of Oltorf
- The North Location - I-35, just north of 183

Go to AustinCoalitionForLife.com/signup for maps to these locations. Prayer volunteers pray on the public right of way in front of the facility. You will be given specific directions on where to park and where to pray. We never go onto the abortion facility's property or block driveways or sidewalks, and we always obey the law.

What do I do when I get there?

The foundation of 40 Days for Life is peaceful prayer. Pray in any way that God calls you to. Most people simply stand quietly and pray. Some hold signs that are provided, but you don't have to. Some bring lawn chairs; others kneel. However you choose to pray, the important thing is being there.

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Do I have to talk to the women going into the facility?

No. Only trained Sidewalk Counselors should approach women entering the facilities. Sidewalk Counselors are trained to understand the emotional and informational needs of these women and have the latest information about fetal development and the physical and psychological effects of abortion. If you feel God calling you to become a Sidewalk Counselor, go here for more information and to sign up for an upcoming training: AustinCoalitionForLife.com/get-involved/sidewalk-counseling/

Will I be there by myself?

Not if you don't want to be. If you sign up online at AustinCoalitionForLife.com/signup you can see how many people are already signed up for a particular hour. If you want to make sure you are not by yourself, sign up for an hour that has at least one other person. Also, invite a friend to pray with you! This is great way to participate in 40 Days for Life.

How often will I be out on the sidewalk standing and praying?

We are asking prayer volunteers to commit to one hour per week for 40 days, for example, every Tuesday from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM from March 9—April 24. This means you will stand and pray five or six times depending on what day you choose. You can also sign up for more than one day per week or more than one hour per week. Some people pray for two hours at a time per week and some pray at the same hour every day. If this is your first time, sign up for one hour per week and see how it goes.

What do I do if someone asks me a question or confronts me?

There will be containers at each location with lots of brochures and information. Feel free to use these materials and hand it out to anyone who is curious. Confrontation is rare, but if you are concerned sign up when others will be there. Take your cell phone with you. Your Day Captain's number will be on the underside of the supply box lid.

I want to do this, but I'm scared.

If you feel God tugging at you to stand up for life, to take that next step, don't be afraid to answer His call. He will not allow anything to happen to you that you can't handle. Most people experience spiritual growth by participating in 40 Days for Life. Try it this fall and see what happens.

How can I become more involved?

Go to AustinCoalitionForLife.com/get-involved/. After praying on the sidewalk, many prayer volunteers feel called to reach out to the women going to the abortion facilities. Sidewalk counselor training classes are held throughout the year. Being a sidewalk counselor may be the most rewarding thing you do in your life. It is a way to truly love your neighbor by bringing the truth to women who are scared and deceived.