

40 DAYS FOR LIFE™ FAQ/Q&A SPRING 2014

WE'RE PRAYING FOR → All those **wounded by abortion** in the past, now and in the future, including: **mothers** with no choice, **fathers** with no hope, **families** with no say, **babies** with no chance. Remember: **you** are the **last** sign of hope for those entering the facility, and the **first** sign of **mercy** for those coming out. We pray in a special way **for those who work at Hillcrest**: the Office Manager, the Physicians, the Nurses, and other staff. NO one grows up wanting to help do abortions.

STATEMENT OF PEACE → All prayer vigil participants are asked to abide by the following guidelines, i.e. to commit to:
1) remain Christ-like at all times; e.g. avoid communicating negatively (e.g. arguing, raised voice) and 2) abide by all state and local laws, e.g. staying on public property. If you have not already, please read and sign the Peace statement (in vigil box).

HOW TO SIGN UP TO PRAY → There are **three ways** you can sign up to pray:
1) via your local **parish** Respect Life Coordinator; 2) **online**: 40daysForLife.com/Baltimore and click on "vigil schedule"
3) **contact** Kim Frazer 410-456-9544 or Ann Boland (Vigil@BolandGroup.com)
Please see also a video explaining where to stand, how to sign up, etc. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqy34ddKrHo>

LOCATION OF MATERIALS TO USE DURING PRAYER VIGIL → You will find our **40 Days For Life approved signs** and vigil materials in a plastic box with blue lid, directly across the street at Wesley Memorial on Johnnycake Lane, in the covered outdoor breezeway just opposite the mailbox: **Please return any materials you take out back inside the vigil box, and be sure lid is completely closed. Please do NOT leave any additional personal items or devotions in the vigil box.**

- Local **resources for mothers in crisis**, e.g. "You Are Not Alone: We're Here for You" and "Pregnancy Center West" brochures and referral cards for nearby assistance and national resources e.g. "You Can Save a Life" brochures
- Local and national resources for **Post-Abortive Mothers (Project Rachel)** brochures and referral cards)
- Resources for **African Americans**: "Where Have All the Black Children Gone? Disproportionate impact on minorities.
- Resources for **abortion facility staff**: Free Confidential services for employees who want to leave the abortion industry
- **Prayer Resources**, e.g. Helpers of God's Precious Infants prayer books, rosaries and various pro-life prayers, litanies

PICKING UP AND DROPPING OFF PRAYER VIGIL BOX → If you are the first "pray-er" of the day, please go across the street to the first Wesley Memorial breezeway to pick up the signs and vigil box. If you are the last "pray-er" or **no one shows up to relieve you, please do NOT leave ANY signs or the vigil box unattended: please return to the covered breezeway. If you can not move yourself, please call St. Agnes at 410-744-2900 or Joe Boland at 443-994-2758 (last resort) .**

WHERE TO PRAY → Hillcrest is on the 6th Floor of the seven story Suburbia building (5602 Baltimore National Park, at the intersection of Route 40 and Johnnycake). There are four good locations (to stand, sit or kneel) on the public sidewalk. **Please note: the public sidewalk is the sidewalk closest to the street, NOT the sidewalk closest to the building.** The sidewalk immediately surrounding the Suburbia Building is private property; trespassing could jeopardize our "gathering permit". There are two places on the **public sidewalk along Route 40 in front of the building. #1:** If you position yourself *directly opposite the glass door entrance* (ideally with the "Let Us Help: 800-712-HELP" sign), anyone entering the building is likely to see you before getting on the elevator. **#2)** Hillcrest's website directs mothers to *enter via the Burger King driveway on Route 40:* praying on the public sidewalk *closest to this entrance* is an ideal, visible location. There also two places to pray on the public sidewalk **along Johnnycake, behind the building: #3)** The first Johnnycake driveway provides access to a parking lot *shared with Shirley's restaurant.* **#4)** The second entrance off of Johnnycake – just a few hundred feet north – is an **overflow parking lot** for the Suburbia building behind the Burger King lot. Please park here. Depending on the number of people present during any given hour, try to cover as many of these as possible. **Please be careful to not block the whole sidewalk, e.g. step aside for any passerby. If you can, please avoid "marching" or walking rapidly:** it telegraphs a message that you're a *protestor (against someone)*, not a "pray-er" (*for someone*). Some pray-ers bring a chair or a cushion to kneel on.

SIGNAGE → If you would like to bring your own signs, please limit them to **gently worded** signs, e.g. "we're praying for you and your baby" or those that **offer help** to the women going into the abortion facility and their loved ones, e.g. "Free Pregnancy Tests & Sonograms". **Please, no graphic pictures or harshly worded signs.**

PARKING → Please do NOT park in the Suburbia Building Parking lot or along Johnnycake Lane: sometimes we've been engaged by a would-be Hillcrest client who parks in a space close to where we are praying. Instead, please park on the overflow lot behind Burger King. If possible, *please patronize Shirley's Restaurant.* They have been very supportive of our efforts.

Contacts: Your **Parish Respect Life Coordinator... OR:** Kim Frazer 410-456-9544 | Ann Boland Vigil@BolandGroup.com

Dates: **Kickoff** 9am Saturday, March 8th @Hillcrest | **Midpoint event**, TBD | **40 Days:** Ash Wednesday March 5th to Palm Sunday April 13th

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IF YOU ARE APPROACHED BY → Anyone. Be kind, gentle and compassionate. Mentally remind yourself that **anyone you meet may have had an abortion or been involved with one**. Explain we are there **to help** 1) **those who believe they have no choice** BUT abortion and 2) those who have been involved in an abortion in the past and are **still hurting**.

- **A passerby:** Share the good news about the peaceful, prayerful 40 Days for Life campaign. Invite them to join us: give them one of the flyers from the box, e.g. "YOU can save a life", and the Free Abortion Alternatives referral card.
- **A Donor:** If they offer money, thank them and let them know we'll give it to Pregnancy Center West, which provides all its services (pregnancy tests, sonograms, material assistance for both mothers and babies) for free, and will make good use of the donation. Put donations in the envelope in the box and let one of us know (see contact info below.)
- **A mother contemplating abortion:** **Offer to bring her to Pregnancy Center West.** PCW is open from 10am to 12 noon -- often later -- **every day** EXCEPT Sundays and Wednesdays, **410-788-4433**. If not from the area (or reluctant to go now), give her a **Free Abortion Alternatives referral card (1-800-712-HELP)**; Explain that this is a national 24x7 "hotline" that will put in touch with the closest pregnancy resource center to where she lives (based on her zip code). **The goal is to connect the mother to the closest, open center.** Stress that **all services** (e.g. pregnancy tests, material assistance, sonograms, and medical care for both mother and baby) are **confidential** and **free of charge**. **Initiate the call on your cell phone, explain the situation, and then hand the phone to the mother whose baby you hope to save.** The phone counselors at both the Options Line **800-712-HELP** and PCW are **trained in this type of intervention**.
- **Friend, family member, or anyone else accompanying the mother** headed for Hillcrest: Give them the "**You Are Not Alone**" brochure (also available in **Spanish**) and the "**FREE Abortion Alternatives**" referral card. If they remain engaged long enough for you to understand their situation, **encourage them to go get their loved one and bring them down to speak with you. Then follow the suggestions above.** You can also call the options line and ask a counselor to help.
- **Post-abortion Women:** provide **Project Rachel** brochures, regarding counseling, healing retreats, and recognizing the symptoms of "Post Abortion Stress". **Assume that ANYone with whom you are talking has either had an abortion or been involved with one, and recognize that there can be pain, hopelessness, anger and guilt, because of no chance to grieve.**
- **A woman needing a place to live?** e.g. at risk of homelessness, call **Gabriel Network** 800-AngelOK. Many mothers are told by their boyfriends or parents that if they don't have an abortion, they are kicked out of the house.
- **An employee of Hillcrest?** Give them the **flyer from the vigil box** for abortion facility staff ("**Help for Hillcrest Employees.**") It includes the contact information for a ministry "**And Then There Were None**", started by Abby Johnson, a former abortion Clinic Director and "Planned Parenthood Employee of the Year". This ministry offers free legal advice, employment assistance, financial, emotional and spiritual support. Already over **70 abortion workers** have left the industry and received help finding a new job, including an LPN that used to work at Hillcrest. **Take the time to read the FAQ as it is very helpful in advising how to best interact with a clinic employee**
- **The police:** Listen attentively to everything they say. Try to keep them engaged in conversation as long as possible. (Sight of police car has a deterrent effect on those contemplating an abortion). Politely explain that you are here to pray peacefully, will not block the sidewalk and that we have a non-profit gathering permit (vigil box). If they ask you to move or do something, please obey promptly and courteously. If you are uncomfortable with the manner in which they interact with you, contact us afterwards (see contact information below). If you can do so **tactfully**, ask for the officer's name. Baltimore County police have repeatedly told us that they are "very supportive" of what we're trying to do.
- **Not Sure?** Offer everyone the "**You Can Save a Life**" brochure from Priests for Life, or the "**We Can Help**" referral card with phone numbers for all of the resources above.

IF YOU WISH TO AVOID ENGAGING → Based on experience, if you **don't make eye contact**, e.g. keep head bowed in prayer, it is very unlikely that someone will interrupt you. If someone is upset or persistent and insists on speaking with you, simply listen, and if possible, respond with a smile and "**God Bless You...**" or "**I'll pray for you...**" Many have prayed at Hillcrest for years without ever having an unpleasant encounter. Just remember to try and be Christ-like in all interactions. You can pray on the days that Hillcrest is closed (Sunday, Monday and Wednesday), knowing abortions are taking place elsewhere.

CONTINUING THE VIGIL → This prayer vigil ends after 40 days, but until Hillcrest closes, the abortions will continue. Please consider extending your commitment to prayerful presence and let us know when you'll be praying: Vigil@BolandGroup.com.

SHARING THE MINISTRY → Consider personally inviting a friend or family member to join this prayerful vigil. In doing so, you're offering them an opportunity for **grace to work in their lives**, too, while helping fathers, mothers and babies, one soul at a time. As one "first time" pray-er confessed: "**I didn't think I could pray outside an abortion facility. Now I feel that I must...**"

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