

15 Steps To A Strong LIFE CHAIN

A LIFE CHAIN of any size is valuable. We must never put our trust in numbers, yet neither should we accept low LIFE CHAIN attendance without doing our best to prevent it. Please be willing to make fundamental changes, as needed.

1—Utilize wisely the *Life Chain Materials* listed at www.NationalLifeChain.org (also see the videos at www.LifeChain.net), and use our back-printed signs provided by www.Life-Support.org. LIFE CHAIN Coordinators are at liberty to approve participants' non-graphic self-designed signs if the signs are duly pro-life and meaningful.

2—Strive for a true prayer chain—one that pastors find purposeful and that God will desire to bless.

3—Be bold and persuade your local pastors to support (and attend) your Chain. Ask God to help you maintain enthusiasm and ably reply to the reasons pastors give for their inaction. Review “*Ministering To Pastors about Pro-Life Activism*” and “*Why Many Pastors Evade Abortion and Pro-Life Activism*.”

4—Announce your Chain *early* in the year and stay in touch with your pastors via a short visit, a postcard, a brief call. Give your Chain its rightful year-long importance, and make use of free Christian radio/TV.

5—Recruit a Contact Person for each local congregation, as the manual urges. Invite your Contact Persons to a spaghetti feed or similar event, and persuade them to win their pastors (and congregations) to your LIFE CHAIN.

6—In large cities Coordinators should use District Directors effectively (see page 12 of your manual). District Directors will greatly reduce the Coordinator's workload while greatly increasing attendance.

7—Keep money requests to a minimum. Be content to cover your expenses with a free-will offering taken during your Chain. Do not use your Chain as a “fund raiser.” Money is far from pro-life's greatest need.

8—Use your Chain to unify pro-life and your local Christian community. With a true servant's heart, invite leaders from all local Christian ministries to be on your LIFE CHAIN Committee. Do not permit an organization to sponsor your Chain. The sponsor should be the “LIFE CHAIN Committee of ___” your city or county, and you should build your Committee early in the year, with each local Christian organization represented. Each will have a different area of influence in growing your Chain.

9—Know your limitations; seek help where needed. Some Catholic Coordinators should recruit a Protestant Co-Coordinator, and some Protestants should recruit a Catholic Co-Coordinator. Reach out to minorities and give them strong representation on your Committee. Avoid shortcuts or your attendance will suffer greatly.

10—Grasp every opportunity to raise up new pro-life leaders in your area, including a new Life Chain Coordinator. But when you raise up a new Coordinator, do not pull back. Instead, help the new leader succeed and also help start a LIFE CHAIN in a neighboring town. Remember that every town, however small, should have its own Chain because more people will attend a Chain close to home, and more local preborn children will be saved.

11—Build a year-long pro-life program that keeps you in touch with local pastors and their congregations. Ways of doing so include a Prayer Team sidewalk counseling ministry (at the nearest abortuary), creation of Youth for Life (or equivalent) clubs at your junior and senior high schools, a Cemetery of the Innocents, a literature distribution (or bulk mail) program, an abstinence program for your local schools, a letter-to-the-editor and/or a pro-life ad or billboard campaign, and a pro-life seminar tour among local churches. As opportunities arise, serve your local pastors in projects they are promoting, such as the National Day of Prayer, and the pastors will not forget your help. Your goal is to be known as a team player among local Christian leaders (see “*How To Win Pastors to Pro-Life Activism*” on page 52 of your manual).

12—You may want to assign a portion of your Chain to each local congregation and politely challenge each pastor to fill his assigned portion. Space your Chainers up to 100 feet apart, and in so doing extend your witness to more intersections and to a larger segment of your community. This will also enhance prayer and make every participant (except for small children) a vital link in your Chain. Rightful spacing is a critical Life Chain need.

13—Support evangelism every chance you get. True prayer earns Heaven's favor, and evangelism is dear to pastors' hearts and should be dear to every pro-life leader's heart. It embraces the Great Commission Christ gave to His disciples, and God's salvation plan is the surest weapon against abortion.

14—Commit your Chain to the Lord, do your best as Coordinator, and then do not worry about the results. Similarly, do not fret over the media or about criticism you may receive (James 1:2-4). We are servants, and our hope rests in God's blessing on our human efforts.

15—Set aside time to pray for your Chain, and ask your Committee to join you. Consider fasting once each week or month, and give thanks for God's desire to use you in pro-life ministry. We have His assurance that our labors are not in vain. Amen?