

15 Steps for Building a Strong LIFE CHAIN

A LIFE CHAIN of any size is valuable. As we have often said, we must never put our trust in numbers, yet neither should we accept low attendance without doing our best to prevent it. Some Coordinators may need to make fundamental changes, and the following steps will help immensely.

1—Do not attempt a LIFE CHAIN without the well-tested *Life Chain Manual*. Please apply the basics, and use only Life Chain's approved back-printed signs.

2—Strive for a true prayer chain that pastors will commend and take seriously. Also stress safety!

3—Persuade local pastors to lead their people to your Chain. Persevere. Ask God to help you maintain enthusiasm. Do not ease up the next year, or your pastors and their congregations/parishes will ease up also. Loss of Coordinator enthusiasm is usually the chief cause of attendance decline.

4—Announce your Chain *early* and stay in touch with your pastors (use a short visit, postcard, call or letter every few months. Give your Chain yearlong importance, and use 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 to your LIFE CHAIN. Well-informed Contact Persons are vitally important to your success.

6— In large cities Coordinators should use District Directors (as outlined in your manual, page 12). This will reduce the Coordinator's workload while increasing attendance substantially.

7—Keep money requests to a minimum, or money will steal a portion of your heart. Just cover your expenses. Do not use your Chain as a "fund raiser." Financial assistance will come later from the many pro-life friends you gain at your Chain.

8—Unify pro-life and your local Christian community through your Chain. With a true servant's heart, invite leaders from all local Christian ministries to be on your LIFE CHAIN Committee. Do not permit any 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 and seek help where needed. Some Catholic Coordinators need to recruit a Protestant co-Coordinator, and some Protestants need the help of a Catholic co-Coordinator. Reach out to minorities and give them strong representation on your Committee.

10—Raise up new pro-life leaders in your area, including a new LIFE CHAIN Coordinator. But do not pull back yourself. Instead, joy in helping make the new leader successful—or in helping plant a LIFE CHAIN in a neighboring town. Remember that every town, however small, should have its own Chain because more people will attend close to home and more children will be saved.

11—Build a yearlong pro-life program that keeps you in touch with local pastors. Ways to do this include a sidewalk counseling ministry (Prayer teams at area abortuaries), 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 or billboard campaign, and a pro-life seminar at local churches. As opportunities arise, serve your local pastors in projects they are promoting, and they will not forget your help. Be known as a team player among local Christian leaders. You cannot do all of these, but they are missions from which to choose. (See "How To Win Pastors to Pro-Life Activism," p. 52 of your *Life Chain Manual*.)

12—Space your Chainers no less than 25 and up to 100 feet apart and thus extend your witness to a larger segment of your community. This will also enhance prayer.

13—Support evangelism. True prayer earns Heaven's favor (and also Pastors'). It embraces the Great Commission, 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 results, including poor media coverage.

15—Set aside time to pray for your Chain's success. Ask your Committee to join you. Consider combining fasting with some of your prayer time. Then thank God for His wondrous blessings.