

The Pastoral Letter Can Greatly Increase Life Chain Attendance

(INTRODUCTION) To maximize attendance, announce your Chain through the Pastoral Letter (printed below). As you know from prior years, only Lead Pastors (your most influential local clergy) sign the letter. If you have a large number of Lead Pastors ((12 or more) who have agreed to support your Chain and if you have difficulty obtaining their signatures, you can list the name, church, and phone number for each Lead Pastor and have only a few pastors sign your letter.

Please prepare your Pastoral Letter by adapting to your locale the draft letter entered below. Edit the letter as you have need for local circumstances, and page 32 of the *Life Chain Manual* shows you how to organize your letter for Lead Pastor signatures. When completed, simply duplicate your letter and deliver copies to the other pastors in your Life Chain area. Hand delivery tells pastors you care deeply about your Chain's mission and that you are asking them to care deeply, also. The same Pastoral Letter may be delivered a second and third time to reach unconfirmed clergy during the months preceding your Chain.

Please do not omit the Pastoral Letter—it can increase Life Chain attendance dramatically (up to 1000 percent or even more). Catholic Coordinators who may struggle to win Protestant churches will find the Protestant pastors' signatures of enormous help, and the same is true for Protestant Coordinators who struggle to build Catholic attendance. Lead Pastors who sign the Pastoral Letter pledge their participation, and they will inspire other pastors to lead their congregations and parishes to your local sidewalks on **Sunday afternoon, October 4**. Omission of a Pastoral Letter is a primary reason for low Life Chain attendance.

Dear Pastor Owens: (provide a personal greeting to each pastor)

We the undersigned pastors of (*name of your city*) write with firm awareness of the tens of millions of preborn [use *unborn* if you prefer] Americans (or *Canadians*) slain by abortionists' cruel instruments and deadly birth control chemicals, and we are also aware of the accountability that bloodguilt imposes on our church community, state, and nation. God does not ignore the innocent shed blood of voiceless victims. Both biblical and secular history confirm that enduring truth.

How should we respond to the powers sustaining America's (or *Canada's*) abortion holocaust? Among our resources, we believe that prayer is an essential weapon; and we respectfully ask you and your fellow worshipers to join us on October 4, from 2:00 – 3:30 PM, when *National Life Chain Sunday 2019* calls our nation to 90 minutes of intercession and public witness on local sidewalks. Please, if you will, mark that date on your church calendar and help us build a devout prayer vigil that God can use to change hearts and save lives and families in our local area. To see an alphabetical listing (by state or province) of the more than 1500 cities and towns that held Life Chains in 2018, please go to www.LifeChain.net. Over 28,000 Life Chains have been held thus far in the U.S. and Canada.

Life Chain is not a rowdy or calloused demonstration, with frivolous conversation and vocal interaction with motorists. To the contrary, we must first humbly invite God to *minister to us* the Church in the true spirit of 2 Chronicles 7:14 and then reverently ask Him to *anoint and minister through our solemn public witness*. To that end, let us as pastors prepare our church families for sincere prayer and self-assessment during a critical period in our nation's history. The attachment (or *attachments*) will be of help, and additional materials are available for participating churches.

Regarding our pastoral duty and the deceptive spiritual powers sustaining the abortion holocaust, the gender chaos, and the steady decline of Christian worship in our culture, Afro-American pastor Clenard Childress reminded us in his book *No Shepherds Cry* that “*The pew cannot do what the pulpit is suppose to do.*” A key for us is to look beyond the “abortion issue” to the preborn child’s humanity. We must discern its likeness to Jewish humanity of 80 years ago in Germany and permit the vital lesson to speak forcefully to the Church in our day. The need for our leadership is urgent because God does not see local Preborns as statistical non-persons.

Kindly direct your reply to our local Life Chain Coordinator (*name*) _____,
(*address*) _____ (*phone*) _____ and (*Email*) _____
_____. (*Coordinator's name*) will remain alert to our questions, concerns, and needs. Also feel free to contact any pastor whose signature appears below.

We thank you, our friend in Christ, for reading our message, and we pray for God’s abundant blessing on you and your ministry.

Your fellow servants in Christ,

NOTE: Before delivery of the Pastoral Letter to local pastors, attach quality pro-life literature, including “*Seven Reasons Why Christians Should Attend a Local Life Chain*” (available at www.NationalLifeChain.org). A few days after delivery, call your pastors to make sure they have seen the letter and to answer any questions or concerns they may have. If some pastors express no knowledge of your letter, deliver another copy to them, and they will not likely forget your perseverance.

Let's put our Pastoral Letter to work as soon as we can and alert our local pastors to *National Life Chain Sunday 2019*, on **October 6**. For help with any aspect of your Pastoral Letter and its delivery, email Royce@NationalLifeChain.org or call 530-674-5068 day or evening.

Gratefully,

Royce Dunn, Director of Life Chain