

# Illiana Right to Life Newsletter

Spring 2025

ALL LIFE IS SACRED

[www.IllianaRightToLife.org](http://www.IllianaRightToLife.org)

## **Mother's Day Campaign 2025:**

This spring, as a tribute to Mother's Day, Illiana Right to Life ran pro life ads on various local billboards. These billboards were located along interstates within Illinois and Indiana as well as along multiple streets within the Indiana area. Specific locations of these billboards were posted to the Illiana Right to Life Facebook and Instagram pages. These billboards ran from May 5, 2025 until May 11, 2025. Illiana Right to Life wants to thank each and every one who was able to graciously and generously donate to support this cause.

## **Organizational Support Highlight:**

### ***Mommy's Haven***

Illiana Right to Life supports multiple local organizations within the community - one being Mommy's Haven. Mommy's Haven is a non-profit, free-of-charge maternity home within the Lowell area. This non-profit houses unsupported pregnant women and moms in need, 18 years and older. Per their website, Mommy's Haven's goal is "to empower and equip moms and pregnant women seeking parenting options by providing physical, emotional and spiritual support during and after pregnancy."

Mommy's Haven aids and equips these pregnant women and moms (and children) they house by offering various services to get them back on their feet. Different services they offer include financial management training, self care classes, career development/placement, parenting/ adoption and childbirth education, and life skills training. With these, they also offer transportation, living necessities, childcare programs, recreational activities, supportive mentors, and a Christ-centered living environment.

When needed, Mommy's Haven also offers aid to these women outside of the home by providing them with referrals to local, partnering programs for additional assistance with substance abuse and recovery/treatment, mental health assistance and

treatment/programs, and mother and child support/care.

To learn more, you can find Mommy's Haven on Facebook, Instagram, or at their website [www.mommyshaven.org](http://www.mommyshaven.org)

## **A GUIDE TO EFFECTIVE PRO-LIFE DIALOGUE**

*The following is an excerpt from an article written by Paul Stark, Communications Director, Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL), published by National Right to Life on how to effectively communicate with others on the pro-life cause.*

### **1. Start Conversations Naturally**

Open-ended questions are a great way to get dialogue started naturally and without any pressure. You could mention a current event, a new law, or a recent article or video about abortion, and ask something like "What do you think about this?" Or you might approach your pro choice (or undecided) friend and say something like, "I've recently been concerned that our culture has lost the ability to have real conversations about important topics. I'm trying to learn to have dialogue that is respectful and that looks to build on common ground, and I could use some practice. Would you mind if you and I spent a short time discussing the issue of abortion?"

### **2. Listen**

Let the other person share their perspective with you. When you actively listen and try to honestly understand—rather than just prepare a rebuttal—you show respect and humility. The other person, in turn, is more likely to consider what you have to say. Listening also helps you know the particulars of the other person's view so you can properly engage it; no two people are exactly the same, so don't rely on your prior assumptions.

### **3. Show compassion**

The pro-life position isn't about valuing the unborn child at the expense of the mother—it's about loving both. But most pro choice people genuinely fear for the health and rights of women. Make a point to acknowledge the challenges pregnant women too often face and the importance of supporting and protecting them. When

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emotionally heavy topics arise (like pregnancy resulting from rape), be sure to show compassion and to affirm legitimate concerns. If you come across as dismissive or callous toward the awful circumstances that people sometimes find themselves in, you will lose your credibility. Make sure the other person knows that you sincerely care about women as much as about babies.

## 4. Ask questions

Questions enable you to dialogue with someone rather than lecture or “debate” them (which doesn’t persuade anyone). Questions also take pressure off you because you’re not the one making assertions. You’re just asking questions, listening, and directing the conversation in a way that doesn’t seem pushy or obnoxious. Use questions to gain more information and to clarify the other person’s view: Ask “What do you think about this?” or “What do you mean by that?” You can also use questions to (gently) make the other person defend their position and to expose problems with it: “Why do you say that?” “How did you reach that conclusion?” Such questions force people to grapple with the issue in their own mind—to really consider their own views and why they hold them. And that can lead to a change.

## 5. Affirm common ground

Conversation always goes smoother when you agree with each other on at least something. Agreement builds rapport—it shows you’re not just an opponent to fight against—and can make the other person more open to agreeing with you on other things. So try to agree whenever you can: You can say “That’s a really important point,” for instance, when the other person emphasizes that pregnant women may feel unable to afford a child. You can also find common ground to build on, such as the issue of abortion late in pregnancy, and develop the conversation from there. Ask a question like “What do you think about elective abortions after 20 weeks?” and then “I agree, but why do you think abortion is wrong then but not earlier? What do you think is the difference?”

## 6. Draw on core values

People want to be consistent in their views. No one adopts a position that they think contradicts their deepest values or sense of identity. Many advocates of abortion think the pro-life position does just that. But the truth is closer to the opposite: Core values that abortion

defenders typically hold—science, human rights, compassion, equality—lend support to the pro-life view, not the pro-choice one. You can expose the tension between those values and abortion. You might note, for instance, that the pro-life view is (partly) based on the empirical findings of science (showing the reality of human life in the womb) and that it contends that human rights belong to all members of our species regardless of their differences. You can point out that some unborn children feel pain and that their pain should matter to us. And you can show how the equality that abortion supporters value only makes sense if the basis for that equality is our common humanity, which unborn babies also share!

## What if you’re stumped?

What if someone challenges your view and you don’t know what to say? This is why many of us are afraid to engage, but there’s a simple and effective way to respond: honesty. Just tell the other person that they’ve asked a good question and that you’ll have to think about it and get back to them. They will respect you because this shows you’re sincerely thinking about their view and not just trying to “win the debate.” It’s also a great way for you to prepare a response and keep the dialogue going into the future.

## Easier than you think

Talking about abortion is easier than you think. By listening, asking questions, and showing compassion, you can make an impact in each and every interaction you have. That doesn’t mean you should expect to change someone’s mind on the spot. It usually doesn’t happen. Just aim to plant seeds—to leave them with a positive impression of a pro-life person (which will soften their heart for future conversations) and some ideas to think about. Those seeds may produce fruit over time with additional encounters and additional thought.

*Did you know? Illiana Right to Life is on Facebook and Instagram! Follow us at @ilianarighttolife*