

## Welcome to the February Anglicans for Life's Lectionary Life App!

Greetings!

Instead of providing reflections for the February Lectionary readings, I thought it would be fun to share highlights from the recent March for Life in Washington DC and the Walk for Life in San Francisco, CA.

The Canons of the ACNA support the sanctity of life and the Bishops are bearing witness to life in both word and deed. I pray these things will encourage and inspire you to be bold in proclaiming the sacredness of life in your sermons, ministry and outreach.

Anglicans for Life exists to help your church stand for life, our resources and educational materials can be accessed online or by contacting us at 800-707-6635.

For His glory,

Georgette Forney

## Why We March

**As we geared up for the March for Life events, inevitably someone asks why we March and bother showing up every year in the freezing cold. Different people march for different reasons so there is not one pat answer. But we asked the 19 Anglican Bishops who were planning to March this year, why they do so, here are their responses:**

1. Bp. John Miller – I march because I believe every human God creates deserves to have life according to His plan; someone must bear witness to that divine truth. I march for the many children who will never use their feet to walk, their lips to speak, their ears to hear, or their hearts to love. I march to acknowledge their tragic loss; I am honored to do so.
2. Bp. John Guernsey - I march to honor God the creator of life and in support of those who are at the beginning or the end of life, those who are the weakest and most vulnerable among us” –
3. Bp. Wood – Marching for the first time with my fellow bishops, I am inspired by the amount of people standing up for Life in Washington DC. Our prayer is that we will be examples in the Anglican Church and global Church, as leaders standing for Life.
4. Bp. Ilgenfritz – I am so grateful to have the opportunity to listen to the stories of men and women who gave their testimonies at the March for Life—their stories are a powerful reminders of the destructiveness and pain of the sin of abortion.
5. Bp. Sutton – Because Christ has given us the Gospel of Life, which calls us as Christians always to stand for and protect life, we march for the generation of children we have lost since January 22nd, 1973—and that, by marching, we can inspire the next generation's children to embrace God's gift of Life.
6. Bp. Atwood – The tenets of the Anglican Church of North America declares the Sanctity of Life. By marching my fellow bishops and I serve as a visible declaration of the Church's continuing defense of the defenseless, the unborn.
7. Bp. Breedlove – My wife Sally and I march not only for the children who have been lost to abortion but for the women and men who have been devastated by a Culture of Death in which life is being devalued in countless ways. We pray that by marching we can not only change the hearts of those considering abortion but also declare compassion and hope for all those

struggling with the pain and sorrow of their decisions. By marching we proclaim the peace and healing freely given to us all by Christ.

8. **Bp. Hicks** –I march because I believe what is said in the book of Jeremiah, when God states “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.”
9. Bp. Masters – I march because of the plight of the unborn in a culture that increasingly embraces abortion. We, as the church must call attention to their value and seek to protect them.
10. Bp. Beach –I march shoulder to shoulder with members of the Anglican College of Bishops, to provide a witness that our church affirms that life is given by God and that we are against the destruction of life through abortion and euthanasia.
11. Bp. Bryan – The Psalms describe God as the Divine Creator. “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.” He is the giver of Life and all those who follow Him know how much He loves life. Today we march because we wish to protect the lives that He hold sacred.
12. Bp Wm. Wilson – It is remarkable to see the attendance at the March—every year there are more people who want the world to know that abortion is not the answer. We march because we believe that God can use this march to inspire the greater Anglican Commune to stand up for Life.
13. **Bp. Lipka** – In Deuteronomy it is written: “I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God.” Choosing Life is not a political issue—it is God’s mandate to us, his people. So we march so that others may see how God has ordained life and our duty as his Children to protect it.
14. Bp. Thompson – The Canon’s of the Anglican Church state that God, not man, is the creator of human life and that the clergy are called to respect and protect the sanctity of life. We march because the sanctity of life is not just a “hot topic” issue but a truth on which the Anglican Church was founded.
15. Bp. Ruch – “The greatest civil rights concern of our day is the protection of the unborn, and we as Anglican bishops consider it a sacred charge to stand with the most vulnerable. We invite our clergy and laity to work and pray with us in this most important culture of life movement.”
16. Bp. Murdoch – Over 40 years ago, the Church was silent and Roe vs Wade was decided. Now we march because the Church can no longer be silent in the face of the millions of children who have died.
17. ArchBp. Duncan – As we march in Washington, we do so prayerfully—we pray for those involved in crisis pregnancies, that they would choose life, and that those who once chose abortion would seek and receive forgiveness and peace in Christ. And we pray for more churches to join us in upholding the sacredness of life.

### **These two bishops participated in the Walk for Life in San Francisco:**

18. Bp. Menees - Often we buy into the media description of these events as Protest Rallies - I disagree. In Spanish this is called a “manifestación” - easily translated into English as “manifestation.” That is what this is...a manifestation of Jesus’ presence and love for the most vulnerable and fragile in our midst - pregnant mothers and the babies in their wombs. This is why the Anglican Bishops make this a priority in our schedule.
19. **Bp. Lowenfield** – As a faithful Christians, where ever we are, the Spirit of God is also, and I march with God’s light and love in a world getting darker every day.

\*The highlighted names reflect Bishops who had flights cancelled and were not able to participate in events.

## **March for Life - Washington DC**

From Bp. John Guernsey:

Meg and I joined many from our diocese and hundreds of thousands from across the country at the 41st March for Life in Washington on Wednesday.

In spite of temperatures in the teens and a wind chill below zero, a massive crowd was there, with 80% of the participants age 25 or younger. That is astonishing.

After 41 years of legalized abortion and being relentlessly told that we must accept this “right,” the March for Life grows bigger and bigger and younger and younger.



Photo credit: redalertpolitics.com

I was delighted to spend time during the March with three of The Falls Church's Nehemiah Venture interns and I praise God for the leadership of these young adults in discipling our teens. They know that one-third of their generation has been lost to abortion and they are helping to rebuild a culture of life among us.

The March for Life is one of the most joyous, positive experiences I know and the overwhelming presence and enthusiasm of so many young people gives great hope for the future.

Our diocese again hosted the bishops of the Anglican Church in North America as we joined in upholding the sanctity of life. (Great thanks to our staff team for all their hard work!) This year, 11 bishops were on hand, including Archbishop Duncan, who flew overnight from Africa to get here—it was to be 18 bishops, but the snow and canceled flights prevented seven from making it.

Additional bishops will be participating in the Walk for Life in San Francisco on Saturday. I am so thankful for this united witness from such a large portion of our College of Bishops.

Before the March itself, the bishops helped lead the ecumenical prayer service at Constitution Hall, were hosted at a brunch by the staff of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, then headed out into the cold on the Mall for the Rally and walk to the Supreme Court.



Testimonies are a key part of the witness of the March for Life. Georgette Forney, President of Anglicans for Life co-founded the Silent No More Awareness Campaign to tell the stories of women and men who have experienced the great hurt caused by abortion and to bring healing and hope.

You can read and watch Silent No More testimonies here: <http://www.silentnomoreawareness.org/>

Georgette Forney's own powerful testimony can be read here: <http://www.anglicansforlife.org/content/reality-abortion-%E2%80%93-reflections-my-journey>

At next year's March for Life, we'll be there again. Mark your calendars for Thursday, January 22, 2015 and join in this glorious witness to life.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. John A. M. Guernsey

## Thousands brave the cold to March for Life

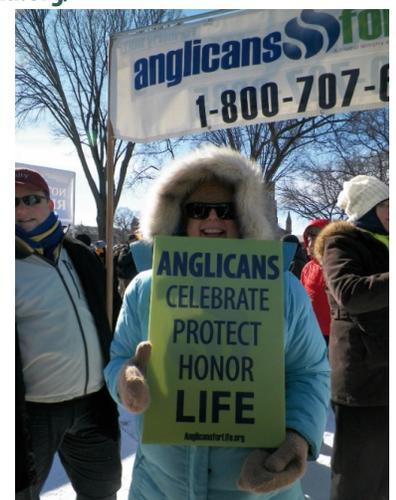
By Mary Ailes, Director of Communications for the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic: <http://www.anglicandoma.org/>

Thousands from across the nation, including bishops from the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), braved the massive snowstorm that shut down major cities along the Eastern seaboard of the United States, and joined the annual March for Life on January 22, 2014, in Washington, D.C.

"I am honored to stand, along with my fellow bishops of the Anglican Church in North America," said ACNA Archbishop Robert Duncan, "in recognition of the millions lost through abortion and to demonstrate our commitment to uphold the sanctity of life for all of God's children." Archbishop Duncan had flown back from East Africa to join the event.

"The Anglican Church in North America has a deep commitment to the sanctity of life," said the Rt. Rev. John Guernsey, bishop of the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic. "Our hope is that the presence of many of our bishops for the March for Life this year will help spur the Church to even greater support for the sacredness of human life."

Following the landmark Supreme Court ruling *Roe v Wade* on January 22, 1973, thousands have assembled each year on that date to witness to the sanctity of human life.



“Wherever you look in the world, you can see God’s commitment to life. New life springs up everywhere, even in the most hostile circumstances. But new life is also fragile and vulnerable,” said the Rt. Rev. Bill Atwood of the International Diocese, who flew in from Texas. “Tragically in our culture, those who cannot speak for themselves—the unborn—are the most vulnerable of all human life. Scripture calls us to be faithful to God’s creation of life and support His agenda for life and redemption. That means that we are to model the ministry of Jesus, standing up and speaking out for those who cannot speak for or defend themselves.”

The Anglican bishops began their day in prayer by participating in the ecumenical prayer service at the National Memorial for the Preborn and their Mothers and Fathers at the historic Constitution Hall. Following the service, the bishops gathered at the Institute for Religion & Democracy for brunch and then made their way to the Washington Mall for the March for Life and Rally.

On the Mall, they were joined by other Anglicans, including members from All Nations DC (Washington, D.C.), Potomac Falls Anglican Church (Potomac Falls, VA), The Falls Church Anglican (Falls Church, VA), Shepherd’s Heart Anglican Church (Fairfax, VA), Truro Anglican Church (Fairfax, VA), and others. All were wrapped up in multi-layered clothes to protect themselves from the plunging cold temperatures, as they stood on the snow-covered grounds of the Washington Mall.

A rally was held before the start of the march that included speakers such as Dr. James Dobson founder of Focus on the Family, as well as music from singer/composer Matt Maher. Also on the platform was Georgette Forney, President of Anglicans for Life and a founder of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, where those impacted by the pain and grief of abortion share their personal stories on the steps of the Supreme Court during the March for Life.

“A love of life—for lives of unborn children, elderly, and those most vulnerable—is a natural reflection of Christ’s love for each of us; it is not as much a requirement of Christian life as a privilege of it,” Georgette Forney wrote before this year’s March for Life, commending Anglicans to join their bishops and come to Washington.



By 1:30 p.m. the March for Life was underway, with thousands walking up Constitution Avenue to Capitol Hill and to the steps of the Supreme Court. It soon became quite obvious that the overwhelming majority of those marching were under the age of 21. Carrying signs that said, “Team Life,” and “I am the Pro-Life Generation,” the young people marched knowing *Roe v Wade* has been in effect for their entire lives and it is their generation that has lost an estimated 55 million through legalized abortion in the United States.

“It was a privilege to stand shoulder to shoulder with our Anglican brothers and sisters, as well as the larger Body of Christ, in contending for issues pertaining to life in our nation,” said the Rt. Rev. David Bryan, Bishop of PEARUSA’s South-east Network, who had flown in from South Carolina. “It is encouraging and hopeful to see how well the younger generation was represented in the March for Life.”

“The March for Life is remarkable in that hundreds of thousands of people care enough about life to brave bitter cold to speak out for life,” said Bishop Atwood. “It is inspiring that so many young people were involved, probably the majority of those present at the march. Everywhere I looked there were young people under twenty-five, many wearing ‘I’m worth waiting for’ buttons, carrying signs and smiles, and even picking up litter along the way. The future looks really bright even in the cold!”

The Anglican marchers included ACNA Canadians who found public support for the sanctity of human life from fellow Canadians in front of the Canadian Embassy, prominently located right on the march route on Constitution Avenue. They all stood for a picture in front of their embassy, anticipating that they would see the Canadian-version of the March for Life on Saturday, May 8 2014, in Ottawa.



On Saturday, January 25, 2014, Bishop Eric Mendez of the Diocese of San Joaquin, will join fellow bishops and other Anglicans to participate in the 9th Annual Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco, CA. They will witness, as the canons of the Anglican Church in North America state, that “God, and not man, is the creator of human life. The unjustified taking of life is sinful. Therefore, all members and Clergy are called to protect and respect the sanctity of every human life from conception to natural death.” (Canon II.8.3)

“Advocating for the life of the unborn is the civil rights issue of our day, and it is a great honor to serve and love the culture of life as

a bishop,” said the Rt. Rev. Stewart Ruch, Bishop of the Diocese of the Upper Midwest who came from Wheaton, IL, for the March for Life. “Here, in the Upper Midwest, we are working and praying toward seeing a revival of Word and Sacrament. I am convinced this revival includes reversal of the culture of death—I have faith my generation will celebrate the day in which the culture of life is legally sanctioned. Until then we will pray, witness, preach, and march.”

*Mary Ailes is the Director of Communications for the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic. Photos by Dennis Eagan, the Rev. Jeremiah Brown, and Mary Ailes.*



## Walk for Life - San Francisco

Bp. Eric Menees, of the Diocese of San Joaquin was invited to give the invocation for the 10th annual Walk for Life in San Francisco. He prayed in both English and Spanish. Canon Jack Lumanog, Canon for Provincial and Global Mission, Anglican Church in North America also attended along with a number of clergy and lay people from Bp. Menees’ diocese and the Diocese of Western Anglicans.

### Here is Bp. Menees’ prayer as he prayed it in English and Spanish:

El Señor sea con ustedes -

Let us pray.

Padre celestial - te damos gracias por su santa presencia hoy con nosotros.

Father God send your Holy Spirit upon us as we gather in this plaza - and in this city - that we may beautifully and wonderfully represent you and your special love for women and babies.

Padre te damos gracias por el gran privilegio que nos has dado - a manifestar su Amor a un mundo lleno de dolor y angustia - y a manifestar su Gracia en este ciudad hoy!

Father we thank you for allowing us to speak this day on behalf of the most vulnerable in our midst - pregnant women and their unborn babies.

Tu sabes Señor que no estamos caminando - ni luchando contra nadie - estamos caminando y luchando en favor de los niños en el vientre - y sus madres.



Father we know that every abortion grieves your heart because your Word declares to us that all people are made in your image. (Genesis 1:27)

From the moment of conception to natural death we as human beings bear the ability and the responsibility to reflect you and your love in a fallen world.

Forgive us Father for our failure as a nation and as individuals to protect your unborn children.

Perdonanos Señor por todas las veces que estuvimos en silencio- cuando pudimos haber ayudado a una hermana embarazada.

Perdonanos Señor por todas las veces cuando pudimos hablar en favor de la sanctidad de la vida y nos quedamos callados.

We gather today dear Lord as men and women - boys and girls united with a common voice - and a common plea -

END THE ABORTIONS THAT END INNOCENT LIVES

- and scar so many women and men - Women and men who act out of fear - who act out of ignorance - and who feel that they have no options.

Ayudanos Señor este día a ser sus brazos y su corazón a la mujer que cree que no tiene otra opción pero el aborto.

Permitanos Señor este día a comunicar con los de aturidad en el gobierno - que cuando voten a favor del aborto ellos no nos representen a nosotros - ni los babes del mundo.

We beg your blessing dear Lord upon our endeavors today - that we will faithfully represent the very best of what it means to be men and women of peace - but who stand resolute in our struggle to protect the most innocent among us.

Bendicinos Señor y ayudanos estar unidos en nuestra lucha - para proteger los inocentes y sus madres.

ALL THIS I ASK IN THE NAME OF MY LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST - AMEN.



## Georgette Honored at Walk for Life

Our friends at EWTN shared their video coverage of the Walk for Life on YouTube here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuHbj9UqOis#t=4200>

When you scroll to 1:04:14 in the video, you will see Georgette introduce Bp. Eric Menees and his amazing bi-lingual Invocation followed by The Walk for Life West Coast presenting Georgette with the St. Gianna Molla Award for her dedication to the men and women of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign and the sanctity of every human life!



Anglicans for Life is ready to help those who are called to life-affirming ministry. Please contact [Georgette@AnglicansforLife.org](mailto:Georgette@AnglicansforLife.org) to learn more.

## We have resources for your church from Anglicans for Life!

Visit our online catalog on our website for more info:

# [www.AnglicansforLife.org](http://www.AnglicansforLife.org)

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