

*This story was originally printed in the May 2011 issue of New Earth, the newspaper for the Diocese of Fargo.*

## **40 Days for Life ND to host national speakers June 14-15**

The 40 Days for Life North Dakota committee will be hosting several events this June that feature a slate of powerful pro-life speakers.

A public forum will take place in Fargo at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 14, at the Radisson Hotel, 201 Fifth St. N. The event will feature the Rev. Laurence White, senior pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas; David Bereit, national director/co-founder of 40 Days for Life; and Abby Johnson, author of the book "unPLANNED."

People can also join Johnson and Bereit for prayer from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 15, in front of the abortion facility at 512 First Ave. N., Fargo.

A second public forum will take place in Bismarck from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 15, at the Best Western Doublewood Inn, 1400 E. Interchange Ave., Bismarck. The event will begin with appetizers and fellowship at 5:30 p.m., followed by a 6 p.m. program that will include Bereit, Johnson and the PALS (see description near the end of this article).

Laurence White is a well-known pro-life speaker and regularly featured guest on "Focus on the Family," D. James Kennedy's "Reclaiming America" and Beverly LaHaye's "Concerned Women for America." He has spoken to millions of Americans on fundamental life issues and the family.

In addition to the public forum, White will also be presenting at a pastor's pro-life summit to be held on June 14. At both events he will address the similarities of the present day abortion holocaust with the tragedy of the Nazi Germany annihilation of millions of innocent human persons.

Abby Johnson is well known for her 2009 decision to leave her position with the Planned Parenthood facility located in Bryan/College Station, Texas. She states in her book "unPLANNED" that, "As I took the ultrasound probe in hand, I could not have imagined how the next 10 minutes would shake the foundation of my values and change the course of my life."

Abby had joined Planned Parenthood in 2001 as a college student volunteer with hopes of helping women in crisis — a goal she believed the organization and many other volunteers and staff shared. It wasn't until she assisted with an abortion, by holding the probe of the ultrasound that was guiding the abortionist through the procedure, that she realized the full impact of what actually happens during an abortion.

Johnson now works with projects on the national 40 Days for Life campaign. Her story has been featured on FOX News, "The Mike Huckabee Show," "The O'Reilly Factor," "Focus on the Family" and numerous other print and media programs.

David Bereit was instrumental in coordinating the first ever 40 Days for Life campaign held in 2004 in Bryan/College Station, Texas. Since then, two campaigns are conducted each year with international participation. More than 400,000 people have taken part in 40 Days for Life since it launched its first national effort in 2007; 13,000 churches have been involved; and more than 3,500 babies have been saved from abortion. Eight abortion facilities have closed and 43 abortion workers have left their jobs.

North Dakotans will participate in the state's fifth 40 Days for Life campaign Sept. 28 through Nov. 6, this year. More than 35 babies have been saved from abortion at the Fargo facility since the first campaign was held in North Dakota in 2007.

The PALS, a local panel of post-abortion women, will be sharing stories of their abortion experience and how God's love and mercy has brought healing to their broken worlds at both the pastors' summit and the Bismarck public forum. This group of courageous women has spoken in more than 30 church/forum venues across the state since 2009. They have touched the hearts of youth, adults and those who have been living in secret with their own abortion experience, so that they too can realize the impact abortion has on the lives of all people.

The Fargo and Bismarck public forums are free and open to the public.

*For more information on these events email [phc@polarcomm.com](mailto:phc@polarcomm.com) or call (701) 284-6601.*