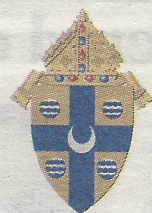


# CATHOLIC TIMES



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Photos by Diane Schlindwein

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE** — As cars pass by during the noon-hour traffic on March 22, Bishop Thomas John Paprocki leads prayers for life and specifically for an end to abortion as he takes part in the 40 Days for Life vigil in front of Planned Parenthood in Springfield. About three dozen people — a number carrying signs or rosaries and a couple of young people wearing bright yellow “LIFE” hoodies — joined the bishop in peaceful prayer.

## Bishop Paprocki prays during 40 Days for Life

By **DIANE SCHLINDWEIN**  
Associate Editor

Approximately three dozen people met in front of the new Planned Parenthood facility on Bruns Lane in Springfield on March 22 to join Bishop Thomas John Paprocki as he prayed for life — and specifically for an end to the sin of abortion.

Standing on a small platform and speaking through a sound system, Bishop Paprocki led the peaceful group in song, prayer and with petitions for a variety of causes. Additionally the group extended their arms in the direction of Planned Parenthood and offered a blessing for those who work there and for those who visit there for services. Bishop Paprocki also led a prayer to Our Lady of

America, asking that people pray for her intercession, in a particular way for greater purity and the virtue of chastity.

Those who attended the noon prayer event were greeted by Claudia Connelly, who is the chairperson for the 40 Days for Life Campaign in Springfield. Also on hand to help coordinate the event was Donna Moore, director of the Office for Pro-Life Activities and Special Ministries. Several times during the event, people driving on the busy street honked their car horns, sounding approval to those who prayed.

This is the seventh year the peaceful 40 Days for Life vigil has been conducted in Springfield. The campaign has been running this year since Ash Wednesday (March 1) and will continue through April 9, which is Palm Sunday.

