

ST. CATHARINES RIGHT TO LIFE NEWSLETTER



April, 2017

40 Days for Life in Niagara!

40 Days for Life, an international campaign of prayer, fasting and peaceful vigils outside abortion facilities, has come to Niagara for the first time. The prayerful witness has been taking place outside the Greater Niagara General Hospital in Niagara Falls every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. since March 1 and will continue until April 9. At any given hour, between one and twenty people can be seen on the sidewalk, praying and holding signs that say, "Pray to End Abortion."

Organizer Annette Loeffen estimates that approximately 200 participants have turned out for their hour-long time slots, no matter the weather.

Coordinating a 40 Days for Life Campaign is no small undertaking. But "remembering with God, all things are possible, I jumped in and paid the \$97 U.S. fee," said Annette. She selected the Niagara Falls location because that is where abortions are done in Niagara. After reading as much information as she could on running a 40 Days for Life Campaign, it was a matter of getting the word out. (*40 Days, continued pg 3*)



Stand On Guard for Life - Join the March for Life May 11, 2017

As Canada celebrates its 150th anniversary of Confederation, this year will also mark the 20th National March for Life in our nation's capital. For twenty years, Canadians have marched for life calling out the injustice of abortion in our country, and on May 11, 2017, they will come together once again on Parliament Hill to proclaim this year's theme: "Life, We Stand on Guard for Thee."

"The 2017 theme reminds Canadians that respecting and valuing human life at all its stages is and has always been part of our Canadian identity," said Jim Hughes, President of Campaign Life Coalition. "The National March for Life brings together tens of thousands of Canadians who stand on guard for the most innocent of our society, even if our current Prime Minister and many in Parliament are ignoring the rights of pre-born children."

For more information, visit marchforlife.ca

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TWO-DAY TRIP ARRANGED BY

ST. CATHARINES RIGHT TO LIFE

Departure from Niagara (Pen Centre or Vineland Carpark): Thursday, May 11, 2017 @ 5:00 a.m.

Return: Friday, May 12 at 8:00 p.m.

Cost: Students & Chaperones: Coach, Accommodation, Conference, Banquet, Breakfast & Lunch \$95

Adults: Transportation only: \$65.

Reserve your spot soon. First come, first serve!
Call 905-684-7505 or email: info@chooselife.ca

President's Message



Dear Pro-Life Friends,

I hope you have seen one of our “The World Needs More Canadians” billboards. We think this message is a good one for Canada’s 150th Birthday. Our Board liked the idea because we thought it would be an effective ad, but also because we thought it brought to mind some happy and not so happy thoughts about our nation.

All that we do as a right to life association is made necessary by the terrible fact of abortion in Canada, by the number of babies deprived of life, by the number of young women and their families whose lives are blighted by abortion, and now by the number of Canadians lost through assisted suicide and euthanasia. We think of the fact that Canada has no law restricting abortion at any stage of pregnancy. We think also of the refusal of so many of our politicians to discuss abortion and the refusal of our provincial government to even give us access to the statistics on abortion.

But what we do in our ads, and when we speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves, appeals also to the goodness of those who see our billboards and hear what we say. We think of the courage and compassion Canadians have displayed in peace and war, of how much Canadians have done for the world and for each other. We think of the extraordinary generosity of our own members that makes possible our ads and all that we do.

We pray with you that the very young Canadians shown in our ads will help bring an end to the scourge of abortion, that the unborn and the vulnerable will live to enjoy the goodness of life in Canada.

William Mathie



New Billboard

Have you seen our new “The World Needs More Canadians! Choose Life” billboard at Ontario and St. Paul Sts. in St. Catharines? We hope to post it around the Niagara Region this year, the 150th anniversary of our nation. If you would like to make a donation to help with this campaign, just mark “billboard” on your cheque or donation form.

**ST. CATHARINES
RIGHT TO LIFE
NEWSLETTER**
is published by
**THE ST. CATHARINES
RIGHT TO LIFE
ASSOCIATION INC.**

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St. Catharines, Ontario,
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St. Catharines Right to Life is a registered non-profit organization providing educational material on abortion and euthanasia, and promoting respect for human life from conception to natural death. We support only peaceful means to promote our aims.

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12 to 4 p.m.

Monday To Friday

DID YOU KNOW?

An 8 week old unborn child weighs about 1/10th of an ounce and measures slightly less than 1¼ inches from head to rump.

But already, brain waves can be measured and recorded, fingers and toes are free and fully formed, and hiccups have begun!

(40 DAYS Continued from page 1)

Annette and a small team began visiting CWL and Knights of Columbus councils, and met with as many priests and pastors as possible. They made presentations at churches of many denominations, asking each one to be responsible for one full day. The Knights were especially supportive, providing a place for participants to park for free, and to house the signs, as well as signing up for extra vigil hours that were not covered.

Mandy Overbeeke who was in charge of filling the time slots for her church on a day during March break found some challenges with many people away, others with their children home from school, and because 40 Days for Life is new to Niagara. “Now that people have gone out and experienced this prayerful, silent witness for the pre-born, I hope they will spread the word on what a beautiful opportunity it is,” she remarked.

As coordinator, Annette has been in constant communication with volunteers, and has heard numerous stories about what they’ve experienced. “One particularly cold morning, a lady came out of the hospital carrying a donut and a hot coffee to a lone participant at the vigil. The woman was effusive in her thanks that someone would take the time to be present to make people aware that many abortions are being done there.”



her had just been put on life support, and they prayed with another woman whose family was going through trauma. They were also confronted by a young man who angrily stated, “Abortion is a woman’s right.” A pro-lifer kindly responded, “Let’s talk about it.” Through respectful dialogue, the man warmed up to those witnessing for life, and learned facts about prenatal life.

Peaceful, loving, prayerful, joyful. That’s the pro-life witness of 40 Days for Life. Though we won’t know how many lives have been saved, we can be certain that our prayers are heard.

Marlene Tersigni

Respect For Life Mass, March 25, 2017

"Nothing will be impossible with God."



The words of the Angel Gabriel addressed to Mary at the Annunciation are words of hope for all of us as we continue in our efforts to oppose the Culture of Death, to respect and promote the cause of life.

This was the message of Bishop Bergie as he addressed hundreds of parishioners present at the Annual Respect Life Mass at the Cathedral of St. Catherine on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord on March 25th.

Some participants have been sworn at and called names, but most of the public response has been positive and encouraging, and there have been opportunities to share the love of Christ through prayer, a listening ear and a kind word. One lady, upon hearing that nearly four million children in the womb have died by abortion in Canada, became emotional and broke down. It turns out she was battling cancer. “When told that we would pray for her, she hugged me and asked for prayers for her husband too,” Annette said.

Volunteers from Heritage Reformed Church offered comfort to a woman whose mother had just been put on life support, and they prayed with another woman whose family was going through trauma. They were also confronted by a young man who angrily stated, “Abortion is a woman’s right.” A pro-lifer kindly responded, “Let’s talk about it.” Through respectful dialogue, the man warmed up to those witnessing for life, and learned facts about prenatal life.

Would you like to have a **pro-life information event at your Church or school?** We would be happy to provide display materials, information, a speaker, or whatever else might be needed.

Contact us at: info@chooselife.ca or 905-684-7505

Would you **like to volunteer?**

Contact St. Catharines Right to Life for more information:
905-684-7505 info@chooselife.ca

Stephanie Gray



Author of *Love Unleashes Life*, Stephanie Gray spoke to grade 10 students at St. Michael Catholic Secondary School in Niagara Falls on February 28. Stephanie was the keynote speaker at the St. Catharines Right to Life Annual Dinner February 25 where she encouraged pro-lifers to stay connected to God, keep their minds sharp in order to make the case for the pre-born child, and to soften their hearts to see the need of those in front of them, “We want to win the person, not just the arguments.”

In the days following the dinner, Stephanie went on to give dynamic presentations in six Niagara high schools, where she encouraged students to do what’s right even when it’s hard.

Follow-up To Complaint About Bus Shelter Ad

In our last newsletter we reported that we had appealed against a decision of the Advertising Standards Council that one of our bus ads was inaccurate. The Council upheld the complaint of someone who objected that our ad called the child in the womb of a pregnant woman the same "person" as that child after birth in the same woman's arms. The complaint was that the Criminal Code had established that the child in the womb is not a "person." Council's decision has been upheld and will now be reported on the Council's webpage but we are allowed to submit a statement that will appear on the same webpage. Here is our statement:

“The Same Person Inside and Out.” Or not? Someone complained that our bus shelter ad was inaccurate because the law does not recognize what’s in the woman’s womb as a person. The Advertising Standards Council agreed. So what is in the woman’s womb? Is it alive? Is it human? If a live human being, why not a person? Is whatever the law says the final word on what a person is? Canadian law used to deny that women were persons. Did they only become persons when the law said so? American law used to deny that black Americans were persons. Did they only become persons when the law said so? Was it right to stop anyone from questioning those laws that denied women or blacks were persons? Is it right to stop anyone from saying that the child in a woman’s womb is a person?

William Mathie



Ontario's Staggering Abortion Statistics

45,471 abortions took place in Ontario in a one-year period from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015. This number is based on actual OHIP billings, and was only released by the Ontario government because of litigation they faced from pro-life groups. This number is far greater than what was released by the Canadian Institute for Health Information, which relies on the voluntary submission of data from hospitals and clinics that perform abortions. CIHI reported 23,746 abortions in Ontario in 2014.

In 2012, the provincial government surreptitiously passed an amendment to the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (FIPPA) that stopped access to abortion data. Run with Life Blogger Patricia Maloney, who was involved in the court challenge against the Ontario government, believes the reason the government wants to keep statistics hidden is because of the amount of money being spent on it. She writes on her blog, “For instance at \$1000/abortion relying on CIHI's numbers, that would be **\$23,756,000 compared to \$45,471,000 spent on abortion in one year only**. (This is an estimate of course, because we don't know the actual cost per abortion. In fact we are perpetually forced into estimating the cost of abortion *because* we don't have access to that information.) That's public money spent on one medically unnecessary medical procedure. And it's almost twice as much as we thought it was. And it's completely hidden from the public.”

For more information, google Patricia Maloney's Run with Life Blog.