

What Does it Mean to be Pro-life?

Barry Mombourquette

This question is a familiar one, yet needs to be asked. Does being pro-life mean merely to believe that every human being has dignity and an incalculable value? Or is it a state of mind in which one is brought to tears at the thought of an innocent child being aborted from their mother's womb piece by living piece and being disposed of like damaged property? Is it a commitment to activism, such as standing on a street corner holding signs with hundreds of others during Life Chain, or volunteering time as a Board member of the HRTL? Is it a scientific question, simply an understanding of physiology, facts, and figures? Is it a religious question, going to church each week and praying to our Lord for the respect of life at all stages of development? Is it a moral question, to do

what is right, what is written on our hearts and to do it now? Is it a political question, having to know and understand where our candidates stand and to vote accordingly?

To be pro-life means all of these things and more. It means not to give up, not to lower our standards and not to settle for the protection of just some. Being pro-life calls everyone to stand up for the most vulnerable in our society – the unborn, the aged and the marginalized. It means not to be afraid of voicing our beliefs unabashedly, to colleagues, friends and family – to talk to people one on one, wherever they are at. It means having the courage to leave our comfort zone and to bring healing to the world. In summary, it means to provide justice for the oppressed.

Is it easy to be pro-life? In short, no. Our culture seems apathetic about justice for the unborn, and so a pro-lifer carries the burden of swimming upstream, of being different than the crowd. But it also means that we pro-lifers must take a stand against the evil we perceive and counter its perpetration with wholehearted opposition and further, we must present a sweet and pleasing alternative.

If we truly believe that all life is a gift and every person has an inherent right to live, then we must work within our means and to the best of our abilities to bring about an end to this holocaust. We all must work shoulder to shoulder for life.

Baby Bottle Campaign

In past we have sporadically held a "baby bottle campaign" which is a fund-raising drive to help our organization to meet not only our on-going expenses, but also and more importantly, our efforts to reach the public with our message of hope and justice for the weakest among us – our society's unborn babies.

This is how it works: Each family or single member of your congregation or parish receives a baby bottle at the beginning of the drive and is asked to fill it with coin or paper money and bring it to church on a designated day. Then a Hamilton Right to Life (HRTL)

volunteer will pick up the bottles and bring them to the HRTL office where the money is counted. If you include your name and address to the bottle, you will receive a tax receipt for the full amount of your donation.

This year we decided to hold baby bottle campaigns in both spring and fall. The spring campaign runs from Mother's Day to Father's Day, and the fall campaign from the second week of September (September 10) to Thanksgiving.

Many churches have already been contacted and some have agreed to participate. Please

check with your church leaders to see whether or not your parish or congregation is helping and, if not, encourage them to do so. Many Thanks!

ACTION PLAN

What you can do right now to promote LIFE!

- ✓ **PRAY** for justice for the unborn and for the vulnerable in our society.
- ✓ **SUPPORT** us financially with your membership and help to find one more new member.
- ✓ **PLAN** to attend our Respect Life Fundraiser Dinner and to bring a friend.



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Barry Mombourquette
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NEWSLETTER *Lifespan*

FALL 2011

May 12, 2011 March for Life in Ottawa

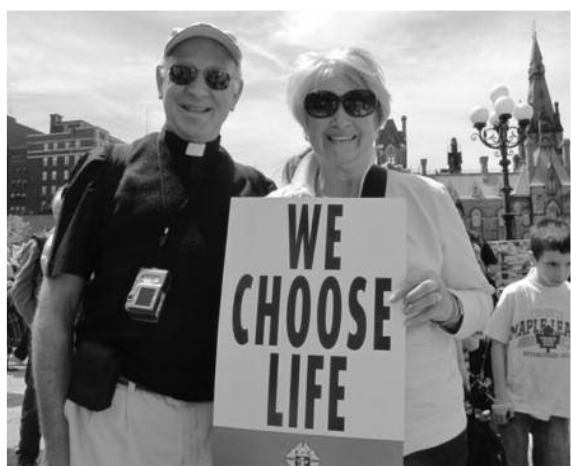
On a gorgeous sunny day in May we marched for life in downtown Ottawa.



*David Sweet, MP
Sharing his Love of Life*



*Hamilton Right to Life Carries
Its Banner in the March for Life*



*Fr. Ted Slaman & Vicky Dykstra
Choosing Life*



*Huge crowds gathering on
Parliament Hill*

OCTOBER IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH

Our membership year runs from October 1st -September 30th.

Please take time today to renew your membership with the enclosed membership form.

If you have renewed your membership recently we thank you and ask that you help us in finding one new member.

www.hamiltonrighttolife.org

Respect Life Fundraiser Dinner and Annual General Meeting Guest Speaker Dan Kulp

This year we welcome Dan Kulp as our Respect Life Fundraiser Dinner and AGM Guest Speaker. Dan is a comedic story teller, singer, writer, actor and the proud parent of two adopted children from China who have special needs - including one with that wonderful extra chromosome!

Kulp has a story to tell. He had the privilege of growing up with four brothers and sisters who have Down Syndrome (three were adopted). In fact, during the seventies, PBS and Newsweek Magazine did a feature on his family which aired internationally and The National Enquirer did a two page spread about the Kulp family! Now, in a moving new chapter to the story, Dan and his wife have just received a daughter from China who, like her brother, also has a chromosomal syndrome! Dan looks forward to moving you through humorous and profound stories which will reveal lessons learned from his upbringing about promoting justice for the weak and helpless in our society.

Dan Kulp has had the privilege of performing for audiences all over the United States as both the lead singer of the rock



group The Dig Project and as a comedian. His brand of humor has been shared in Clubs, Colleges, Churches, Camps, Conferences, High Schools, Festivals and Retreats. As a gifted communicator, Dan draws from his experiences as an actor, writer, youth pastor, radio talk show host, husband and parent.

Why not join us on November 1st to hear Dan and to catch up with what is happening at Hamilton Right to Life?

Assisted suicide trial fast-tracking in B.C.

Gloria Taylor, who has lived far longer than her doctors had predicted plans to hang on until her right-to-die case is hurried through a B.C. court, her lawyer says. B.C. Supreme Court Justice Lynn Smith agreed to a speedy trial for Gloria, who wants a doctor-assisted suicide. "I am satisfied the time is urgent," Smith told a crowd gathered in a Vancouver court for her decision Wednesday August 3rd.

A four-week summary trial will be held beginning Nov. 15.

A lawyer for the federal government argued earlier in the hearing that such a fast trial should not be considered because the constitutional challenge is too complex to be prepared that quickly.

Taylor's lawyer, Joe Arvey, said the decision to fast track the trial means his client may

now have the chance she wants to use a doctor to help her end her life. Taylor, 63, has Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease, and Arvey told the court earlier in the week that her condition is getting worse. "Gloria is an amazing woman. She has lived much longer than the doctors had predicted that she would," Arvey told reporters outside the court. "She told me that she was going to hang on as long as it took in order for her to exercise her constitutional rights." Taylor's case is one of two in front of Smith, with right-to-die advocates saying it is time to reconsider a 1993 Supreme Court of Canada decision denying Sue Rodriguez the right to take her own life. *The Canadian Press*

Action: Contact your local MP to communicate your opposition to any change in the constitution regarding assisted suicide.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ancaster Fair Booth

September 22, 23, 24, & 25, 2011
Hamilton Right to Life will have its annual booth at the Ancaster Fair. If you are able to volunteer 2-4 hours to man the booth it would be most appreciated. You will receive a pass into the fair.

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Life Chain October 2, 2011

2:30pm – 3:30pm

PLEASE JOIN US IN OUR STAND AGAINST ABORTION!



The annual Life Chain will be held on Sunday October 2nd from 2:30pm – 3:30pm across the city in four locations:

- *McMaster University Medical Centre (with parking at Canadian Martyrs Parish)*
- *Upper James & Mohawk Road, Hamilton (with parking at Immanuel Christian Reformed Church)*
- *Hwy 20 & Hwy 8, Stoney Creek (with parking at Eastgate Square)*
- *Hwy 8 & Grays Road, Stoney Creek (with parking at Stoney Creek Shopping Plaza)*

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Respect Life Fundraiser Dinner, Raffle, & A.G.M.

November 1, 2011

*Michelangelo's Banquet Centre
1555 Upper Ottawa, Hamilton*

Doors open at 6:00pm

Dinner begins at 6:45pm

Guest Speaker Dan Kulp

Comedic story teller, singer, writer, actor, and the proud parent of two adopted children from China who have special needs. Special Music by Noteworthy.

Tickets: \$45 Adults, \$30 Students
For more information on any of these events please contact our office 905-528-3065

Change is Afoot in the Pro-Life Movement

Vicky Dykstra

When I attended the March for Life on Parliament Hill this past May, I was thrilled to see crowds of young women standing shoulder to shoulder with the veterans of the pro-life movement to protest the lack of justice for the unborn children of Canada. They speak and act with the energy and passion that stems from their conviction, and they are the new face of the Pro-Life Movement in Canada.

The face of pro-life is changing. More and more it is young, not older women, who are actively engaged in taking a stand for justice for the unborn. Among the thousands of young people on Parliament Hill this past May 12 was Kathleen Dunn, 20 years old, an intelligent, eloquent young woman who took to the stage and expressed her passion to save the unborn children of Canada. Additionally, Kathleen used her musical talent to unify the crowd in song. Thousands, like Kathleen, recognize the destructiveness of abortion on many levels, and are unabashed in their opposition.

Veronique Bergeron, a 37-year-old lawyer, exemplifies the modern professional woman who is both feminist and pro-life. "Although Bergeron says the pro-life message has changed from 'God hates abortion' (which won't save babies) to defining what it means to be a human being, she believes still more changes are needed" (Newman, Alex, Faith Today, May/June, 2011). Bergeron got pregnant with her first child at 21 while in law school. "As soon as the little line turned blue,



Kathleen Dunn Singing at the Rose Dinner March 2010

it became clear that what I thought would be a no-brainer – abortion — was really excruciating," says Bergeron. Another formative influence was the complete and utter disbelief of her peers that she would do something so stupid as to "keep" the baby and ruin her professional life. "That's when I realized that women may have been liberated but liberation was achieved by excluding their reproductive abilities (www.Prowomanprolife.com).

Another change from the traditional stance toward abortion held by many young women is that they think the focus of pro-life action should be to change the attitude of the grassroots. Rebecca Walberg, a social policy analyst and mother of three young boys says, "The promise that access to abortion would give women more independence and make

them less vulnerable to abuse was, decades ago, somewhat plausible. Today, however, Canadians live in a culture in which abortion on demand has made every child not a wanted child, but rather a potentially disposable child." She believes ProWomanProLife, a pro-life website, represents a chance to bring a new voice to the issue of abortion in Canada, by raising grassroots awareness and not by forcing legislative change. "Trying to use laws or courts to change people's minds about this is not only ineffective, but actively harmful, in that it polarizes society and rewards extremism," she says. Persuasion, not legislation, is the preferred method of change for Rebecca and others.

Andrea Mrozek started the ProWomanProLife website in 2007 because she believes that there is a better way to oppose abortion than fighting for a change in legislation. She hopes "to create a Canada where demand for abortions dwindles and decreases until there's none left, not because it was forced upon anyone, but because that is what women choose" (Newman). Currently the majority of Canadians does not support abortion but have not taken the next step of actively opposing it or presenting an alternative to it.

Let us be encouraged and heartened by these emerging trends, and let us be ever more diligent in our efforts to protect the unborn by using the power of knowledge through the educational arm of our organization to voice the truth about abortion.

What You Can Do to Celebrate and Promote Life

Pray daily for an end to abortion, for women contemplating abortion, for doctors and nurses, for legislators, for clergy, for those who work in the pro-life movement, and for those who have yet to realize the value of the life of the unborn. Form or join in pro-life prayer groups.

Become informed about abortion. See resources and links below for more information.

Take part in local projects and pro-life activities. For information, contact your church or local pro-life group. Each year the

March for Life takes place the second week of May and Hamilton Right to Life always has a bus going.

Volunteer at a local Crisis Pregnancy Centre: provide counseling, prayer, moral support, phone counseling for those considering abortion or asking for advice.

Support a local Crisis Pregnancy Centre with donations of baby/ maternity clothes and other needed items. Help to collect such items. If there is not a centre near you, help to start one. Help existing centres to obtain sonogram machines and to upgrade to medical clinic status.

Donate pro-life books to your local libraries, schools, colleges, and churches. Request such books at your libraries and bookstores.

Promote adoption. For information, contact your local pro-life group or adoption agencies.

Visit and write your MP to discuss abortion and how they can help protect unborn children.

Conduct fundraising efforts for pro-life groups: car-washes, bake-sales, raffles, dinners, penny drives, walkathons, and others.