

President's Remarks

BY DR. RENATO BRUN DEL RE



Dr. Renato Brun Del Re

Dearest Readers,
 Spring is springing again, with the changing weather, global warming, political "coldering hearts" and "legalities, all marching together as depicted in the parable of the wheat and tares...! So much going on and this life experience never fails to deliver! We at Hamilton Right to Life (HRTL) are finding so much going on lately, yet the important things remain foremost:

▶ WE ARE HERE, AND WE HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY!

Our board of directors (BOD) has seen it as strategic and beneficial to align the fiscal year and our membership term so it has been decided to place our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on June 17th this year with our guest speaker Alex Schadenberg of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC) bringing us up to date with what's happening behind the scenes in the euthanasia debate. Needless to say, the "mercy-killing" question is hot on the minds of Canadians and Supreme court politicos/judges. Although the abortion question is in the background of news-worthy debate, the pro-life movement will again bring the issue to the fore with the "March for Life" gathering momentum for May15 in Ottawa. May we all make time for this worthy public "tour de force" as life marches on for all the living and dying of the day.

Close at hand, our "Baby Bottle Campaign" is also gathering momentum for the most worthy cause of HRTL, our charity which stands for life and educates our community in these perilous times. This campaign raises money to promote the dignity, beauty, and sanctity of God's greatest gift to the living (and dying), scheduled as always for the time between Mothers' and Fathers' days May 10th to June 21st. This campaign and other fundraisers underline that we operate as a noble and worthy cause (the ONLY cause in my books!) and entirely as an approved charity. Our operation is totally dependent on goodwill donations.

Reporting on recent notable events is the "Coldest day for Canada" our prayer and candlelight vigil in January as reported by Marge Postuma (of the BOD), another example of the efforts of HRTL to warm the hearts of Canadians in our neck of the woods!

Please note that HRTL office is moving and slightly upscaling the office of HRTL. The new venue is just a hop, step, and jump from Bay Street to MacNab Street at the old St. Mary's school, now the St. Mary's Catholic Education Resource Centre. This new venue will provide greater office benefits and less risk of vandalism. And we'll have the same phone number, staff and, "Rock of Gibraltar(s)" you are so fortunate to have enjoyed so far: same hearts, different place!

On that happy note, we wish to extend our warmest welcome to all of you at the "new" AGM-time June 17, 7 pm, at the Mancini Centre, behind Christ the King Cathedral Basilica (CTK), and the same "old" agenda i.e. nothing hidden.

▶ LET'S BE PRO LIFE



Spring 2015

- PRESIDENT: Dr. Renato Brun Del Re
- VICE PRESIDENT: Brian Lawlor
- SECRETARY: Jorge Pineda
- TREASURER: Fr. Ted Slaman
- DIRECTORS: Vicky Dykstra, Joe Misale, Marge Postuma, Peg McCarthy, Sandra Dykstra
- OFFICE MANAGER: Sandra Dykstra
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Vicky Dykstra



Spring Events

HAMILTON RIGHT TO LIFE INVITES YOU TO-

▶ Join us for the 18th Annual National March for Life May 14th, 2015



Parliament Hill, Ottawa
 We will be marching to uphold justice for the preborn. A bus will be leaving 204 Park Street North, Hamilton at 3:30a.m and returning at 12:00am

the next day. For more information or to secure your seat on the bus, please contact our office at 905-528-3065

▶ FIRST SPRING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



WITH ALEX SCHADENBERG

WEDNESDAY JUNE 17TH
 7PM-9PM
 DOORS OPENING AT 6:30PM
 NICHOLAS MANCINI CENTRE
 44 HUNT STREET

BEHIND CHRIST THE KING CATHEDRAL

Please join us on Wednesday June 17th at 7pm for our First Spring Annual General Meeting with guest speaker, Alex Schadenberg from the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition.

In light of the Supreme Court's decision not to uphold the law in place regarding euthanasia, Alex will be giving us all the information needed to arm ourselves in our fight in this battle.

Coffee and dessert will be served. Please call our office at 905-528-3065 for more information.



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Pro-life Hero Archbishop Turcotte Dies at 78

The "people's priest" and supporter of life, former archbishop of Montreal Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte, died at age 78 after a lengthy illness, reports the Canadian Press. "He was always welcoming to people, whatever their background, whatever their opinions, whatever their faith or belief, while simultaneously maintaining his own beliefs," commented Archbishop Lepine, current archbishop of Montreal.



Prime Minister Harper said that His Eminence was a man of deep principle and service who will be remembered for his compassion, humility, and leadership.

Why do we say he's a hero of life? In 2008, Archbishop Turcotte returned his Order of Canada to protest the decision of the governor-general to bestow this honour on the infamous abortionist Henry Morgentaler. We laud his action and recognize his integrity in returning the Order of Canada. He is a man to emulate – one whose actions agree with his words.

Morgentaler's receiving the high honour of the Order of Canada was met with consternation by pro-life supporters. "If Morgentaler had any integrity, he would refuse the medal," Mary Ellen Douglas of the Campaign Life Coalition said in a news release after the news of Morgentaler's honour was announced. "This presentation should be given to people who have made Canada a better place to live and the elimination of thousands of human beings who would have contributed to the future of Canada is a disgrace, not an honour."

Archbishop Turcotte illustrated leadership, honour, and integrity in returning the prestigious award.

6th Annual Prayer and Candlelight Vigil

BY MARGE POSTUMA
 BY PERMISSION OF THE AUTHOR

▶ "Not to speak is to speak; not to act is to act!"

This was the clarion call raised by theologian and activist Dietrich Bonhoeffer against Hitler and the atrocities of the holocaust during the Second World War. These words, echoed at the 6th Annual Prayer and Candlelight Vigil on Friday, Jan. 30, 2015 at the Canadian Martyrs Church in Hamilton were our call to speak and act against the horrors of the present day abortion holocaust.



According to its mission statement, Hamilton Right to Life (HRTL) seeks to educate the public about the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. It acknowledges that God is the author of life and that each human being has intrinsic value and must, therefore, be revered.

The week of the Prayer Vigil coincides with the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1988 decision to strike down the existing anti-abortion law. At the present time there is no law in Canada to protect the pre-born child. Those who attended the vigil were reminded of these things in the message given by Fr. Ted Slaman. They joined their voices in song and their hearts in prayer. Afterwards they filed out of the church carrying lit candles, continuing the walk to the McMaster Medical Centre. This silent witness was concluded with the singing of O Canada after which the participants returned to the church for a time of fellowship and a well-deserved cup of hot chocolate. HRTL is grateful for the excellent turnout at the vigil and encourages all to continue to speak and to act on behalf of those who have no voice.

Spring 2015

Mission Statement

Hamilton Right to Life (HRTL) is a not-for-profit organization committed to the principle that God is the author of life, and that each human life has intrinsic value and should be revered and protected from conception to natural death. The HRTL mission is to educate and promote these positions while encouraging people to recognize and affirm the sanctity of human life.

► Life without abortion.

Haldimand Pregnancy Care Centre: Building Families through the love of Christ

BY VICKY DYKSTRA

Women in distress because of the circumstances surrounding pregnancy can walk through the doors at Haldimand Pregnancy Care Centre (HPCC) and find help, support, and counselling.

► The mission of this organization is to build families through the love of Christ.

This organization was established in 2004 by Carol Butler because she noticed many young women walking their babies on the streets of Dunnville, and wanted to provide support for these young mothers as well as for those who were pregnant and uncertain about their future. Haldimand Pregnancy Care Centre has facilities not only in Dunnville but also in Caledonia and Simcoe.



I recently visited the Caledonia Centre and met with its director Kim Radford and its youth case worker, Rachel Minton. The staff is very kind and friendly, and the office is a welcoming place: it's clean, well lit, and tastefully decorated. The centre has a counselling room, offices for staff, a full kitchen, and a storage area. In the storage area staff members collect and organize clothes for babies up to three years old as well as maternity clothes for mothers-to-be. They also provide formula, baby food, and diapers up to size 6. (Rachel Minton, left & Kim Radford, right)

The very busy staff of five members provide a host of services:

- Free pregnancy tests
- Doula care
- Maternity and baby practical assistance
- Abstinence education
- Miscarriage support
- Post-abortion counselling
- Ongoing care and support after the birth of the baby

Counsellors at this centre are qualified through a programme called "Equipped to Serve," which is a crisis intervention programme designed for pregnancy Centres. The counsellors are taught to be active listeners, and to practice humility, unconditional love, genuineness, and empathy. The services they provide for their clients are life-affirming and strictly confidential. Should the client need further services such as psychological counselling or adoption services, they are referred to agencies that can meet these needs and desires.

Recently the organization changed venues so that they could have a more visual presence in Caledonia. They are now located at 11 Argyle Street, at the corner of Argyle and Sutherland. The building required renovation to meet the needs of the organization. Many volunteers stepped up to help, and a great deal of assistance came from the members of the York Christian Reformed Church. Plans are currently being formalized to expand the facilities by renovating the basement. This expansion would provide more counselling space, more classroom space, a larger storage area and a more private entrance.

Haldimand Pregnancy Care Centre is a charitable organization with all of their funding coming from donors, members, churches, foundations, and fundraising events. It's website is www.haldimandpcc.org. Have a look and note the great work being done at this place of support and consolation.



An Opinion Piece: Pets & People: Both Have Value

BY FRANK FLORIO

Many people literally love their pets. And anyone who has owned one knows that pets can actually evoke love. Pets are valued and valuable. There are numerous documented cases of pets sensing the onset of strokes, cancer, and other diseases. And they're great for patients who are going through rehabilitation after serious injury or illness. In a sense, then, it's no surprise that two of the fastest growing businesses in North America are veterinary medicine and pet health insurance.

A business section article early this year noted that pets who once would have been euthanized are now given expensive treatments, including chemotherapy. There is nothing wrong with any of this but it is certainly ironic that while expensive treatments are being funded by insurance plans for pets, society takes the opposite strategy when it comes to people. Support for euthanasia of people is strong and alarming.

We hear of the need to ration health care services and of the "right" to die. Meanwhile, the right - and the value - of living is denied. Pain is to be avoided at all costs and it's regarded by many as a bonus benefit if the health care system can save money or redirect it to other areas of care.

A separate series of articles right here in Hamilton cited the fact that more than 350 hospital beds are occupied by seniors who really should be in long-term care. The problem is, however, that there is a shortage of such places and the costs are prohibitive for many people who need it.

When I drew attention to this story, a friend said, "How did they not see this coming? I mean, we all know about the aging baby boom generation. How did the governments and health care systems miss it?"

It probably wasn't ignorance but maybe it was distraction. It's sadly human to wait until a crisis occurs before we deal with a problem. Millions, even billions, of dollars are raised each year for research into serious disease, and this is good. But palliative care? Until recently, it didn't get its rightful recognition and still doesn't get appropriate financial support.

As Mary Klingenberg, our 2014 Respect Life Dinner speaker noted, the pain of suffering from a fatal disease includes emotional pain. Some are so saddened by their circumstances that they decide to stop interacting with others, stop doing things that can bring them joy and, effectively, give up on life long before their bodies shut down. It all sounds complicated but the reality is that ignoring the needs of the elderly and dying is fostered by disrespect for life, or an ignorance of its sacredness, a feeling that we don't matter.

How is it that a family pet can evoke love and care, but a relative, a neighbor, a friend is allowed to suffer alone in and silence? We need to "be there" for each other. Aren't we as people at least as important as our dogs and cats? If not, we need to do some serious soul-searching and start connecting the proverbial dots to see the big picture.

What's Happening At Hamilton Right to Life

HAMILTON RIGHT TO LIFE IS MOVING!

The Hamilton Right to Life office will be moving from 166 Bay Street North to 209 MacNab Street East, Room 11 into the St. Mary's Catholic Education Resource Centre as of Thursday April 23, 2015. Our phone number 905-528-3065 will remain the same. Thank you.

Baby Bottle Campaign: Mothers' Day to Fathers' Day May 10th - June 21st, 2015



Our annual Baby Bottle Campaign will be held from Mothers' Day to Fathers' Day. If your church

has not been contacted, or if you would like to participate, please call our office for more details. Last year over 1,825 bottles went out and over \$21,000 was raised. Let's see if we can see these numbers rise this year so that more can be done to shed light on the devastation of abortion in the City of Hamilton! Thank you.



Baby Bottles Pink & Blue!

Baby bottles, pink and blue, Supplied for donations from you. Coins take so much time to count, Please cheques and bills to make up the amount.

Membership Renewals

Our membership year now runs in tandem with our fiscal year from May 1st, to April 30th. Thank you to those of you who have already renewed your membership in this current fiscal year. If you have forgotten, or misplaced your membership form please find one enclosed with this newsletter. Each membership is \$20. If you are able to help us again with another donation on top of the membership you have already sent in, this would be so appreciated. Please note that renewing your membership in the calendar year 2015 is good for only one fiscal year membership.

What does Hamilton Right to Life do with your membership and donation money? Good question. Our mandate is to educate, and in doing so we want everyone in the Hamilton area to be made aware of the devastating effects of abortion. This year we plan to put up billboards, advertise in magazines, host a prayer and candlelight vigil, attend the March for Life in Ottawa in May, and have our new Annual General Meeting in June with a guest speaker. We also plan to be present at various functions such as the Ancaster Fair where our display will be up. If you have already renewed your membership why not pass on the membership form to a family member or friend? For only \$20 per year they too can be a part of educating against abortion! Without your support we cannot keep this issue alive!

► Thank you.