

Chair's Message

Christmas 2024

Dear friends:

During the Christmas season, you and I open our hearts to all God's gifts. Not everyone welcomed Jesus then ("He came into his world, but the world did not accept Him." John 1:11). Not everyone welcomes Jesus today, nor His great gift of life. By God's grace, you and I do recognize the dignity of all life, from conception to natural death. We pray for a conversion of heart for all who do not recognize life as God's greatest gift.

Many receiving this newsletter have often donated to Hamilton Right to Life, enabling us to follow our mission. Thank you! Some may be receiving our HRTL newsletter for the first time, perhaps after donating in our Baby Bottle Campaign, or after attending one of our events. We invite each of you to give a new gift to HRTL as well as to other causes that promote life at all its stages and conditions. Your annual membership contribution (\$30) is an indication of where your heart lies – that you recognize life as a precious gift. If you have not kept up your annual membership in HRTL, maybe today is the right time for this. If you have already given this year, we thank you.

Let's take every opportunity to speak up for the dignity of life, whether that of a preborn child, or of someone who is depressed, lonely, sick and in pain, and wishing to end life through "MAiD". Let's be there for them. We are people of hope. We know that life can have its challenges, but working through these challenges and reaching for our best selves brings hope. We are grateful for our earthly life. We look forward to the fullness of life to come.

I pray you have a Blessed Christmas Season.



Board Chair (Rev.) Ted Slaman



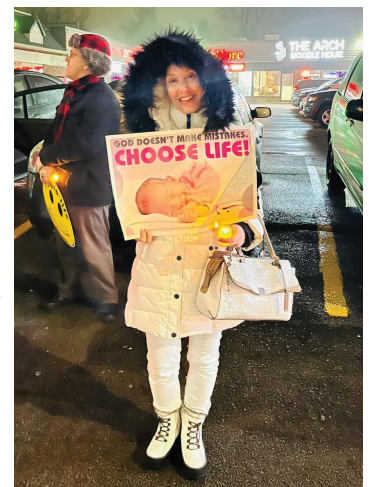
Upcoming Events in 2025

For more information on all our events and to register please visit our website: HamiltonRightToLife.org/events Or call our office: 905-528-3065; or email: Office@HamiltonRightToLife.org

Candlelight Prayer Vigil – Saturday, January 25th @ 7:00 p.m.

Commemorating the 37th anniversary of the 1988 "No Abortion Law" in Canada, we will host our 16th Annual Prayer Vigil across from McMaster Children's Hospital, on the public sidewalk across the street at the corner of Main St. W. & Broadway Ave., Hamilton.

We are still finalizing details for this time of prayer and fellowship.





40 Days for Life – Wednesday, March 5th to Sunday, April 13th

We will be joining thousands across the world, as we host a silent prayer vigil on the sidewalk across from McMaster Children's Hospital. Your presence and prayers do impact those in our community who may be considering an abortion. Please consider volunteering for an hour or two

Life Talks Conference - Saturday, March 29th

We invite you to join us at Halton Alive's "Life Talks" conference for a full day of enlightening and engaging speakers on topics of life, the challenges and ways to respond in a loving and caring manner.

For more details and to register, please visit their website: HaltonAlive.ca/LifeTalks



National March for Life, Ottawa – Thursday, May 8th

We're excited to announce that we are planning to have two (or more) buses go to Ottawa to join in the National March for Life in Ottawa.

One-day trip for adults and families. A free-will offering will be gratefully accepted to help defray the costs.

Two-day Youth Trip, Thurs & Fri, May 8th & 9th Cost: \$100. Includes overnight accommodation, Rose Gala Dinner and Youth Summit.



Baby Bottle Campaign – Mother's Day to Father's Day – May 11th to June 15th

This is one of our major fundraising projects. Last year we raised almost \$40,000. Please consider participating in your Church's campaign. Also, if you're not sure if your Church is holding a Baby Bottle Campaign, please consider approaching your pastor, priest, or church leaders, to ask that your Church/Parish participate. We supply the plastic bottles, a volunteer(s) within your Church family agrees to distribute and collect the bottles. Funds raised directly support our mission of promoting life messages in our community.



Respect Life Dinner – Wednesday, November 5th

At Michelangelo Banquet Centre, 1555 Upper Ottawa St., Hamilton Please join us for a time of fellowship, music, raffle prizes and more.

Past Events:

Annual General Meeting (AGM) – Sept 18th

Forty people attended our AGM held at Regina Mundi Parish Hall. It was an opportunity to share our financial position, plus videos on beginning of life and end of life (recent government decision impacting the Delta Hospice in British Columbia). Everyone enjoyed this time of insightful reflection on our past and plans for future endeavours. Pictured: Our Board and Staff.



40 Days for Life – Sept 25th – Nov 3rd

This 40-day prayer event allowed an opportunity to be present in front of McMaster Hospital where abortions are done. Thank you to all who signed up for an hour or more to stand in support through silent prayer for those expectant mothers who were considering an abortion and for those lives lost and saved.



Life Chain – Oct 6th

We joined many communities across Canada in this one-hour prayer vigil, with HRTL hosting five sites in Greater Hamilton. Thank you for making this visible commitment to the unborn.



Respect Life Dinner – Nov 6th

We were thrilled to welcome 230 guests to our annual fundraising dinner at Michelangelo Banquet Centre. Our guest speaker, Blaise Alleyne, gave an insightful presentation on the “end of life” issue of MAiD (medical assistance in dying). “How do we decide who gets prevention and who gets suicide assistance?”

We again were blessed to have Rev. Barry Jones as our Master of Ceremonies; Tyler Seidenberg on piano and Corina Sandejad on violin providing a beautiful musical interlude.

This year we wanted to profile young people throughout our program, as they are our future: Claire Mackness sharing her message of life and request for support; Christopher Mackness & Gabriel Giammaria with their original song “Last Breath”; and a trailer for an upcoming short film “Vito-Man” created by Jack Fabrizio sharing a message of love and life for a Down Syndrome child.

It was an amazing evening of fellowship that raised over \$18,000 for our mission to promote life in our community. Thank you!





And to our Sponsors, a very special Thank you.
You went above and beyond:

Gold: **Stephen J. Dunn Insurance**

Bronze: **Dunn Media / Tower Service Station**
Ante Skoko, St. Joseph Realty Team

“Last Breath” - Original Song created & performed by
Chris Mackness and Gabriel Giammaria

In their own words Chris & Gabriel explain the concept behind
the lyrics:

“After being approached by Hamilton Right to Life to collaborate on a song addressing Euthanasia, we decided to gather a deeper awareness of the issue by listening to Blaise Alleyne’s talks. Inspired by his formula (Despair = Suffering - Meaning) and after prayer and reflection, we knew the song would focus on the despair and hope experienced by those considering assisted suicide. Our hope is to reach a broader group of listeners on an intimate level despite the different circumstances they face. “Last Breath” is a reminder that although others may appear fine on the surface, sometimes a silent cry masks itself at the core of their Soul ... a cry for help that they are too ashamed or afraid to express. The song is an outstretched hand, inviting not only those struggling to receive love, but inviting us to be that hand - that light in darkness for others - as Christ is for us. We look forward to releasing “Last Breath” on all music platforms as soon as we are able.”

Follow Chris and Gabriel on social media:
@c.dot.official | @gabrielgiammaria

“Last Breath”

On the last day of your life
With your last breath, glance inside
Think of who you’d leave behind
And regret ... regret

All the

Time existing in your pain
Time enslaved by all your shame
Time is ticking, can you feel it?
Take a breath, the time can wait

Torn inside, cut by mistakes
Every lie feels like your fate
You’ve decided you’re a burden
No one loves, lift up your face!

If it was someone else
Who was going through hell,
You’d tell them to get through it.

You’re not less, you’re loved
I hear your silent cry,
“Don’t you let me go!
Can you hug me and hold me?
I’m scared, I’m so lonely
I bear this despair, hope is rare
Can you show me?

I’m craving connection
I’m numb, yet so desperate
For change from this death bed
I’ve prayed for a message
What if?”

I’ll take your hand not your life
Give you reasons why you
shouldn’t
give up this fight

I know you’re looking at the past
And you’re wondering how much
more this pain could last.

So I’m standing by your side
Wipe away the tears you cried
And share in all your pain

I’ll be with you through it all
In every heartbreak, every fall
Cuz there’s a love we hope to gain

And I know that it’s hard
But I hope you see
That it was not in vain

When you hear the voice of
the Good Lord call your name.