

CHOOSE LIFE NEWS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Keeping Our Focus



By **Valerie Hettrick**

"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32

Have we become a nation of self-

censoring persons? It is a question that I have been asking myself lately. Throughout history, there have been a number of methods employed by Communist regimes to produce a self-censoring mentality. One method is vague rules: the more vague the rules, the more open to personal interpretation they can be, and thus lead to more uncertainty and anxiety. Another method is the targeted morality, that is, some undefined entity getting to have the final say on what is politically correct and socially acceptable. For example, we have seen a wave of increasing censorship lately, in the media and online.

One completely illogical method which has been effective is declaring someone's guilt by denial or association. This simply means that even when one denies a claim made against them, their very denial makes them guilty. If you associate with, or even agree with just one thing said by a person or group that has been 'condemned,' then you too are guilty by association. For example: You are pro-life so henceforth you must be anti-woman. It's illogical and you can deny it, but you are still guilty. This narrative and these Communist methods leave no room for honest discussion or debate.

So, what must our focus be as a pro-life organization in 2021? Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association must keep its message pure: "To end the killing and exploitation of unborn children and the killing of the elderly and vulnerable through euthanasia."

As many of you know, early in the year, we had planned to continue with our

annual March for Life in Regina. Given the current climate we thought it best to tweak our efforts a bit. Some were happy about our decisions; some were not. However, we went back to the root of who we are as an organization to determine what we were called to do. Below is the press release for the occasion that explains our position:

The Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association is pleased to announce the Annual March for Life will be held on May 8, 2021. Due to the ongoing pandemic, attendees will gather in groups of no more than 10 people. Those groups will be located at several MLA offices around Saskatchewan, with one extra gathering on Leopold Cres. in Regina. This year's March for Life will have a particular focus on raising awareness against gender-based violence and the alarming trend of the sex-selective abortions of pre-born girls. "It is vital that Canadians be made aware of the prevalence of sex-selective abortion in our country," said SPLA President Valerie Hettrick. "Pre-born girls are particularly vulnerable to this deadly discrimination. Multiple Canadian media outlets, including the CBC, have highlighted the gender-based violence against pre-born girls in abortions, yet few Canadians know that it is happening." Polls have repeatedly shown Canadians who learn about sex-selective abortion overwhelmingly disagree with it. 83% of Saskatchewan residents voiced their opposition to the practice in a February 2020 poll (DART & Maru/Blue).

I thank the Lord every day for our team and for all of you! We must remain vigilant and focussed. Our mission is to end abortion and euthanasia. That being said, there are other things that we can do individually in this current climate. I pray that people will take this into consideration. Only God knows how all of this will turn out in the end. God bless everyone's summer! ♥



Calendar of events

NCLN Summer Events for Students: networking, discussions, guest speakers, training, activism. Contact Josephine Craig Penner for info! Phone 1-877-618-4275 (ext. 4) or email josephine.penner@ncln.ca

SEPT 22—OCT 31: 40 Hours for Life Saskatoon, hosted by Campaign Life Coalition SK. Queen Street in front of City Hospital. Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 12 Noon. Signs are provided.

SEPTEMBER 25: Battlefords RTL Annual Walk for Life. Registration 9:00 AM, St. Joseph parish hall, 1942 98th Street, North Battleford. Walk begins 9:45 AM. Transportation provided from monument at cemetery back to church hall for lunch. Call (306) 937-7683.

OCTOBER 3: National Life Chain. Held in more than 200 locations across Canada each year from 2:00-3:00 PM. Visit campaignlifecoalition.com/life-chain or contact your local pro-life group.

OCTOBER 22—24: Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. Suffering after an abortion? Attend a Rachel's Vineyard retreat and find healing. For information or to register, call Elaine (306) 480-8911 or email r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net

NOVEMBER 5: Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Gala. We hope to host an in-person event this year: details coming soon! (306) 665-7550; email: contact@saskatoonpregnancyoptions.com

NOTE: All in-person events remain subject to COVID restrictions.

Freedom & Truth



By Mariette Ulrich

Gotta be honest, the restrictions are wearing thin, especially since they are selectively and hypocritically enforced. Anti-

lockdown protests: bad! BLM protests: where do I kneel? Haircuts—dangerous; liquor-vending—safe. Thirty-one people in church: deadly; 300 shoppers rubbing elbows in Walmart: fine! I still need to know how it's OK to pack airplanes FULL of random strangers, but I can't host a family dinner for six. Why can heart or cancer surgery be indefinitely delayed, but abortion and assisted suicide remain essential "healthcare"?

It's hard to "follow science" when it goes in multiple directions at once. If the vaccine works, then why are fully-vaccinated residents in seniors' homes still forbidden contact with loved ones? The dissonance doesn't stop with COVID. Climate demonstrators can block streets and stop ambulances, but somehow, silent prayer outside an abortion facility is "harassment." An NDP MLA has introduced legislation in our province to prevent peaceful pro-life witness. MAiD enshrines a "right" to be killed, yet medical professionals have no right to conscience protection. Human life begins at conception, but some newborns aren't legally persons. We're not following science (or logic); we're following slogans.

Science isn't a god; it's a tool, and following it very much depends upon who wields it (i.e., who interprets it for public consumption). Science should serve Truth, not a political agenda. But if you look around contemporary western society, you'll see a 'narrative' that consistently skews in one direction: leftist-authoritarian. (Many reasonable leftists are not authoritarian: I read them regularly and agree with them frequently. I have sometimes been

labelled, but do not identify as, 'right wing.' It's odd how some of the same people who think gender is a spectrum actually believe politics is binary, and that if you are millimeters to the right of Vladimir Lenin, you are "literally" Hitler.)

For decades, leftist-authoritarian cultural and political elites have sought to control public discourse, and they have succeeded to a diabolical degree. I refer to the mainstream media (MSM); far too many politicians; academia/education (university down to kindergarten); Hollywood celebrities; many judges and lawyers; major corporations, and "Big Tech"—platforms like Facebook and Twitter; companies like Apple, Google, and Amazon.

This narrative is a fusion of postmodernism and neo-Marxism. The latter declares that everything is about raw power, with society strictly divided into oppressors and oppressed (their definition of who fits those respective categories can be downright ludicrous). The individual, and therefore human dignity, matters not: it's all about identity groups. This denigration of the individual is a handy form of dehumanization, since it doesn't matter how many people get cancelled, crushed, or even killed in the process of striving for power and ushering in Utopia. (See the history of every Communist dictatorship, ever.)

Postmodernism declares that nothing can be known: there is no reason, no reality, and **no universal truth**. Rather, people (that is, the *people who matter*) come to a consensus about what they collectively consider to be true. Feelings matter more than evidence. The emperor can be naked, but if the consensus declares that he is wearing beautiful clothing, then nothing remains but for everyone to fall into lockstep and admire him. As the sign in the mega-mall goes, YOU ARE HERE.

One example: activist judges declare that a human child fully emerged from

the womb, but whose umbilical cord has not yet been cut, is not a person (*R v. Sullivan*, 1991). **Under Canadian law, not all children are persons.** I needn't go on. Name your topic: abortion, climate change, sexuality, election integrity, Critical Race Theory, gender, immigration, free speech, or the verifiable fact that the SARS CoV-2 coronavirus originated in Wuhan, China... There is but one Approved Narrative, and anything that dares to expose or question any part of it is immediately deemed "hate," "denial," "misinformation," "racism," "-phobic," "incitement" or some other scary but entirely spurious label.

The MSM and Big Tech platforms already ignore news stories, or block and ban information that they deem "problematic." The Liberals want in on the action: Bill C-10 threatens insane levels of government censorship online. If it passes without serious amendment, it can wipe out the online presence of pro-lifers, people of faith, and social conservatives. It gives the feds power to block websites and to punish Canadians for their social media posts. In response to massive public outcry, the Liberals have said that they'll "never" use that power—and if you believe them, I know a Nigerian prince who will share his dying aunt's \$500 million inheritance with you, in exchange for your banking information. With politicians like this, who needs a pandemic?

It almost makes me long for the good old days of moral and intellectual relativism, when everyone got to choose his or her "own truth." Now there is just the Approved Truth, and you'd better profess it, or you can expect to fall prey to cancel culture—or worse. Freedom and Truth: you can't have one without the other, and free speech is the hill to die on. ♥



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor's Note: this was sent by a reader who is a new immigrant to Canada. Her country of origin permits same-day euthanasia, and also enforced very harsh COVID lockdowns on its citizens in 2020. Her comments can easily apply to the current situation in Canada.

All I want for Christmas is...

Last Christmas Eve (of all days) we heard that a man we knew back home had committed assisted suicide. Like my dad, he had prostate cancer, but unlike my dad, he had refused treatment and clinical trials (he'd said that hormone therapies were an affront to his manhood). My dad used both kinds of treatments, and despite the suffering he's endured, he has been in reasonable health for the last 15 years.

When I asked the man's niece (my friend) for information, it turns out that he woke up on Saturday, December 19, and decided that was the day! He called his local relatives who all rushed to attend (including his 15-year-old twin grandchildren!) and they held him in place for the 20 minutes he needed to remain sitting upright after consuming "the drink." And this, we are told, is dying with dignity?

When I probed more to ask why his pain wasn't better managed by his palliative care team, I was told that he was afraid of the side effects of the medication, and also afraid that soon he would not be able to walk. So, you can elect to die not because of what "is," but because of abstract fears of what "could be." Sorry, you can't be simultaneously both

"courageous in your battle" (as the death notice read) and afraid of potentially having to suffer. He was in relatively good health & walking normally at the time of his death.

He had two children who had made plans to fly in from interstate on December 24, after almost a year of lockdown, to spend Christmas with him. Instead, they came for his funeral, not the visit with their dad that they had planned for.

I do think the lockdown in his city, for so many months, must have contributed to his depression and ultimate decision. I'm so angry that the adults in that room thought it was appropriate to include two 15-year-old children in their grandfather's ghastly act. And I'm furious that at a time when we're forced to give up our rights and freedoms to protect "public health" at all costs, governments are complicit in, and enshrining, the 'rights' of others to dispose of themselves. Life is cheap today!

It's so awful, and since then, I've found it really hard to engage with my friend over social media: her defence—and defensiveness—over his decision has

put a dent in our friendship. I can't suffer this being normalized.

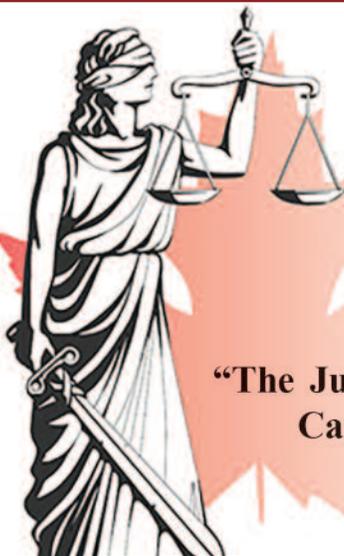
Name and address withheld

Donations In Memoriam

Donations were made in memory of the following persons:

- Bernard Cey
- Jake Fichter
- Tim Hudec
- Brian McLane
- Helen Schwitzer
- Rev. Roselis "Rose" Ward

If you would like to make a donation in memory of someone, contact the office or visit saskprolife.com/memoriam. ♥



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LETTERS

To Regina Hospitals CEO Dino Sophocleous

Dear Mr. Sophocleous and Board:

I have enclosed our donation to your campaign to raise funds for the Hospitals of Regina; the “doubling” feature is very appealing to us. The stories in the “Inspire” newsletter are very interesting and encouraging—and we surely need good news now! God bless all the folks doing great work at Regina’s hospitals!

The update story about the Winkler twins is a truly amazing and happy one. However, it reminded us of the tragic and troubling fact that perfectly healthy babies are aborted at the RGH, the

hospital whose NICU and pediatrics staff helped the Winkler girls first to survive and now thrive.

We firmly believe that *abortion is intrinsically morally wrong, and that the right to life is the basic human right*—our other rights obviously depend upon it and follow from it. Even if one only considers the abortion of a pre-born child from a ‘practical’ financial viewpoint (which is also morally wrong), how can your Foundation justify abortion while soliciting donations, especially for the NICU? To us, that’s intellectually dishonest and schizophrenic—and hypocritical to the

extreme.

The present situation in Saskatchewan, in which our tax dollars and donations to hospitals are used to fund abortion of pre-born citizens, is morally repugnant and unacceptable to us. *We beg you to do all you can to end abortions in Saskatchewan and to continue the support of children and their families in living.*

Respectfully yours,
Elaine & Jim Scheller
Spring Valley, SK

To RAWLCO Radio President, Pam Layland

Dear Ms. Layland,

Attached is a copy of our letter to Dino Sophocleous, President and CEO of the Hospitals of Regina Foundation, which accompanied our donation to the Foundation’s fundraising campaign.

Because RAWLCO is a major donor (the NICU at the Regina General is the RAWLCO Centre for Mother Baby Care, which seems to indicate their mandate to care for *both* mothers and babies), we want to express our view(s) on abortion and the right to life (which we outlined in the last two paragraphs of the enclosed letter). We think those two paragraphs are self-explanatory, and we

reiterate—to you at RAWLCO—*our plea that you do all you can to end abortions in Saskatchewan and continue to support children and their families in living.* (The initial cost to taxpayers in funding abortions is just the tragic and ugly start to a ‘mountain’ of hurt and damage to individuals and families and Saskatchewan society as a whole, beginning with the death of an unborn, innocent Saskatchewan baby.)

The moral foundation of Saskatchewan (and Canada) has been and is being seriously eroded; that is heartbreaking to us, two senior lifelong citizens. We believe that RAWLCO’s high status in Saskatchewan’s broadcasting industry

obligates you to set aside personal biases and use its very large and influential ‘pulpit’ to promote and enable frank and honest discussion and expression of diverse views on the serious social issues facing Saskatchewan’s people. PLEASE STOP pushing an ever more restrictive, leftist, political correctness on us, while suppressing and repressing the ‘small-c’ conservative Judeo-Christian principles on which our beloved province was founded and built!

Respectfully yours,
Elaine & Jim Scheller
Spring Valley, SK

Have Your Say!

Share your news and views with Sask Pro-Life:

- Report or photos of your pro-life group’s recent event
- Letter to the Editor
- Promotion for an upcoming pro-life project or activity
- Feature Article or Op-Ed

Contact the Sask Pro-Life office, or email our Editor: editor@saskprolife.com

The next issue of *Choose Life News* is scheduled for September, 2021.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE for the Fall issue: July 31, 2021



Eduard Habsburg on Hungary's Successes

By Jonathon Van Maren

There's something a bit weird about seeing a Habsburg pop up on Twitter. If 54-year-old Eduard Habsburg's surname seems familiar, that's because his family ruled Austria for more than six centuries. The Habsburg dynasty began in 1273 when Rudolf I was elected King of Germany, boasted emperors of the Holy Roman Empire, and only ended in 1918 when the cataclysm of the Great War forced Charles I from his throne and into exile in Switzerland. Eduard himself is the great-grandson of Franz Joseph I, Emperor of Austria, and King of Hungary, Croatia, and Bohemia.



Eduard Habsburg-Lothringen, Ambassador of Hungary to the Vatican (Credit: Getty Images)

Eduard Habsburg has served as Hungary's ambassador to the Holy See and Sovereign Military Order of Malta since 2015. "I am unusual as an ambassador in that I have done many other things—TV work, animation producer, screenwriter, bishop's spokesman—before, much to my surprise, being nominated as ambassador by the Hungarian government," Habsburg told me.

In Austria he is still known popularly as Archduke Eduard, and the Habsburgs maintain their royal bloodlines—his wife is Baroness Maria Theresia von Gudenus, with whom he has six children. It is an ancient family with a very current role in 21st-century politics: "I had visions of diplomatic life that can best be summed up as 'standing around

at boring cocktails, holding a glass, and always having to say nice things.' Boy, was I ever wrong." Habsburg, who tweets his thoughts on a wide range of issues daily, is a staunch advocate of the pro-life and pro-family policies of Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. Habsburg is a devout Catholic and Orbán is a Calvinist, but the two agree on much.

As a diplomat, Habsburg represents one of the European Union's most controversial countries. Joe Biden has called Hungary and Poland "totalitarian regimes;" historian Anne Applebaum took aim at Orbán and his allies in her 2020 book *Twilight of Democracy*; and mainstream media outlets regularly speak of Hungary in ominous tones. This largely stems from Hungary's social and cultural conservatism, which is offensive to many progressive and liberal journalists and commentators.

"With Hungary you are facing the rare beast of a country where a conservative government has been ruling for three uninterrupted periods—with a two-thirds majority," Habsburg told me. "We all know that a great part of the journalists in the so-called Western world pride themselves on being slightly (or strongly) 'left of the middle.' These two realities must necessarily clash, even if we had a prime minister who would speak and act like a mix between Gandhi and Martin Luther King—which Viktor Orbán doesn't."

Habsburg says that the media interprets Orbán for the wider public. And since "Hungarian is a unique language that very few people speak themselves," most people "have to rely on sources inside or outside Hungary that translate material about Hungary. And many of those sources have, let us say, peculiar or strongly political points of view." The reality is also that "Hungarians don't like to chisel away at a statement for hours until it is politically correct but like to communicate in a clear and direct way without taking into account how things might be perceived in other countries."

"This is usually why Hungary has diplomats," he noted wryly. Despite the controversies, Habsburg has been effective in finding common ground with his hosts in the Vatican. "There is a number of topics where Hungary and the Holy See easily see eye to eye, such as helping persecuted Christians, family topics, fighting anti-Semitism, and special interests like politics in favour of the Roma population. When it comes to hot topics like migrants, I like to point out that the position of the Holy Father is often assumed to be far more radical than when you read his actual statements."

Hungary's most fascinating initiatives are her pro-life and pro-family policies, which have successfully reduced abortion and divorce while boosting birth and marriage rates. "I think there's three keys to this success," Habsburg told me. "You need measures that really encourage people to have more children—and that means you need to take money and spend it on families. As a father of six I know that every little help with living space, tax exemptions, government grants, help with the family car, etc., makes a huge difference. With this security in view, more people will simply get married."

It takes giving people concrete help: "From the third child onwards, you pay practically no more income tax; a woman with four children never pays any taxes again," Habsburg told me. "There is a loan of 33,000 euro for young married couples (a significant amount in Hungary) that you do not have to pay back from the third child onwards, and only in diminishing parts after the first and second child is born. A nice detail here is that if you apply for this loan after the 12th week of pregnancy all repayments are suspended until after your third child."

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To accomplish this, you need buy-in. "That money, of course, has to be taken from somewhere else, so you need people convinced of and committed to this cause and ready to pursue such an agenda in the face of ridicule or outright criticism from other E.U. countries," Habsburg noted. "In fact, our family minister Katalin Novák is travelling to conferences all over the world to convince other countries to join in with our family project and to share her experiences."

Hungary also ensures that the costs associated with growing families are manageable. "The government offers loans for housebuilding, write-offs for mortgage credits, financial support for larger family vans (more than 7 seats). Grandparents can receive financial support for childcare. For Hungary, it is important to offer free choice to parents; that is, not to promote only a 'stay-at-home-mom' image but to help families freely decide and help both mothers who want to stay at home or

go to work. All of these measures have probably contributed to a climate in which marriage numbers have gone up while divorces and abortions have gone steeply down."

One of Habsburg's observations seems like a veiled dig at Europe's predominantly childless leaders. While Orbán has five children, many major leaders—Angela Merkel, Emmanuel Macron, Jean-Claude Juncker, Mark Rutte, Nicola Sturgeon, among others—have none. When the Hungarian government promotes family policy, it is obvious that Orbán's understanding of what large families need is not just theoretical. "You need people in the public space like prime ministers, members of government, people in sports and other prominent members of society that regularly show themselves to be family people with more than 1.5 children. Seeing that you're not alone with a numerous family will give more people the courage to try that difficult but beautiful path."

Championed by freedom fighters like



Viktor Orbán, who battled communism, and diplomats with ancient titles such as Eduard Habsburg, the Hungarian experiment is a fascinating attempt at renewing the ways of life that once sustained generations—fathers and mothers raising large families. The Hungarian government's mission to create a family-oriented economy is nearly unique in the West, and it is one that we should be watching very closely.

This article first appeared on The American Conservative online. Reprinted with permission. ♥

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CPC Convention Summary: Saskatchewan Shines

By Jodi Rosluk

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. 1 Cor. 1:10 (NIV)

It would be prudent for the pro-life movement in Canada to consider these wise words of the Apostle Paul to the church of God in Corinth. Unity of mind and thought will inherently produce unity in action. Unity in action will result in a higher probability that goals will be achieved. Sask Pro-Life's goals are expressed in our vision statement:

One day in Saskatchewan and our country, everyone will recognize that personhood and the right to life belong to all human life, including the preborn child...[and] that the killing of innocent human life through abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, or any other means, will be unthinkable. [Abbreviated]

This goal is shared by most Canadians who consider themselves pro-life; what isn't agreed upon are the methods used to achieve it. That's why the pro-life movement has so many different approaches—and none seems more divisive than the political approach. The differences that exist among abolitionists, political incrementalists, and those who favour non-political approaches, account for why there have been no pro-life legislative gains in Canada since the abortion law was struck down in 1988 by the Supreme Court.

This disunity was very evident in 1988 when the Mulroney Conservative government attempted to legislate a new abortion law but the bill died on the Senate floor with a tied vote. Incredibly, both abortion advocates as well as abortion abolitionists celebrated the defeat of this bill! But who actually won? It's obvious who did *not* win: the estimated three million children who have been aborted in Canada since that

damning day, because we still have no laws to regulate abortion.

A critical focus of Sask Pro-Life is sharing information with members and mobilizing them for political action, but we also acknowledge a holistic approach to achieving pro-life goals—thus we support and/or work with religious groups and other pro-life organizations. **We recognize that networking and unity are imperative, and that all the tools in the pro-life toolbox must be used to oppose the culture of death.** What Saskatchewan pro-lifers are accomplishing together is admirable and sets an example for the rest of Canada to follow.

This brings us to the recent Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) 2021 Convention that was held virtually on March 18-20, and why 'unity' is the focus for this article.

Convention 2021: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Sask Pro-Life collaborated with a pro-life 'think tank' consisting of several other organizations and individuals from across Canada. We determined goals and formulated strategy to organize for the convention. We sought unity of mind, thought, and action while mobilizing people in our respective databases and circles of influence. This alliance had no official name but was known as the "RightNow group" because it was facilitated by Scott Hayward of RightNow. It included the following organizations willing to go public: 4 My Canada, Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform, Canada Family Action, Canadian Physicians for Life, and The Wilberforce Project. An invitation to collaborate was extended to Campaign Life Coalition (CLC) but it was declined.

Months before the Convention, pro-lifers and social conservatives across Canada had been invited to become politically engaged: to help pass policies and constitution resolutions, and to elect the next National Council (the governing body of the CPC). The response was record-breaking. Many put their party memberships (purchased for the CPC 2020 Leadership Race) to good use and registered to be either voting delegates or to participate in the process to elect pro-life delegates.

RightNow reported that of the roughly 4,000 delegates participating in the convention, 25% had registered with them. Campaign Life Coalition reported similar numbers, resulting in at least 50% of the voting delegates being identified as pro-life! **Unfortunately, with two major pro-life coalitions working independently of each other, the result was fewer pro-life delegates being elected than potentially could have been, because they were competing instead of working together.**

Our movement's success in recruiting delegates resulted in the disruption of the plans of some MPs across the country to get their desired delegates to Convention by acclamation. This disruption revealed that the social conservative membership of the party was successfully amassing support for Convention participation. Some of these MPs held pro-life MP Derek Sloan personally accountable for their loss of control and accused him of "interfering" because he was actively encouraging his supporters across Canada to become Convention delegates.

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While we were crestfallen that we had come up short for getting the pro-life policies to the convention floor, it highlighted a weak spot that is easy for the pro-life movement to shore up, and that is taking our rightful place on the EDA boards of directors.



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On January 18, a news story broke about Derek Sloan. Space does not permit a full account of the complexities of his removal from caucus and eventually the Conservative party. This happened right before the Delegate Selection Meetings (DSMs), causing many delegate registrants and voters to drop out in protest.

Scott Hayward acted quickly; on January 19 he sent a communication to RightNow's contacts encouraging them to persevere:

It appears...that certain forces within the party establishment are so concerned over the upcoming convention, that they are willing to eject Derek Sloan over the most spurious of charges, in the hopes of angering his supporters into throwing up their hands and leaving the convention and (hopefully for them) the party.... Do not lose heart and do not disengage. Those who do not share our values want us to leave the political sphere, and the expulsion of Derek Sloan is designed for you to do just that; don't take the bait!

On January 20, Derek Sloan announced live on Facebook: "It is official. I have been kicked out of the Conservative Party of Canada." Now an independent MP, he chose the moral high ground over bitterness: "If you signed up as a delegate, do not quit." He continued to encourage his supporters: "If you leave, they win," and "If you are a member, if you are attending Convention, do not quit! This is our party..."

Unfortunately, the Sloan 'scandal' resulted in the disunity it had been designed to cause: despite Sloan's attempts to encourage his supporters to stay engaged, some opted out. Unsurprisingly, people from fringe parties perched like vultures on Sloan's social media, luring the disenfranchised away. The virtual DSMs were held and, despite the disunity and discouragement, our movement had

” Working together, we in Saskatchewan set an example of unity to inspire other pro-life Canadians.”

CHOOSE LIFE NEWS

impressively secured at least 50% of the voting delegates.

Next, the focus was on getting our policies to Convention so pro-life delegates could vote for them. Once policies were developed, they needed to be sponsored by Electoral District Associations (EDAs) in order to advance to the next stage. At this point, the number was culled: a mere 30 policies would go to Convention. An entire article could be dedicated to this process—it was where the majority of time and effort was spent. See RightNow's account of what transpired regarding policy work: itstartsrighnow.ca/who_are_these_people.

The RightNow group's policy strategy included:

- putting forward a motion (coined "Delete 70") to remove the only pro-abortion policy in the CPC's policy declaration
- proposing a new policy to legally restrict sex-selective and late-term abortions—two issues upon which, respectively, 84% and 70% of Canadians agree with pro-lifers.

These issues would significantly differentiate Conservatives from the Liberals. If passed, the policy would strengthen MP Cathay Wagantall's private member's bill "Sex-Selective Abortion Act" (C-233) and would presumably help garner more caucus support. Unfortunately, neither of these resolutions found their way to Convention where pro-lifers had the numbers to pass them.

At this stage, the RightNow group identified our movement's deficits and made note of improvements needed before the next policy convention scheduled for August 3-5, 2023, in Quebec City. RightNow's assessment included: *To make matters more difficult, some pro-life organizations actively dissuaded pro-life EDAs and members of the party from getting the sex-selective/late-term abortion policy through to the convention because it was an incremental policy. This is truly where the pro-life movement is its own worst enemy. Not only do [we] have to take on*



Scott Hayward, Co-founder of RightNow.

pro-abortion supporters, but in these cases, pro-life ones as well. It's unfortunate some cannot learn from mistakes made decades ago and are so willing to repeat them.

RightNow continued: *We were heading into the Conservative Party convention with likely the highest number of pro-life delegates ever, with essentially no substantive pro-life policies. While we were crestfallen that we had come up short for getting the pro-life policies to the convention floor, it highlighted a weak spot that is easy for the pro-life movement to shore up, and that is taking our rightful place on the EDA boards of directors.*

We refocused on what we *could* accomplish at Convention, which was passing policies that impacted pro-life issues:

- National adoption strategy and tax credit
- Free speech on campuses
- Income tax splitting for families
- Retaining the party's strong stance against assisted suicide
- Increasing the charitable tax credit

In all instances these policies passed with large majorities.

We also wanted to defeat some CPC constitutional amendments, like the one proposing to extend the amount of time a person is required to be a party member in order to be eligible to vote in nominations and elections. The votes didn't go all our way but we were successful on those that were the most important.

continued on page 10



continued from page 9

The final order of business was electing National Council candidates. RightNow-backed candidates were contesting ten seats, in addition to two seats in which our candidates were acclaimed. Of the ten contested seats, we were able to win eight, for a total of ten RightNow-supported National Councillors. With 18 National Councillors (two seats are vacant), we had the majority on National Council for the first time since the creation of the CPC in 2003.

Saskatchewan's Successes

Sask Pro-Life encouraged our members who had CPC memberships to register with RightNow and this **resulted in 69% of Saskatchewan's elected delegates being identified as pro-life compared to the 33% average that RightNow identified in several other provinces!** Working together, we in Saskatchewan set an example of unity to inspire other pro-life Canadians.

Other things we accomplished by working together:

- The only pro-life policy that went to Convention was because at least 9/14 SK EDAs voted to make it our region's #1 policy.
- Sask National Council candidate Colette Stang received seven MP endorsements: Kelly Block, Rosemarie Falk, Michael Kram, Jeremy Patzer, Warren Steinley, Corey Tochor, and Cathay Wagantall.
- Our delegates elected Colette Stang, securing a strong conservative pro-family voice for SK within the party's governing executive.
- A special mention goes to Yorkton—Melville EDA who co-sponsored and stepped up to “foster” the new sex-selective & late term abortion policy when the sponsoring EDA in Ontario abandoned it late in the process.

Sask Pro-Life wishes to thank our members and pro-life MPs for stepping up to make life issues a political priority in our province and across our nation. **With everyone working together, doing what we feel called and equipped to do, Saskatchewan is a light to our nation. May God bless us for our faithfulness as we strive to be united in Him! ♥**

Preparedness Alert

Do you have an interest in growing the political pro-life movement in Canada, and more specifically within the CPC? Always have an active party membership! Visit conservative.ca or call 1-866-808-8407 to sign up or renew.

Sign up with our partner RightNow and don't miss important news, calls to action, and training opportunities. Visit itstartsrighnow.ca or call 1-587-435-0166.

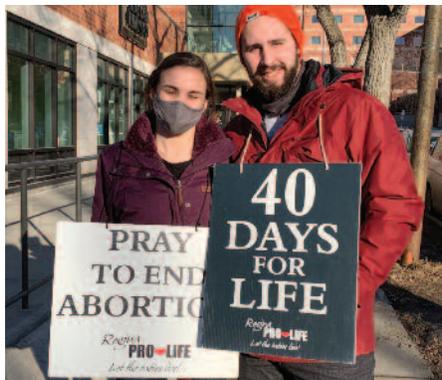
Upcoming features to watch for in the Fall edition of Choose Life News:

- Launching of RightNow's EDA program; learn how to take your rightful and democratic place on Conservative EDAs in Sask!
- Anticipated Federal Election in September so prepare to volunteer to help elect your pro-life candidate in Saskatchewan
- Be prepared for a potential CPC Leadership Race following the next Federal Election by having an active party membership.

REGINA PRO-LIFE ASSOCIATION BEST EVER 40 Hours for Life!

From February 17—March 28, an average of 12 participants per day (over 60 total—a record) came to witness near the Regina General Hospital, and prayed for an end to abortion. Some days, we were blessed to have as many as three priests join us.

40 Days for Life International reports that the 2021 prayer campaign resulted in 755 babies saved, with numbers still coming in. We know that hearts were touched by our Regina presence: God bless everyone who participated. See you next year! ♥



Canada Permits Euthanasia for Mental Illness



By Alex Schadenberg

On March 11, the Liberals, supported by the Bloc Quebecois (BQ), forced closure of debate, and then passed Bill C-7, Canada's euthanasia expansion bill. The bill includes a Senate amendment approving euthanasia for mental illness alone. On March 17, Canada's Senate passed Bill C-7.

Bill C-7 was introduced in February 2020 as the government's response to the Quebec Superior Court's *Truchon* decision, which struck down the section requiring that a person's *natural death be reasonably foreseeable* before they could be killed by euthanasia. The federal government did not appeal the *Truchon* decision. Bill C-7 goes much further than *Truchon* required.

You may remember that parliament passed Bill C-7 in December 2020. It went to the Senate for further study and a vote. The Senate amended Bill C-7 to allow euthanasia for people with mental illness and for incompetent people who asked for death by lethal injection in their advanced directive.

The amendments came back to parliament: Justice Minister David Lametti rejected the amendment approving euthanasia for incompetent people who asked for it in their advanced directive, but he approved euthanasia for mental illness with the caveat that euthanasia for mental illness be stayed for 24 months to give the government time to develop protocols.

What did Bill C-7 do before it was amended?

1. Bill C-7 removed the legal requirement that a person's natural death be reasonably foreseeable in order to qualify for assisted death. Therefore, people who are not

terminally ill could die by euthanasia. The *Truchon* decision only required this amendment, but Bill C-7 goes further.

2. Bill C-7 permits a doctor or nurse practitioner to lethally inject a person who is incapable of consenting, if that person was previously approved for assisted death. This contravenes the Supreme Court of Canada's *Carter* decision stating that only competent people could die by euthanasia.

3. Bill C-7 waives the 10-day waiting period if a person's natural death is deemed to be reasonably foreseeable. Thus, a person could request death by euthanasia on a "bad day" and die the same day. Studies prove that the "will to live" fluctuates.

4. Bill C-7 creates a two-track law. A person whose natural death is reasonably foreseeable has no waiting period, while a person whose natural death is not deemed reasonably foreseeable would have a 90-day waiting period before dying by lethal injection.

5. Bill C-7 (originally) falsely claimed to prevent euthanasia for people with mental illness. The euthanasia law permits MAiD for people who are physically or psychologically suffering in a way that is intolerable to the person and cannot be relieved in a way that the person considers acceptable. Mental illness, which is not defined in the law, is considered a form of psychological suffering. Now parliament has specifically approved euthanasia for mental illness.

Bill C-7 went much further than the Quebec Superior Court *Truchon* decision and now that parliament has approved euthanasia for mental illness alone, Bill C-7 is much worse.

But there is good news. Incredible numbers of Canadians woke up to the reality of what euthanasia for mental illness alone would mean for Canada. More than 53,000 people signed our

petition opposing Bill C-7 and more than 18,000 people signed our petition opposing euthanasia for mental illness.

Almost universally, people with disabilities recognized that Bill C-7 directly affects them. Many medical professionals responded to Bill C-7, especially since the law is out of control without even providing them with effective conscience protections. *The battle is not over.* Many people have contacted me feeling tired and down. They cannot believe that Canada's government would permit euthanasia for people with mental illness alone. I also feel tired, but never down.

The fact is that the Liberal government, the BQ, and the euthanasia lobby have clearly told Canadians where they stand. They are not concerned about the lives of people with disabilities or those who live with chronic conditions. They are not concerned about people who struggle with mental illness or other psychological conditions. They are not concerned about people who are at a vulnerable time of their life. They are not concerned about honesty and transparency.

More and more, our message is accepting the challenge of caring for our family, friends and neighbours. **Protecting the equality and life of people with disabilities and other chronic conditions is about recognizing that we live in solidarity with others.** Caring for and protecting others is based upon recognizing that each human being has equality which cannot only be recognized by words but by actions.

Death is truly dignified when it is shared with those who care about that person until their natural death.

This article originally appeared on [alexschadenberg.blogspot.com](https://www.alexschadenberg.blogspot.com). Reprinted with permission from the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition; edited for length. ♥

Debate in Parliament on Sex-Selective Abortion



Ottawa, ON—Cathay Wagantall, Member of Parliament for Yorkton—Melville, began debate on her private member's bill, the Sex-Selective Abortion Act (C-233), on April 14th.

"Over one year ago, I introduced this bill to defend baby girls in the womb who are terminated simply because they are girls," said Wagantall. "Eighty-four percent of Canadians believe sex-selective abortion has no place in our country. This vast majority of both pro-choice and pro-life Canadians believe it should be illegal to end a pregnancy due solely to the sex of the child."

Wednesday [April 14] marked the first of two hours of Second Reading debate on the bill that would prohibit a medical practitioner from knowingly performing an abortion if the sole reason for the

abortion is the sex of the child. Throughout her speech, Wagantall spoke to how gender discrimination is at the heart of sex-selective abortion. Inequality between the sexes remained the focus of her comments on Wednesday evening.

"While some oppose and some promote [abortion], we can all stand together, side by side, against sex-selective abortion, as we all have a moral obligation to stand against gender inequality," she stated. **"No issue important to Canadians should be vetoed from debate."**

"It is unfortunate that Liberal, New Democratic, and Bloc Québécois MPs used yesterday's debate to represent the tiny minority of Canadians — just 16% — who believe sex-selection abortion should continue to be legal," continued Wagantall. "They do not represent the views of traditionally pro-

choice Canadians, who are also in favour of this bill."

Karen Vecchio, Member of Parliament for Elgin—Middlesex—London (ON) and a Conservative colleague of Wagantall's, also contributed to the debate. As a pro-choice woman, she spoke to the need for a rational debate on the practice of sex-selection and Canada's lack of any law to address it. "I support women having a choice and when I speak on this issue, I recognize that there are many Canadians unaware of what our laws in Canada are," stated Vecchio.

"Many members have decided to stop listening before the conversation even begins. Does this issue deserve to be studied? Is there an issue that is actually occurring here in Canada that needs to be addressed? We cannot know if we are not willing to even start the conversation."

Source: cathaywagantall.ca

Editor's Note: As of press time, the second and final hour of debate on Bill C-233 is scheduled for May 28; the vote is scheduled for June 2.

Right Now
April 19 at 11:05 AM · 🌐

Facebook post by RightNow ...

Bloc Québécois MP [Andréanne Larouche](#) actually admitted during last week's debate on Bill C-233 that if women are educated by an ultrasound, it will prove that the baby is a human being and put access to abortion at risk. She'd rather vote against a bill protecting girls from being killed because of their gender, than bring awareness to the fact that unborn babies are human beings.

AN ULTRASOUND AT 12 WEEKS WILL INDICATE WHETHER IT IS A GIRL. HOWEVER, SUCH A DETERMINATION ALSO MEANS THAT IT IS A HUMAN BEING, WHICH OPENS UP THE DEBATE ON THE RIGHT TO ABORTION. IF WE TRULY WANT TO PROTECT WOMEN'S HEALTH, SAFETY AND RIGHTS, WE MUST VOTE AGAINST BILL C-233.

- ANDRÉANNE LAROUCHE
BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS MP

RIGHT NOW

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SASK PRO-LIFE CONVENTION & AGM

Visions of Hope and a Deeper Humanity

By Kellyn Anderson

Despite being unable to gather in person, the Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association persevered in hosting their annual Convention and Annual General Meeting on April 10, 2021. Over 100 registrants had signed up for the online event; the estimated attendance was 85-90 who took part in the Zoom presentations. This year's convention featured guest speakers MP Kelly Block and scholar Amanda Achtman, and concluded with the AGM in the afternoon.



Kelly Block, MP

Kelly Block, representing the Carlton Trail—Eagle Creek riding, spoke on conscience protection for those who work in healthcare.

Last February, Block had tabled her private members bill, *The Protection of Freedom of Conscience Act (Bill C-268)* in the House of Commons. To quote from her Feb. 18, 2021 press release:

The bill would extend protections for medical professionals who have chosen not to take part, directly or indirectly, in medical assistance in dying or euthanasia. It would make it a punishable offense to use violence, threats, coercion, or intimidation in order to force a medical professional to take part in or refer a patient for medical assistance in dying or assisted suicide. It also prohibits the firing or refusal to hire medical professionals if the sole reason is their refusal to take part in medical assistance in dying.

Block shared with SPLA convention attendees: "Conscience rights are critical to how our healthcare system works. Patients have a right to a second opinion...but they don't get a second opinion if healthcare practitioners are forced to offer the same options (i.e., euthanasia)." After her presentation, Block answered questions submitted by convention participants.



Amanda Achtman

Amanda Achtman, who recently completed her Master's degree in John Paul II Philosophical Studies in Lublin, Poland, gave the second

presentation of the morning, with a focus on the "humanizing of culture." Having studied the Holocaust and other genocides (she has traveled to Rwanda), Achtman crafted the hypothesis that dehumanization is at the core of genocide. She then formulated the important question: "If dehumanization is at the core, then what is it to humanize culture?"

Achtman found that one answer is to share people's stories, as this allows space for "vulnerability, values, and vision" to grow within a community. She quoted Pope John Paul II, who said, "People's values are different, and they come in different configurations. The great achievement is to always see the values that others don't see, and to affirm them. The even greater achievement is to bring out of people the values that would perish without us. In the same way, we bring out our values in ourselves."

Presenting the stories of the vulnerable in a humanizing way does much to reunify our ever-despairing Western culture. "People identify better with you in weakness than in strength—fragility is part of the human condition," said Achtman. "Willingness to contend with the grittiness and messiness of life" is crucial, all the while not losing sight of the dignity to which we are all called. In embracing this fragility and vulnerability within ourselves and sharing it in community, we allow space for others to rediscover a sense of identity that is in line with reality: that "every life has tremendous value," and that we need each other, no matter which side of the often-polarized political spectrum we occupy.



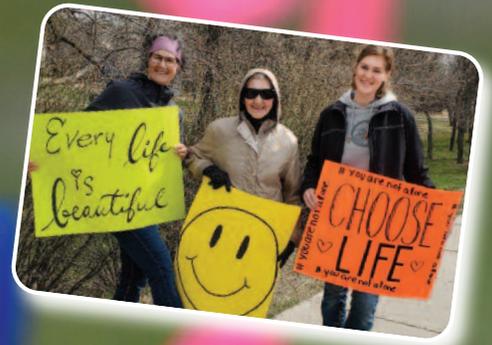
Joseph Fahlman

After a beautiful entertainment segment by talented pianist Joseph Fahlman, the Annual General Meeting was held in the afternoon. Robert and Theresa Fahlman received the Dombowsky award for their dedicated service to respect for life. They accepted with humility on behalf of all who work for the dignity and protection of human life. As Robert said: "Terri and I would be very honoured to accept this special award on behalf of all you families who live, breathe, and vote pro-family and pro-life... (also) on behalf of all those families who have chosen life, accepting the true gift of a special needs child."



Dombowsky Award recipients, Robert & Theresa Fahlman

Overall, this year's convention communicated a message of determination, humanity, and hope for life, in the face of what can sometimes seem like impossible circumstances. A special thank-you to SPLA staff: Francis Nowak, Operations Coordinator, and Alicia Beattie, Office Coordinator, as well as all those volunteers who made this life-honouring event possible. To view the guest speakers' presentations, as well as videos of other life-affirming stories shared by Amanda Achtman, visit Sask Pro-Life's website at saskprolife.com/videos. ♥



2021 SASK WITNESS FOR LIFE You Are Not Alone

Due to public health restrictions, pro-lifers in Saskatchewan were once again prevented from holding the annual March for Life to the Legislature in Regina. However, many felt it was still crucial to hold a witness this year, in order to show support for the voiceless. Abortions have not stopped during the pandemic. Every loss of life is tragic, but

abortions outnumber COVID deaths in our province by 4 to 1.

The May 8, 2021, Witness for Life expanded to include the whole province. Supporters were encouraged to take part in a silent witness from 2:00-3:30 PM at the offices of their local MLAs. Participants were asked to adhere

to public health guidelines. At one Regina location (Leopold Cres), there was a pink and blue flag display to commemorate babies lost to abortion. The theme of this year's witness was "You Are Not Alone," in keeping with the National March for Life (and Life Week) celebrated in Ottawa, May 9-16. **Thanks to everyone who came out and witnessed for life!**



Caring About Teens and Their Future

By Bonita Hus

Teen-Aid Saskatchewan has served the province for 34 years. It has evolved with the times and provides current information and examples to students throughout the province. We reach over 6700 students each year who receive in-person contact during valuable presentations on the very personal subject of chastity.

This pandemic has demonstrated how important face-to-face contact is, a concept Teen-Aid always knew to be effective. As soon as our schools open to outside presenters, we will be back in the classroom picking up where we left off.

In the meantime, we focus on our parent workshops and resource-guide; family is the best place for chastity conversations to take place, and we want to give parents the tools to make these crucial conversations easy!

Teen-Aid Saskatchewan Scholarship Winners

Two amazing young women won our scholarships this year. The character displayed in their speeches demonstrates how effective chastity education is, along with supportive parents, to the character development of young people. You will see from the excerpts from their speeches that they have had success with chastity education.



Teen-Aid presenters in Saskatchewan look forward to getting back into the classroom when social distancing ends. Please pray that they will be back in the classroom in the fall. We are grateful for your prayers and moral support. For more information about Teen-Aid Saskatchewan or to donate, please contact Bonita Hus at: teenaidsk@gmail.com or (306) 230-1594. ♥



First place recipient of \$1000 is Valerie Jackson who is graduating from Bishop James Mahoney High School in Saskatoon.

Why did Valerie choose to participate?

I have had multiple presentations in school given by Teen-Aid who have continued to reinforce my belief in chastity. As a Catholic, the importance of chastity has been instilled within me ever

since I was young. This scholarship has given me the opportunity to express this belief as I feel very strongly on this matter. It also gave me the chance to educate myself more during my research.

Valerie's plans for the future are to attend the University of Saskatchewan, College of Kinesiology and become a physiotherapist.

A few lines from her speech:

Chastity requires asking Jesus for guidance and trusting that he knows what is best for me. I choose to practice this virtue because I recognize the dignity of my sexuality. Chastity protects and guides this love by requiring absolute fidelity to your spouse, therefore creating a relationship founded on trust. Chastity is the foundational element to all deep and loving relationships; it is a call to holiness and respect for oneself.



Second Place recipient of \$500 is Emjay Koller who is graduating from Bishop James Mahoney High School in Saskatoon.

Why did Emjay choose to participate?

Teen-Aid speakers have come to my school ever since elementary school, sharing presentations and offering a Catholic focused view of chastity and growing up. When I found out about this

contest, I believed it would be a great opportunity for me to share my perspective with regards to chastity and delve into how it has impacted my life. In conjunction with my Catholic values, being able to reflect on my morals and perspective of marriage has not only given me the potential to win a scholarship but to learn about myself.

Emjay plans to attend the University of Saskatchewan to pursue a degree in science or medicine.

A few lines from her speech:

Fulfilment does not come from sexual intimacy, but rather, through the meaningful bonds that I create with others. Practicing chastity gives me both the time and self-awareness to apply myself in school and experiment with new interests. Being able to hold firm to your beliefs is a sign that you know how to remain faithful and have a good sense of your own self-worth and dignity.

Daily Pro-Life Prayers



God was to be nurtured and protected. You created the womb of woman that the miracle of human life might be nurtured and protected. Many women have been deceived to believe that their womb is not a place of holy protection for a human life, but that it is simply another appendage of their body. Renew and restore your purpose and will concerning the womb of all women throughout the earth, that you may be glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Friday: *For Governments*

O Ruler of the nations, many of the kings of the earth have set themselves against you; they rebel against your rule. Yet you have set your King on your holy hill of Zion so that in every local, state, provincial and national government you would rule in the midst of your enemies. We pray that you would strengthen and uphold those rulers that, by your grace, are following your ways and purpose. Make your enemies a footstool for your feet, that all people in all nations would kiss the Son, so they may know that happy are those who take refuge in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, forever and ever. Amen

Saturday: *For an End to Abortion and Euthanasia*

O God, who is the Beginning and the End, hear our prayers as we cry out to you to end the merciless shedding of innocent blood in our nation and throughout the world. Through death you have conquered death and through your life we experience eternal and everlasting life. Cause life to spring forth in the hearts of all people and bring forth a love and respect for life that will dominate our culture. May your kingdom and church apprehend and overtake the culture of death that has prevailed through deceit and selfishness; may the Seed of the woman crush the head of the serpent through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen ♥

Sunday: *Rescue the Preborn*

O God of Beginnings, you are the Creator of all life. As we begin this week, be near us as we unite with our preborn brothers and sisters who are scheduled for death. May you by your Holy Spirit and by the voice of your church lead your people to rescue from death the innocent children and bring those who participate in their death to true repentance, that they may taste of your goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Monday: *Spiritual Warfare*

Almighty and powerful God, drive all evil spirits away from the innocent preborn children and from the killing centers where their destruction is planned. Overcome evil with good in the hearts of those who reject your truth and who have believed the lies of the evil one who would say that good is evil and evil is good. Rebuke the enemy for the sake of innocent children and for your sake, O Lord; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Tuesday: *Kingdom Prayer*

O Great King of Kings, let your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven for the sanctity of all human life. You have said that your Kingdom is righteousness, peace and joy in the

Holy Spirit. Where there is unrighteousness let righteousness come to bear; where there is hostility, cause your peace to reign supreme; where there is sorrow, bring joy in the hearts of people. Lead us into your unshakeable and everlasting kingdom in which you reign forever and ever; that truly the kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdoms of our God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Wednesday: *For Forgiveness*

O God of mercy and grace, as you hung on the hard wooden cross, you asked that those who were putting you to death might be forgiven. Please, O Lord, help us to offer that same forgiveness to those who participate in abortion, euthanasia, the destruction of embryonic life and who by other means violate the sanctity of human life; that in all things the world would know the height, depth, breadth, and width of your love, your mercy and your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Thursday: *Restoration of the Holiness and Protection of the Womb*

O Holy God, our Rock and our Fortress, you used the womb of Mary to be a tabernacle for the dwelling of the Incarnation, where the Holy Son of



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