

CHOOSE LIFE

NEWS

VOLUME XLI | ISSUE #3 | FALL 2022

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Change Begins with Us



By Frances Stang

A Happy Fall to all! Summer has passed by quickly, as usual, and the – sometimes– lazy days will soon be eclipsed by renewed activities

and events. Present times are tumultuous and we are all facing individual challenges. Our faith is being tested daily. Maintaining an active prayer life will see us through and guide our actions.

The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* due to the ruling in the *Dobbs v. Jackson* case in the U.S. has returned the lawmaking authority regarding abortion to the individual states. This resulted in many States enacting laws restricting abortion— a very encouraging development. However, the ever-present forces of evil have been especially triggered by this.

It is very difficult to understand the human minds and hearts that so vociferously deny the humanity of the preborn child, and are so eager and willing to visit the absolute violence of abortion upon those who are extremely vulnerable. Every logical and scientific argument solidifies the humanity of the preborn, yet so many are entrenched in the cognitive dissonance necessary to support abortion.

Our Canadian government was quick to react to the ruling by offering to become a mecca for abortion tourism. This emphasizes the great need in our country for action from our pro-life organizations. We need to be proactive not reactive. We need to put unrelenting pressure on MPs, MLAs, Health Ministers, Justice Ministers to stop the murder of the preborn.

We also need to enlist our clergy to become more vocal about life issues. We must demand that our pastors, ministers, and bishops become more

vocal and active regarding all life issues. Their complacency and general silence on this issue is a travesty. Decide to make regular (weekly, monthly) contact through email, letters or phone calls so that our concerns are in the forefront. Let's be the thorn in the side of those who can legislate change and influence others.

Macro social movements begin at the micro level by changing the hearts and minds of individuals. For any level of success, we need to promote a Culture of Life at every opportunity, emphasizing the beauty and dignity of motherhood, the intrinsic and inalienable value of preborn life. Traditional moral values and family dynamics are integral to this.

Grandparents Day this year is celebrated on September 11. Those of us blessed to be grandparents know the joys and challenges and importance of our role. Grandparents today are more active and more involved and provide valuable experiences for their grandchildren. Despite this, the value of grandparents (and the elderly in general) in our world today is being eroded as MAiD gains ground amid ever increasing 'acceptable conditions' to choose ending one's life. Ageing, illness, debilitating health conditions are viewed as burdens best dealt with by hastening one's death rather than as opportunities to provide compassion and care to those in need.

Thank you for all the work you do to promote life in whichever way you are able. As we work and walk together in this mission may we be strengthened in faith and conviction through prayer and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

"Come to us today, and deepen in our minds and hearts the truth about life: its greatness, its dignity, its reflection of the eternal God. Make us appreciate ever more the truth that life is always a good, and that every life is of equal dignity..." (from In the Palm of His Hand). ♥



Calendar of events

MONTHLY Mass for Life, Regina:

7:00 PM, Second Wednesday of every month. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Parish, 2026 Winnipeg St.

SEPT 21- OCT 28: 40 Hours for Life:

Saskatoon, hosted by Campaign Life Coalition SK. Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to NOON. (See Ad on page 5 for details.) Info: (306) 249-2764; email campaignlifesk@gmail.com

SEPT 23: Saskatoon Pregnancy

Options In-person Gala (also option to attend remotely). Prairieland Park, 503 Ruth St. W, Saskatoon. Doors open 5:00 PM; Dinner 6:00 PM. Book a table or individual tickets (306) 665-7550; email: contact@saskatoonpregnancyoptions.com. Online auction begins Sept. 13

SEPT 24: 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

OCT 2: National Life Chain. 2:00-3:00

PM. 200+ locations across Canada: contact your local pro-life group for or visit campaignlifecoalition.com/life-chain

- Saskatoon Life Chain location: Idylwyld Drive and 22nd Street
- Regina Life Chain: See poster, page 4

OCT 14-16: 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

Decline and Fall



By Mariette Ulrich

Last month I read two articles on the same topic. True North (an independent media outlet) posted this title: “French language on decline in Canada: StatsCan,” which reveals basic facts: *Despite the federal and provincial governments pushing English-speaking Canadians to learn French, the trend of proportionately fewer Canadians knowing and primarily speaking French is happening across Canada in all provinces, including Quebec.*

The second piece was on Global (which receives subsidies from the Liberal government), titled “PM Justin Trudeau says decline of French in Canada ‘extremely troubling.’” Chicken-Little style, Global informs us that the Libs must now deploy millions more tax dollars as well as new legislation in order to rectify this cataclysm.

The issue of language preservation inspires intense passion, and rightly so. **DISCLAIMER:** my editorial does NOT pertain to deeply unjust situations such as those suffered historically by Indigenous peoples (and other minority groups) punished for speaking their mother tongues by oppressive government authorities bent on assimilation and annihilation.

No— I am speaking of cultural groups whose customs die out because they can’t be bothered to keep them alive (childless, ‘pro-choice’ Baby Boomer Quebecois, I’m looking at you). In general, I can sympathize with francophone (or any linguistic minority) parents trying to raise bilingual children in an English-dominated society—in much the same way that I sympathize with religious parents raising children in a godless society. I heartily wish them well, but there I stop. The amount of tax dollars that should be spent on saving

French in Canada? *Zéro.*

Ironically, I happen to love the French language and may even resume studying it, as a retirement project. Forty-plus years ago, not so much: my generation was forced by law to learn it in school. Pierre Trudeau was not “pro-choice” when it came to language. In high school, I dropped French like a hot *pomme de terre* as soon as it became optional: then, as now, I had no use for Liberal government mandates.

In 1995, I watched the live TV speech of Quebec premier Jacques Parizeau, whose ‘Yes’ side had just lost the referendum on separation from Canada. He blamed “money and the ethnic vote” for their defeat. Ironic, *n’est-ce pas?* Both entities have kept Quebec alive and solvent for decades: the former, largely courtesy of taxpayers in the rest of Canada; the latter, through steady mass immigration.

As a 2018 *Guardian* article about Quebec nationalism put it: “Parizeau’s frustrated diatribe marked a new beginning: scapegoating immigrants for a variety of Quebec’s ailments, real or perceived.” Which begs the question: how exactly was Parizeau defining the word “ethnic,” since literally every non-Indigenous person living in Quebec is either an immigrant or descended from one? But I digress.

This column really isn’t about language; it’s about life, logic, and the law of consequences. Some might call it karma or kismet; others might say it’s ‘the chickens coming home to roost.’ Back to the *Guardian* article for one moment: “Demographics haven’t been particularly kind to the Parti Québécois brand of scorched earth nationalism. The PQ does admit it has difficulty moving beyond its baby boomer base.”

Quelle surprise! Navel-gazing party wonders why it can only attract ageing navel-gazers. (I’m allowed to criticize that clueless generation, because I belong to it.) Nor have Quebec’s



demographics benefitted from its citizens embracing the culture of death: Boomers ushered in —nay celebrated—the “Quiet Revolution” in the 1960s, turning *en masse* against faith, family, and fecundity. Church attendance was decimated, marriage declined, family size plummeted. Quebec heartily embraced abortion and euthanasia. People stopped having babies and stopped cherishing the weak, the ailing and the elderly— and now they fret over the loss of their language and culture. *Je ne sais quoi* (that’s French for the shrugging emoji).

This evil cancer has spread to the entire nation. The Quiet Revolution isn’t so quiet anymore; it screams its pro-death message from the rooftops— just less often in French.

As more than one cultural pundit has observed, the future belongs to those who show up for it. ♥

LETTER TO EDITOR:

Dear Editor,
I love your Choose Life magazine. Mariette Ulrich’s editorial is always a great read. Many thanks to Frances Stang for accepting the position of President. Keep up the good work, team SK Pro-Life.

Kathleen MacDonald
Riverhurst, SK



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In 2021, there were approximately 1000 lives lost due to induced abortion in Regina at the General Hospital. Join members of the pro-life community to prayerfully witness for the lives ended in abortion in Saskatchewan and around the world.

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Life Chain

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Sunday, October 2, 2022

from 2 – 3 PM

E

Corner of Albert and College

(Please do not park in the Royal SK Museum Parking lot)

Regina, Saskatchewan

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For more information, please contact us at 306-569-1985 or at rpla@sasktel.net.

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Email: info@saskprolife.com**

40 Hours for Life: Saskatoon

Fall campaign begins September 21 (Wednesday) 9:00 AM and runs Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to noon until Friday, October 28.

We are looking for pro-lifers willing to commit to a one-hour time slot, either daily, or on a one-time basis.

Due to bubble zone law, this year's campaign will take place on the corner of 4th Ave and Queen Street. If numbers allow, there will be a second location at the corner of 7th Ave and King Street.

Signs will be available. Everyone is encouraged to come out and witness for life!

Info: call (306) 249-2764 or email campaignlifesk@gmail.com



Jerome Lejeune
FOUNDATION
Research, Care, Advocacy

October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month.



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 February 2023.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE for the Spring issue: January 15, 2023



“Motherhood is Not a Drawback”

Teen mom's journey from a cancelled abortion to raising 8 children.

By Arshdeep Sarao and Louise Bevan, Epoch Times

Over 20 years ago, a pregnant high-schooler, fearing that her dreams and ambitions were at stake, scheduled to abort her unborn son after Planned Parenthood counseling convinced her that she was carrying nothing more than a “clump of cells.” But a family intervention led to a change of heart, and she forged her life path toward purposeful living and inspiring others.

Today, Becky Martin is a happily married mom of eight and a vocal pro-life advocate from her home in the Midwest U.S. Recounting her story to *The Epoch Times*, the doting mom and avid math lover said “Motherhood is not a drawback” and kids are “not detrimental” to success.

“These lies need to stop,” Becky said. “We do not need to kill our future generations in order to succeed. Nor should we view our fertility as a burden. It is beyond sexist to believe that women must destroy the very thing that makes us unique in our womanhood—the ability to carry and birth children—in order to be equal to men.”

However, Becky admitted that transitioning from a deceived teen to a well-grounded pro-life mom was a lengthy process. “It took ten long years ... of shame, denial, and defensiveness. Ten years of stubbornly digging in my heels, parroting the tired, inaccurate, ‘My body, my choice’ rhetoric. I knew, deep down, that it was not my body but my son’s body that would have been killed. Owning my actions gave me a sense of strength and purpose. My heart caught fire, and I became a passionate defender of life. I realized it wasn’t just my child’s life that was saved—it was also mine.”

Reflecting on her plan to abort her son Blake, Becky said that she was “probably



The Martin family (photo courtesy of Becky Martin)

one of the worst types of pro-choicers” because she wasn’t naïve or uneducated. “He was not merely a ‘clump of cells’ or ‘tissue’ as Planned Parenthood described,” she said. “I knew that abortion killed an innocent human being, but I didn’t care. The world had done an excellent job of convincing me that a baby would ruin my life. I’d be doomed to a lifetime of poverty, struggle, and failure. In my mind, my life was more important, and I was going to use my born-privilege to do whatever I wanted. My heart was cold, and my mind was selfish. My plans were more important than my child’s life.”

Becky’s abortion was scheduled for a Monday. But several family members found out and held an intervention. Describing the scene as “extremely awkward and uncomfortable,” Becky complied to cancel her appointment. “Now, of course, I am immensely grateful,” she said. “They didn’t just save Blake’s life, but also mine.” So began a journey that would change not only Becky’s life, but would also inspire and transform yet more hearts.

Looking forward to single parenthood, Becky sought out resources for single mothers, allowing herself to stay in school and finish her studies. But gossip traveled fast. Becky even received hate mail. But she learned quickly to ignore the opinions of others. “I wouldn’t label it as ‘bullying,’ but my community’s reactions were intense,” said Becky. “Many of my peers expressed support for whatever I chose. A few adult reactions were kind, like my priest, while others were harsh. Some desperately wanted my baby.”

She was four months pregnant when she graduated with honours as a valedictorian. She went on to community college to study Math, and in the fall of 1999, her freshman year, Blake was born. “Balancing school and parenting was a challenge, but I was extremely determined and focused on two things: being a good mom and completing my degree,” she recalled. During study breaks, Becky would collect Blake from the on-site daycare for lunch and playtime.

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"This was the exact time in my life when I learned I needed to ignore others' opinions," she said. "The people most affected by this were my son and me, so these were the two people whose opinions mattered. I was very driven to achieve my goals, so my main focus was on being a good mom and finishing school. "Perhaps it was the combination of age, maturity, humility, and self-acceptance with the discovery of a new, compassionate pro-life position that led to my transformation."

Before long, the mom-son duo became a trio when Becky met Obie Martin, now her husband of 16 years. Becky was smitten with Obie's sense of humor and his acceptance of her 2-year-old son. "Becky and I met in physics class," Obie said. "She was beautiful and smart ... and we've been together ever since. I loved Blake, so it was only natural to adopt him after we married," Obie said.

Blake is grateful things turned out the way they did. "Given the circumstances, it wasn't the easy-way-out route to go," Blake said. "I applaud my mother for taking it upon herself to do what she did. I would define it as the best possible outcome I could've hoped for. I'll also never be able to thank my father enough for taking on the responsibility of being the great father to me that he was, and still is, to this day. I don't remember a time in my life where the two of them weren't there."



These lies need to stop. We do not need to kill our future generations in order to succeed. Nor should we view our fertility as a burden. It is beyond sexist to believe that women must destroy the very thing that makes us unique in our womanhood—the ability to carry and birth children—in order to be equal to men.



Becky and Obie share seven children besides Blake, three of whom are adopted: Ava, 14; Parker, 10; Sean, 9; Maggie, 6; Duncan, 4; Leia, 3, and Elijah, 1. Becky taught middle school math for 10 years, but eventually decided to become a full-time stay-at-home mom. Obie said: "We've been blessed with the resources to do it, the temperament to handle it, the support system—including our kids—to make it work, and the love to give."

Becky expressed her love and appreciation of Obie's support, saying, "It's wonderful to be with someone who values children and knows the importance of giving back. It's a big job raising 8 children, and we do a great job of working together to raise our family." Obie describes family life as "controlled chaos ... I rarely have any free time," he admitted, "[but] I'm also never bored! Every triumph, success, and a little bit of joy that prods me out of bed in the morning can be directly attributed to this family of mine."

As a family with firm faith in God, the Martins want to teach their children to "pay it forward" with the gifts of life they have been given to help the world. Becky's passion has become the pro-life movement. "Blake was Blake from the

second he was conceived," she said. "Just like all of us, he was formed in the image of God. It was not my place, nor any other woman's place, to play God and determine who lives and dies. If I can prevent other women from experiencing that, I will. Now, I'm dedicated to living the pro-life message. For us, this means sharing resources with women to help them with parenting, adopting, sponsoring, donating, educating, advocating, and more."

Obie added, "I hope we can create a society where women ... don't feel the need to terminate out of fear. There are so many options now, so many organizations that help moms or create adoption plans." To any women who have felt pressured into abortion in the past, Becky reminds them: "Mistakes don't define a person... No one is beyond redemption. The key is to accept, heal, grow, and learn. Motherhood changed my plans; it didn't ruin them. I still got to my end goal; I just took a slightly different path." ♥

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GRANDPARENTS' DAY: Sunday, September 11

"The history of our grandparents is remembered not with rose petals but in the laughter and tears of their children and their children's children. It is into us that the lives of grandparents have gone. It is in us that their history becomes a future."

– Charles & Ann Morse



Sask Pro-Life Needs Your Help

SPLA is facing a real crisis for which we need prayers and action. Our Executive needs a treasurer and a secretary, as well as district representatives from several areas of the province. We are also in search of two paid office employees: an office co-ordinator and operations co-ordinator. Please call the office or check the website for info about the positions and pray that we will be able to find the right people for this important work. ♥

Don't Be Fooled By "Nice"

By Leila Miller

As a teen in the 1980s, I was at a moral crossroads. I was a typical, poorly catechized Catholic, playing around with serious sin, and my conscience was slightly bothering me. I had a sense of right and wrong (because relativism was not yet all the rage), but I saw God as a permissive parent who was too "loving" to enforce His own boundaries. However, before I waded further into sin, I thought it best to seek out the holiest friend I knew, Marianne, to get some advice.

Marianne was a practicing Catholic who was caring, kind, sober, and chaste. Always cheerful and patient, she openly spoke of her love for Jesus, went to Mass every Sunday, and was one of the few people I knew through my K-12 public-school years who seemed to be very devoted to Catholicism—certainly much more than I was. It seemed reasonable, then, for me to go to Marianne with my question: Should I continue on this path of serious sin or turn around? Of course, I did not phrase it that way, but she and I both knew that our Faith held these actions to be sinful. Marianne leaned over and touched my forearm. "Leila," she said, looking directly into my eyes and smiling warmly, "I just want you to be happy."

I am 55 years old now, but I still remember her face, the classroom, the surroundings, and the peace of that moment. Those words were all I needed to hear from my most moral friend. I didn't look back, and for the next ten years, I continued in ever-deepening mortal sin.

I didn't fully understand that by listening to my friend's soothing words, I was placing myself into the hands of the devil. She was so nice! She loved me! But in truth, I was a living example of St. Ignatius' First Rule of the Discernment of Spirits:

In the persons who go from mortal sin to mortal sin, the enemy is commonly used

to propose to them apparent pleasures, making them imagine sensual delights and pleasures in order to hold them more and make them grow in their vices and sins. In these persons the good spirit uses the opposite method, pricking them and biting their consciences through the process of reason.

I fell into the trap that ensnares many souls today: believing that if a person has a pleasing personality, is affable, attentive, and "accepting" (whatever that means), then the person is good. Somewhere along the line, Catholics began making crucial judgments based on feelings rather than reason. We are lulled by a hearty laugh, a twinkling eye, a hug with a knowing smile. We get sucked in by a sense that someone loves us, even though we are being led down a garden path.

The friendly person who accepts us, the one who reaches out to "accompany" and affirm us—that person may not always have our best interests at heart. And sometimes a person who *does* want the best for us is harming us unknowingly despite his good intentions. We cannot know by outward appearances or our emotions whether or not the other is truly being Christ to us. The only standard we can use to measure another's advice and guidance is whether or not that advice conforms to objective truth and goodness.

However, because we have been conditioned to use our feelings as a gauge for what is true, discernment has become difficult. The one who laughs at our jokes, is affectionate, and is interested in what we have to say appeals to our senses; we are drawn to him, we like how we feel when we are with him, we want him to like us. We even find it harder to resist or say no to such a person, even when we know we should.

Most of us know on some level that a person's agreeable personality traits and a natural likeability do not equate to virtue and trustworthiness, but we tend



to sideline reason when the "nice" makes us feel good. And even when we see the red flags and become uneasy, the high cost of questioning the "nice" (e.g., loss of friends, status, respect) makes us lose the courage to resist.

Even strong Christians can be snowed when personally confronted with a known adversary who is "nice" to them. I argue against LGBTQ activist Fr. James Martin on the regular, calling him a Pied Piper of souls. But would I be moved to soften toward his slick "ministry" if he were to greet me with a warm smile and tell me he admires my work? Bill Clinton fought against God's moral law from the highest position of power, and yet he has a natural affability, is warm and likeable from most accounts, and appears sincere. Would I grab a beer with him and call him friend if he sought me out with kindness and a listening ear?

The most damage has come within the Church, where we give the "nice" priests and prelates a pass for the evil they promulgate because they smile, listen intently, and seem to care. We *should* prefer a gruff and even harsh St. Padre Pio to the glad-handing clergy who lead us astray, but we are fickle, weak, and spiritually soft—and the enemy knows it. We disorder our emotions, letting them rule over our intellect and will, and we barely perceive the seduction. I sure didn't notice the devil's whisper back in high school; or maybe I was just so comfortable that I didn't care.

I cannot blame any other person for my own wicked choices. I am a free moral agent who chose the sins I committed in high school and beyond, and for those I must account. But we forget (or were never taught) that there are nine different ways to be an accessory to another's sin:

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1. By counsel.
2. By command.
3. By consent.
4. By provocation.
5. By praise or flattery.
6. By concealment.
7. By partaking.
8. By silence.
9. By defense of the ill done.

Marianne's "nice" covered the evil of a couple of those. Whatever happened to Marianne after that high school conversation? Well, we kept in touch after graduation and into college, but I eventually lost track of her. However, I do remember our last substantive discussion. It took place one summer when I still thought her the most holy of Catholics. Her congenial nature and pleasing smile were still warm and inviting as she told me a story of a dear Christian friend of hers who had become pregnant unexpectedly.

She spoke proudly of this friend, describing the young woman's choice to abort her child nearly halfway through the pregnancy. "She was so prayerful, Leila. It was so beautiful. She waited patiently, doing nothing in haste, because it was such an important decision. She prayed for months to make extra sure that she would choose the best and loving option. She finally did discern God's will—that terminating the pregnancy was the right thing to do. It was just not the right time for her to have a baby."

While her eyes glowed with admiration, I remember that my blood ran cold. For all my sins of scarlet, I knew that

abortion was the murder of an unborn child. Marianne had just told me that God affirmed the second-trimester killing of a child created in His own image. Her "nice" demeanor in describing a pre-meditated child murder was the same as it had been with me on that fateful high school day.

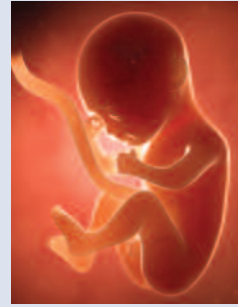
But this time I challenged her. I told her that we were Catholic, that she knew better, and that I thought she was pro-life! She assured me with no sense of irony that she was completely pro-life but that she could not interfere with others' choices and where God led them. My eyes were opened to the evil, and I was horrified. Marianne fell off her pedestal that day, shattering into a thousand pieces. Though there was minimal contact going forward, I did learn that she began living with a man, smoking weed, and embracing leftist causes. We eventually never spoke again.

"Nice" tripped me up in high school and for a decade after. "Nice" took my friend down a dark path of deadly sin and apostasy. "Nice" still threatens every one of us, our children, and even our good priests and bishops. The devil comes as an angel of light, wolves come in sheep's (and shepherds') clothing, and the con man is short for "confidence" man. Not every deceiver has malicious intent, but he deceives, nonetheless. To counter the deceptions of "nice," let us always look for "true." The truth may often hurt—but, unlike "nice," it can never harm. ♥

Originally published in Crisis Magazine (crisismagazine.com) Used with permission.

Smothered Pleas

By Marie Weiler



Ba-boom.

Did you hear that?

Ba-boom.

There it is again. ...
What is that peculiar sound?

Ba-boom.

Whatever it is, with each loud clamour I get both excited chills gliding down my spine and splendid warmth flooding my entire being.

Ba-boom.

I quite like it now. And I can't seem to shake the feeling it has something special to do with me, like it was somehow meant for me. It's my own little sound.

Ba-boom.

Just listen to the wonder contained within that tremulous beat. ... Can you hear it?

I don't know about you, but I don't want it to stop. It's so full of life!

Ba-boom. Ba-boom.

Wait. Do you have a sound too? ... Ah, what magnificence! I only hope you can hear the melodious thump of our beats in rhythm together. Maybe if you tried—really tried—you'd be able to hear how lovely it all sounds!

Ba-bo—

Something's wrong.

What's happening to the beating noise? And why do I suddenly feel so awful, Mama? Why do I feel as though I'm being stifled, robbed of my sound?

Ba—

Mama, help me! Can't you hear me? ...
Can't you hear—

THE END

Call to Action: Stop Censorship!

Pro-lifers need to be very concerned about two bills now before the Senate: Bill C-11 and Bill C-18. Hopefully, many of you have already contacted the Senators about stopping these Bills which have already passed through the House of Commons. If not, please advise them not to consent to these Bills. Controlling and censoring online information platforms and social media

would severely impact the reach of individuals and organizations whose activities do not align with government narrative. Without a doubt, this legislation will target, silence, and punish pro-lifers, social conservatives, and people of faith. Since when does the Government of Canada decide what is TRUTH and what beliefs and opinions are acceptable? ♥



NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE: OTTAWA 25th Annual March a Great Success

By Dr. Jim McLane

On May 25, 2022, my wife Maureen and I attended the 25th annual National March for Life on Parliament Hill. It was a great success with thousands in attendance. The weather was very hot under the pristine blue skies of Ottawa. We witnessed the culture of life in full bloom with the beauty, sanctity and dignity of the human person being proclaimed to the rooftops by many excellent speakers on centre stage.



Left to right: Jim & Maureen McLane, Greg Schiestel, and Mary McLane at the Ottawa March for Life

Sister Gaudia Maria Magdalena from the Sisters of Life in Toronto told the crowd, "I am here for women who find themselves pregnant and tempted to abortion, waiting for someone to offer them another choice; I am here for those chosen to exist by God who will never have the opportunity to walk this earth; I am here in love for all women and men suffering after abortion and pray that they may come to know Jesus' great love for them. For no sin is greater than His mercy."

David Scotton told his powerful adoption story: on the way to an abortion appointment, his birth mother made an eleventh-hour choice to give him life, because of the witness of a prayerful person outside the abortion clinic. This became the basis for a heartwarming documentary titled *I Lived on Parker Avenue*. During his speech, David announced that his story is now being made into a feature film, to be shown in theatres across North America. The documentary *I Lived on*

Parker Avenue can be seen on Youtube.

The Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) was also present throughout the day, with host Kevin Dunn of Dunn Media to bring the March for Life to millions of viewers across the world.

The culture of death protesters were also present in full force: police kept them separated by fencing from those attending the March for Life. I felt sorry that so many people have been deceived by Satan to think that a civilized society would demand that a woman should have a legal right to kill her own unborn child, or that people who no longer wish to live should have a legal right to be euthanized. The predominant pro-death slogan "my body, my choice," which is a lie, was being shouted loudly throughout the day.

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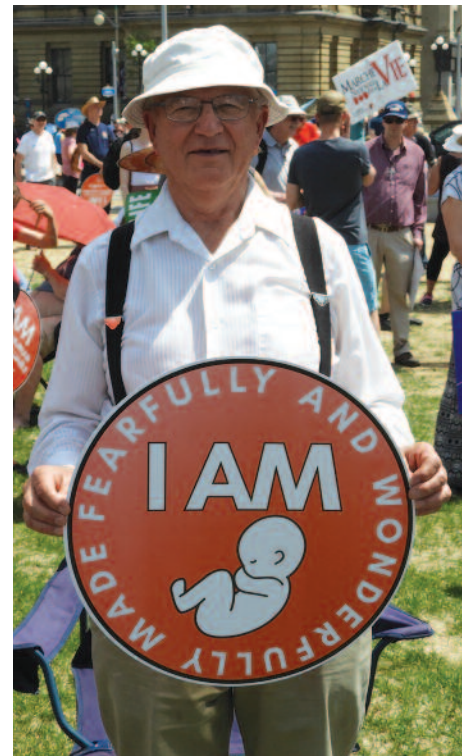
At the Rose Dinner, which was sold out, Babylon Bee's CEO Seth Dillon made a virtual appearance, as he has been barred from Canada by our Liberal government. He spoke about how satire is the perfect medium to show how the 'woke' leftist ideologies are completely lacking in reason and reality. He was very humorous and answered live questions from the audience.

On the eve of the March for Life, PM Trudeau announced 3.5 million dollars for two pro-abortion groups to improve access across Canada to enable women to kill their unborn children. Campaign Life's national president, Jeff Gunnarson, told LifeSiteNews that "Instead of throwing money into the dark, dirty hall of the abortion industry where a woman's choice is synonymous with abortion, the federal government would much better serve Canadian women by backing them to choose life for their babies. Choosing life is clearly the vital choice."

If you ever have a chance to attend the National March for Life in Ottawa, you will be blessed by attending this great event in support of the sacredness of all human life. ♥



Guest Speaker David Scotton



How to Protect the Conscience Rights of Medical Professionals

By Josh Boyes

Note: The Criminal Code of Canada uses the term “medical assistance in dying” which is euphemistic for “medically assisted suicide” or “euthanasia.”

In 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada decriminalized medical assistance in dying (MAiD) by striking down sections of the Criminal Code of Canada that made it an offence for medical professionals to provide MAiD.

While the decriminalization of MAiD was accomplished through amendments to the Criminal Code, the implementation and regulation of MAiD was left to provincial governments and medical associations.

Subsequent federal legislation and court rulings further expanded MAiD eligibility to those beyond whose “death was reasonably foreseeable.” Many doctors and, in particular, psychiatrists believe this expansion overreached what was reasonable and appropriate for patients.

Medical professionals face ethical questions: Will I participate in MAiD if asked to do so? Will I recommend MAiD to patients who might qualify? What are the employment ramifications for me if I decline to participate in MAiD when asked to do so by my employer?

Like any field, healthcare is populated with individuals who have a variety of values and moral backgrounds. Many medical professionals are willing to provide MAiD, but many others object to the practice. Their objections are not based in just moral or religious convictions but are also rooted in concern for the patient’s well-being.

There must be legal protection for medical professionals who object to participating in MAiD or offering it to their patients.



Saskatchewan’s MP Kelly Block introduced a private members’ bill in the House of Commons (Bill C-230) to protect these conscience rights. The Summary of the Bill reads:

This enactment amends the Criminal Code to make it an offence to intimidate a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, pharmacist or other health care professional for the purpose of compelling them to take part, directly or indirectly, in the provision of medical assistance in dying.

It also makes it an offence to dismiss from employment or to refuse to employ a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, pharmacist or other health care professional for the reason only that they refuse to take part, directly or indirectly, in the provision of medical assistance in dying.

More information about MP Kelly Block’s private members’ bill can be found by searching online for “MP Kelly Block Freedom of Conscience.”

While it would be affirming to have Bill C-230 pass and become law, the Liberal, Bloc Quebecois, and NDP MPs who spoke when the legislation was first debated in the House of Commons were critical saying that protection conscience rights would somehow limit an individual’s “right” to be offered MAiD. These objections disregard

conscience rights and ignore the measures provinces have taken to ensure MAiD is available for those who seek it.

While conscience rights appear unsupported in the federal House of Commons, provincial governments can fill the void. Each provincial legislature in Canada can create a legal framework to protect the conscience rights of medical professionals.

Presently, only Manitoba has enacted simple yet comprehensive legislation which protects medical professionals who refuse to participate in MAiD from legal prosecution. Additionally, the Manitoba legislation prevents a professional regulatory body (such as any association of physicians or nurses) from requiring its members to participate in MAiD. This legislation passed in 2017 with all-party support in the Manitoba Legislative Assembly.

Manitoba has created a template which every provincial government should copy. With growing concern among medical professionals over the expanding eligibility of MAiD, now is the time for provincial governments across Canada to act.

Visit consciencerights.ca to petition the Saskatchewan Provincial Legislature to protect the conscience rights of medical professionals. ♥



CWL representatives at the 2022 SK March for Life

SASK MARCH FOR LIFE

Greetings from Provincial CWL President

As provincial president of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, I extend to you our sincere appreciation for your continued efforts in fighting for the rights of the unborn. We are grateful to Saskatchewan Pro-Life and to the Knights of Columbus for their tireless efforts in speaking for the unborn who have no voice. The CWL has a long history in this area. Its *Constitution and Bylaws Part IV, Objects*, states: "to protect the sanctity of human life." As a national organization, we support your cause through resolutions, those dealing with abortion and those dealing with medical assistance in dying. We stand in solidarity with you in respect for life from conception to a natural death.

Our national theme is "Catholic and Living It!" As a faith-based organization, we recognize the power of prayer. As Saint Teresa of Calcutta once said, "If our life is without prayer, it is like a house without a foundation." Through prayer we increase and strengthen our faith, which in turn allows us to recognize the injustices taking place in our society today. The greatest injustice of all is abortion. How can we bring an end to this abomination—an act that not only destroys an innocent being, but one that also ravages the mother, her family, and our world? We must teach the value of human life to our children and

grandchildren and have the courage to profess our beliefs in public. Our prayers are with the U.S. Supreme Court as they overturn the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision.

On February 25, 1994, the *Wall Street Journal* quoted Mother Teresa when she described how abortion affects our nation:

America needs no words from me to see how your decision in Roe v. Wade has deformed a great nation. The so-called right to abortion has pitted mothers against their children and women against men. It has sown violence and discord at the heart of the most intimate human relationships. It has aggravated the derogation of the father's role in an increasingly fatherless society. It has portrayed the greatest of gifts—a child—as a competitor, an intrusion, and an inconvenience. It has nominally accorded mothers unfettered dominion over the independent lives of their physically dependent sons and daughters. And in granting this unconscionable power, it has exposed many women to unjust and selfish demands from their husbands or other sexual partners. Human rights are not a privilege conferred by government. They are every human being's entitlement by virtue of his humanity. The right to life does not depend, and must not be declared to be contingent, on the pleasure



Chantal Devine, CWL Provincial President

of anyone else, not even a parent or sovereign.

While these words were printed nearly thirty years ago, the results of abortion are even more evident in our society today. We must not give up hope, however; through prayer, God will continue to give us the grace to defend and promote life. Let us praise the Lord, rejoicing for each new day we're given to continue our mission in saving lives!

God bless you and your families. ♥

Chantal Devine
Provincial President,
Catholic Women's League of Canada

ROE V. WADE OVERTURNED

Sask Pro-Life Association Official Statement



The Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association welcomes/supports the Supreme Court of the United States decision in the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case, which overturns the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* and 1992 *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* rulings, which purported to make access to abortion a federal right.

We are thankful that six of the nine Supreme Court Justices ruled on the unconstitutionality of the *Dobbs v. Jackson* case which superseded Mississippi state laws on abortion.

As stated in the decision, "Abortion presents a profound moral question. The Constitution does not prohibit citizens of each State from regulating or prohibiting abortion. *Roe* and *Casey* arrogated that authority. We now overrule these decisions and return that authority to the people and their elected representatives."

The purpose of the Courts is to uphold and enforce the law, not to legislate/make laws. *Roe v. Wade* (and the subsequent 1992 *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* decision) violated that principle.

While this historic decision gives hope, it is only another step on the way to providing full legal protection to the preborn. Pro-abortion advocates are powerful and determined, well-organized and well-funded (both privately and through government programs). In the U.S., the states have now regained the ability to legislate legal protection for the preborn as their citizens desire.

In Canada, we have no laws restricting abortion. The present federal government is decidedly pro-abortion and has the support of many of the political parties. This is a sad place for us to be. Because our health system is publicly funded, both provincially and federally, it has been difficult to make progress in passing legislation to restrict abortion and protect unborn lives.

We will continue to serve mothers in crisis with compassion and work to change people's minds, to create 'a culture of life' and to make abortion unthinkable. It is by changing people's hearts through presenting facts and by articulating "the sanctity of life skillfully, logically and compassionately" that we will achieve our goals.

We will continue to pray for all affected by abortion, for wisdom and discretion for public officials. ♥

Frances Stang, President
Sask Pro-Life Association Inc.

"Let's pray that this leads to the day when our laws fully recognize the personhood of the unborn. And let's pray for a day when every vulnerable human life in our country is valued."

Quotation from online article: *Thank God Roe is Gone, Now Let's Not Grow Weary*, by Daniel Darling, Director, Land Center for Cultural Engagement



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MIDALE 233 Main Street 306-458-2277
John J. Billesberger attends every Thursday



Email: jjb.law@sasktel.net

In Thanksgiving

With profound gratitude, Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association Inc. wishes to acknowledge the bequest of \$5000 from the estate of the late Mr. Francis "Freddy" Shivak of Stockholm, SK.

May God grant him eternal rest, and may he be lovingly remembered for this generous legacy to assist pro-life work in Saskatchewan.



Donations In Memoriam

Donations were made in memory of the following persons:

- George T. Hudec
- Margaret F. Hudec
- Bernard Perrault

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



Prayer for Life

Father, source of all life, we praise You and we bless You for the precious gift of life. In the presence of the calamity of abortion, which threatens thousands of unborn babies, we implore You, loving Father, to give us great respect for every pregnant mother; inspire us with the words and the actions which give courage and confidence.

Enlighten the expectant mothers who are deliberating the fate of their child; in Your mercy, show them the beauty of motherhood and the dignity of all human life. May the doctors use their expertise to help mothers in doubt and in difficulties in order that they may bring to normal term the life they now carry in suffering.

Give to these mothers, to these doctors, and to all of us, the strength to accomplish Your will, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

Prayer of Gratitude

Thank You, Lord, for all Your gifts of love, especially for those we often overlook.

Thank You for friends; they increase our love for You.

Thank You for enemies; they increase our tolerance.

Thank You for joys and happiness; they strengthen our faith in You.

Thank You for trials and tribulations; they strengthen our trust and perseverance.

Thank You for times when all goes well; they teach us serenity.

Thank You for days when things are rough; they teach us patience.

Thank You for our successes; they increase our confidence.

Thank You for our failures; they increase our humility.

Thank You, Lord, for the 'ups and downs' of life. Thank You, Lord, for the precious gift of life itself.

Comfort us when we are disturbed; disturb us when we become too comfortable.

Thank You, Lord, for being by our side. Amen.

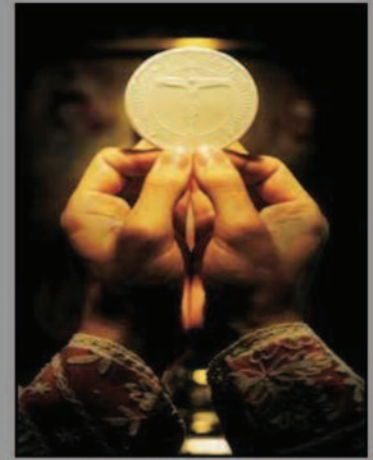


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