

# CHOOSE LIFE

## NEWS

VOLUME XLI | ISSUE #2 | SUMMER 2022

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Upping Our Game



By Frances Stang

I am honoured and humbled to be the new President of Sask Pro-Life Association. Let me introduce myself: I am a wife

of 44 years, mother of 5 adult children, mother-in-law to 4, and grandmother to 10 (ages 1-18). I grew up on a mixed farm at Leask with my parents and 5 siblings, took a teaching job in Macklin, and 'the rest is history.'

My husband Larry and I were part of the group that founded Sask Pro-Life Association over 40 years ago. It was an exciting time as we helped plan the 'Run For Life' and 'Celebrate Life' initiatives. Over the years our pro-life activity centred on raising our family and local pro-life projects. We also worked to establish the Teen-Aid program in the Northwest region. I returned to teaching in 1990, retiring in 2007. This enabled me to spread the pro-life message in my school and school division.

We live in trying times. Our world is going from one crisis to the next: the pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine, the resurgence of ISIS and the Taliban, the fires and drought of last summer, and now inflation and soaring gas prices. All this turmoil causes fear and uncertainty. We know that the forces of evil are at work, seemingly in overdrive.

The assault on the family and religion continues, as does our fight for life from conception to natural death. In some areas of the world, progress is being made as laws limiting abortion are being passed. However, MAiD is gaining traction and momentum; jurisdictions are passing laws making assisted suicide easier. Mental illness is now considered an acceptable consideration to end one's life. How have we gotten to this place?

Many philosophers and thinkers have

warned about this, but I believe we have been lulled and seduced in increments so small as not to be noticed until it is almost too late. That is part of the reason abortion has become acceptable to many. Some deny the humanity of the unborn even until past birth. Experimentation on aborted babies (some born alive) has been happening—we cannot turn a blind eye and pretend it is not.

Past generations have celebrated motherhood, welcomed babies as glimpses of the future and guarantors of family legacies. The infinite potential of a new being has been a source of joy and hope, anticipation and excitement.

We must recapture that vision. Women need to know the exquisite gift that motherhood is. We need to change the messaging: babies cannot be viewed as inconveniences, dream destroyers, or commodities.

Young women need to know the essential value of womanhood. Women and men need to respect their bodies' creative capacity, connect to their procreative purpose, and protect intimacy as a valuable bond and special experience. This is extremely difficult in our present culture where everything sacred and good has been maligned, where 'the glamour of evil' has blinded so many.

We are prisoners in a world of artificiality and superficiality, where truth is relative and feelings are the basis of public policy. As promoters and protectors of life, we need to up our game. We need to be more vocally opposed to abortion; we need to seek allies in government and health care to change the message; we need to be thorns in the side of abortion promoters, challenging their message of death with the truth and beauty of new life.

Prayer leading to inspired action is our greatest weapon in our fight for God's justice for the vulnerable. ♥



## Calendar of events

**MONTHLY Mass for Life:** 7:00 PM, Second Wednesday of every month. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Parish, 2026 Winnipeg St., Regina

**MAY 16-JULY 30:** It's not too late to join **The Amazing Pro-Life Race**, sponsored by National Campus Life Network. Teams compete to become Canada's Pro-Life Champions! Ages 15-25. Questions? Contact [josephine.penner@ncln.ca](mailto:josephine.penner@ncln.ca)

**FALL 40 Hours for Life:** Saskatoon, hosted by Campaign Life Coalition SK. Target date: September. Plans are pending (subject to Bubble Zone laws). For more information: call (306) 249-2764 or email [campaignlifesk@gmail.com](mailto:campaignlifesk@gmail.com)

**SEPTEMBER 23: Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Gala.** Dinner at Prairieland Park, 503 Ruth St. W, Saskatoon. Details coming soon! (306) 665-7550; email: [contact@saskatoonpregnancyoptions.com](mailto:contact@saskatoonpregnancyoptions.com)

**SEPTEMBER 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

**OCTOBER 2: National Life Chain.** Held in more than 200 locations across Canada each year from 2:00-3:00 PM. Contact your local pro-life group for specific locations or visit [campaignlifecoalition.com/life-chain](http://campaignlifecoalition.com/life-chain)

**OCTOBER 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](mailto:r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net)

## EDITORIAL

# The Circle of Life or the Dead End of Lies



By Mariette Ulrich

It's summer, but it feels a bit like New Year here at Sask Pro-Life; perhaps the newcomers (board and staff) are prompting a feeling of

refreshed enthusiasm for this challenging yet crucial work. We will surely miss the outgoing members, but people move on: seasons and circumstances change—it's the proverbial Circle of Life.

Interesting things are afoot: as I write, the *Roe v. Wade* U.S. Supreme Court leak has been exploding all over the obsolete (formerly mainstream) media. Perhaps next week (or in a few hours) the state/corporate propagandists will find something else over which to hyperventilate. Frankly, I pay very little attention to them. One tires of having to choose from among half-truths, catastrophizing, or outright lies—after a certain point, it's easiest to opt for “None of the above.” Result: dramatically improved mental and spiritual health.

The obsolete media believe that they can shape reality by blasting the same falsehoods over and over—true disciples of Joseph Goebbels. Their meltdown over Elon Musk's bid for Twitter reached parodic proportions, yet they are unperturbed by Jeff Bezos owning *The Washington Post*, Mark Zuckerberg's grip on Facebook, or CNN founder Ted Turner's 40-year reign over numerous American media outlets.

The extent to which our political, corporate, and tech leaders are fanatical about banning “misinformation” must have George Orwell turning in his grave. The Biden administration has actually created its own Ministry of Truth, with Trudeau and his internet censorship bills not far behind. Christians, conservatives, and pro-lifers are already being targeted by their array of ludicrous, ambiguous, and discriminatory laws. But if we strive

to live for Truth, Goodness, and Beauty, there is ultimately nothing that the forces of oppression can do to us, even if they take away our liberty or our very lives.

We do not belong to Mark Zuckerberg, Bill Gates, the UN, or the World Economic Forum. We belong to God the Author of Life. God is truth, and truth will always find a way to be spoken and shared, even if it goes underground or must be conveyed by carrier pigeon.

Odd fact: did you know that Joseph Goebbels actually ruled Nazi Germany? I didn't, until I recently read that Hitler's will bequeathed the position of Chancellor to his chief propagandist. (With friends like that, who needs a dictator?) When Hitler died, Goebbels became the leader of the demolished nation, and served exactly one day in this post. The following day, Goebbels and his wife committed suicide, after poisoning their six children with cyanide. It's a horrid story, but a perfect illustration of the Culture of Death's trajectory.

We may chuckle sardonically at Goebbels' ridiculous 24-hour 'reign' of Germany, but in the light of eternity, all earthly governance—every action of vain and grasping dictators, past and present—will amount to little more than a speck of dust on God's timeline. Thus, while remaining vigilant, we need not be overwhelmed by ominous events (especially those beyond our control). Rather, we might strive to be ever more attentive to how we may act as forces for good in our relationships and our communities.

What goes around comes around—may corrupt politicians and media moguls take note. We will all face judgment, but I will take my chances serving on the side of faith, truth, and life—not the side that believed perversion of justice, suppression of legitimate freedom, and killing the vulnerable would usher in Utopia. ♥

## LETTER TO EDITOR: Spring Issue

I enjoy the *Choose Life* newsletter and all articles. Sorry to hear you might not be able to publish. I'm enclosing another magazine, which has glossy paper on the cover, and a lesser-quality paper inside. Is this something you might consider? *Choose Life* is all glossy and expensive. Anyway, I am enclosing a check to help with costs. Keep up the good work—it is God's work too. God bless you.  
Sincerely, Bev Campbell  
Meadow Lake, SK

### Editor's response:

Bev, thank you for writing and sending the sample magazine. Since CLN switched formats in 2018, some supporters have expressed concern over the change in paper quality. I would like to reassure readers that we are doing our best to be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to us.

It will surprise many SPLA supporters to learn that, due to many changes in the paper/print industry over the years, glossy is no longer the most expensive paper. Currently, “uncoated stock” is not only more expensive than glossy paper, but it is far more difficult to obtain. I have this on authority from SPLA's design/print contractor, who always does his best to find the most economical prices for our projects.

The specific problem that I referenced in my Spring 2022 Editorial is not so much the type of paper, but the availability: due to many overseas disruptions, we cannot be guaranteed that any type of paper will be available when we need it. Perhaps Canada should have maintained its domestic production, instead of importing 75% of the paper used in our nation's publication industry!

We are very grateful for your generous donation. We are forging ahead with the summer issue, and praying that God will provide us with the paper we need! ♥

# THANK YOU, K of C and Partners!



The Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association extends heartfelt thanks to the **Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus Charitable Foundation**, in partnership with the Fr. O'Leary Columbian Society Endowment, the Alex and Marianne Schamber Endowment, the John and Beatrice Sidloski Family Endowment, and the Pat and Marvin DeSchryver Family Endowment. Their

generous grant in the amount of \$12,000 supports SPLA's efforts to continue bringing *Choose Life News* to our members. We also wish to acknowledge past grants in 2020 and 2021, which greatly assisted Sask Pro-Life in our mission during the bleakest times of the pandemic and subsequent restrictions. May God bless you. Your generous assistance is greatly appreciated! ♥



## Donations In Memoriam

Donations were made in memory of the following persons:

- Margaret F. Hudec
- Faye Laskowski
- Bernard Perrault
- Natalie Van Maarion

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



## 2022 Dombowsky Award

This year's award was announced at the SK March for Life by Val Hettrick, Past President of Sask Pro-Life. The vote for the 2022 recipient ended in a tie, so a decision was made to honour two women who have given faithful service and countless hours to the pro-life cause in our province. Colette Stang from Macklin has served in many roles at SPLA: committee member, Northwest rep, President, and Past President. She continues to volunteer, particularly with helping organize the March for Life. Sandra Timm from Regina has also served many years on the SPLA board of directors, including five years dedicated to the role of Treasurer, and as a valued member of many committees. She has volunteered countless hours helping in the SPLA office and also serves as a liaison with Lutherans for Life.

Congratulations to Sandy and Colette; thank you both for your dedication and generosity in the service of Life! ♥



*Colette Stang*



*Sandra Timm*

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(306) 992-6941  
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## Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms

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253-7620 Elbow Dr SW  
Calgary AB T2V 1K2  
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**“The Justice Centre relies entirely on the voluntary contributions of Canadians who cherish freedom. Donate today at JCCF.ca!”**

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# 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](mailto:editor@saskprolife.com)

The next issue of *Choose Life News* is scheduled for September, 2022.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE for the Fall issue: July 31, 2022**



## OPINION

# Does Politics Have a Home in the Pro-life Movement?

By *Catherine Syrota*

Nationally, the Conservative Party of Canada is in the process of voting for a new leader. Will this be another sleeper event where the media's pick will win and they have crowned their prince? Or will there be interest at the heart of this campaign when a pro-life candidate advances into some serious numbers in the polls.

Too many times Canadians have heard the words "respect for life" coming from a candidate's mouth, only to see those words dropped from election speeches when the race gets tight. As a pro-life supporter, I have been disappointed in the past when the commitment has waned amongst those who pass our country's laws concerning the right to life and the industry of death.

Positive messages from pro-life candidates offer us a sense of hope in what we are doing for the good of others – saving babies' lives. Hope acts as a rudder in the unsure waters of our commitment; it offers us a sense of direction that we are moving forward in a positive way. Is there a place for political debate in Canada regarding abortions? Yes, especially if my tax dollars are being used to fund the procedure under the guise of women's healthcare.

Some pro-life politicians are very candid on where they stand regarding the abortion debate in this country. Others just wave their hand, walk away and say the debate is closed. Legislators need to remember one thing only: they were voted in to serve every citizen in this country. To declare war on the unborn who have not received the right of citizenship puts these leaders in a spotlight where they have to explain themselves and ask if they serve the least of their brothers and sisters.

What you do to the least of your brothers and sisters is a strong statement as to where one's heart rests. The abortion debate will never go away despite politicians saying the debate is closed. Eventually everyone, especially those espousing Christian values, has to answer to the Creator of all why they did not stand to help the least of those God deemed worthy.

Every politician who does not challenge the process of abortion should look at their own children or those of their family members. When you are holding a newborn, remember that the lack of abortion law in Canada allows that child to be "terminated" up to the date of birth. You are lovingly holding a six-to-seven pound baby in your arms, only a few hours old, because the love of its parents allowed it to be born.



Truth can stir up many emotions but when it is boldly presented with love then it cannot be unseen. Truth presented with love means that we care about others and their circumstances and do not want to see them wounded emotionally, physically and spiritually after terminating their pregnancy. Abortion affects various people in different ways but in the end, there is always someone missing.

So yes, politics has a place in the debate that should never go away until Canada ends the practice of abortion. It tells us a lot about our country and how it is not a safe place to try to be born into. May God have mercy on us for allowing our hearts to grow cold and not speak the truth – boldly. And may God have mercy on those who are lukewarm, being neither hot nor cold in the debate on abortion. ♥

## HOPE AND HEALING

# The 'Saint' Who Had an Abortion

By **Theresa Bonopartis**

*Her conversion and trust in the love and mercy of God points the way to healing and forgiveness for those who are repentant.*

As the cause for the canonization of Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Workers Movement, enters into the next phase, it should bring great hope to those who are suffering from a past abortion.

Having procured an illegal abortion herself in 1919, her subsequent sufferings were much like the ones millions of women and men are experiencing today. Her conversion and trust in the love and mercy of God points the way to healing and forgiveness for those who are repentant.

Although Dorothy did not speak of her abortion publicly, she wrote about it in her autobiographical novel, *The Eleventh Virgin*. She felt it would seem hypocritical to speak out against abortion, something many women that have experienced abortion still feel today. She also was concerned that some people would use it as a justification for abortion, something she was very much against.

In 1974 despite her silence, she was a signer of a petition against legalized abortion, less than a month after the decision of *Roe vs. Wade*.

Dorothy's abortion story will resound with many. Like countless numbers of young women, she speaks about being afraid to go home and face her mother's disapproval when she learned of her pregnancy. She delayed, I am sure, in the hope of finding a way to keep her baby and was in her fourth month of pregnancy when she told the baby's father (her boyfriend Lionel).

In her words, "I got pregnant. He said that if I had the baby, he would leave me. I wanted the baby, but I wanted Lionel more. So I had the abortion and I lost them both." "I always had a great regret for my abortion," she later says. After her abortion Dorothy went into a deep depression and tried to commit suicide; she also was afraid she would never be able to have another child.

Each of these manifestations of abortion: the coercion, the fear, the depression, and the deep regret and despair are very common to women who have had an abortion, but the continued denial of abortion's impact by society leaves many feeling like they are the only one suffering.

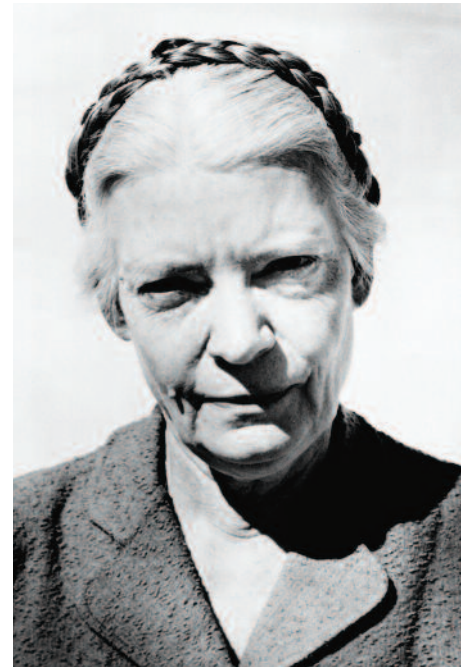
It can be hard when you are suffering to believe that there is forgiveness, or any hope for this grave sin. It seems to those locked in the pain that abortion is "unforgivable," but no sin is unforgivable to God.

Dorothy's life is proof of this. God is always seeking us out and calling us back to Him. He is always desiring our healing and our reconciliation. He is always waiting for us; we just need to be willing to go to Him.

Perhaps God has brought about the cause for the sainthood of Dorothy Day, in part, to let the millions of souls lost to God because of abortion know through her example of faith, that there is hope, there is mercy, and there is not only healing but through His grace, holiness.

In speaking about Dorothy Day when opening her cause, John Cardinal O'Connor, said this:

"To be sure, her life is a model for all in the third millennium, but especially for women who have had or are considering abortions. It is a well-known



**Dorothy Day, circa 1960. Photo Credit: Associated Press**

fact that Dorothy Day procured an abortion before her conversion to the Faith. She regretted it every day of her life. After her conversion from a life akin to that of the pre-converted Augustine of Hippo, she proved a stout defender of human life. The conversion of mind and heart that she exemplified speaks volumes to all women today on two fronts. First, it demonstrates the mercy of God, mercy in that a woman who sinned so gravely could find such unity with God upon conversion. Second, it demonstrates that one may turn from the ultimate act of violence against innocent life in the womb to a position of total holiness and pacifism. In short, I contend that her abortion should not preclude her cause but intensifies it."

Dorothy Day was baptized into the Catholic Church on the Feast of the Holy Innocents, December 28, 1927. I found this is very significant. Part of the healing process from abortion is to develop a spiritual relationship with your aborted child. To name them and pray to them. To reclaim by grace what was lost by grave sin.

*continued on page 7*

**” It can be hard when you are suffering to believe that there is forgiveness, or any hope for this grave sin. It seems to those locked in the pain that abortion is ‘unforgivable,’ but no sin is unforgivable to God. ”**

**continued from page 6**

In The Gospel of Life, St John Paul II speaks to women who have had an abortion:

“The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly, what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To the same Father and

to his mercy you can with sure hope entrust your child.”

I would not at all be surprised to learn that Dorothy’s child who is, “living in the Lord” was instrumental through prayer for her conversion to the faith and her deep love of God and trust in His love and mercy.

If she were alive today, I believe that Dorothy Day would probably be joining us in our monthly “Witness for Life” prayer vigils at the Planned Parenthood (formally, Margaret Sanger) clinic on Mott Street in New York City, a place she knew so well. I believe that along with her work for the hungry, forsaken, and homeless, she would be ministering to those who have had an abortion. She would be proclaiming that “we are loved.” She would be a witness to the mercy God has for each one who has

had an abortion.

I have no doubt Dorothy herself did a lot of “silent suffering” as a result of her abortion. I am sure that she is praying and interceding before the throne of God, bringing many souls back to His merciful heart!

We are blessed to be witnesses to her conversion of heart, to see the possibilities and the desire of God through His grace, to bring healing and holiness to each of us no matter what the sin, even the sin of abortion. ♥

*Original title: “What Dorothy Day means to those healing from a past abortion,” by Theresa Bonopartis. © Aleteia. Previously published on Aleteia.org, all rights reserved, no other use of this material is authorized. Used with permission.*

## Prayer for Canada

Let all inhabitants of this great Dominion stand in awe of the Lord. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom He has chosen as His own. (Psalm 33:8, 12)

We pray that the Prime Minister will seek Your wisdom and counsel in all his actions on behalf of this country. Grant wisdom and courage to all those who serve in our Parliament and all elected officials. Let them not be distracted by the lure of money, power or fame. Encourage them to stand for what is right. (Ecclesiastes 8:1-5)

Lord, return the state of marriage to a place of honour in our country. We praise You for sturdy marriages that model Your commitment to the Church. Let hope and healing now come to those marriages that are strained and breaking. (Hebrews 13:4)

Father, let our earthly fathers look to You as the ultimate spiritual head of the family, and serve their families by carrying the responsibility for the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of their wives and children. Bring absentee fathers to a faith and radical life-change. (Ephesians 6:4)

Refresh mothers in the honour of fulfilling the glory of motherhood. Strengthen them with grace, wisdom, and love in serving their husbands and children. Let mothers reflect Your own love and nurturing nature. (Proverbs 31:25-26, 28)



Let the unborn be protected. We affirm their personhood and we honour them as unborn citizens. Rescue them from the atrocity and violent death by abortion. Convict of transgression, forgive and heal those who repent of committing abortion. (Psalm 72:12, 14)  
Strengthen and encourage those in the media who are willing to stand for Your truth and practice honest, fair and accurate reporting. Convert or remove those who would use the media to put forth their own selfish agendas and proclaim their lies and distortions. Give discernment to all who know and love You to be able to sift through the untruths and rely on Your steadfast Word. (Proverbs 4:24-26)

Lord, bring reconciliation to the races of this nation. Remove prejudices, hatreds and hurts and replace them with Your healing love and fellowship. Bring peace, friendship and equal opportunity to all peoples and cultures. (Ephesians 2:14-16)

*Abridged from [www.canadainprayer.com](http://www.canadainprayer.com)*

# Pro-lifers Mourn Founder's Passing

By CLN Staff

Victoria M. (Vicki) Thorn, a Catholic pro-life pioneer, speaker, author, and founder of Project Rachel post-abortion healing ministry, died suddenly of heart failure on April 20, 2022, at the age of 72. She is survived by her husband, William Thorn, their six children, and 17 grandchildren.

The seeds for Vicki Thorn's pro-life activism were planted in her teenage years, when she found herself comforting a close friend who had been devastated by an abortion. She later called this a "life-changing experience... in understanding that abortion was not a non-event, that it left enormous footprints in someone's life, and enormous pain."

She studied psychology at the University of Minnesota, where she met her future husband. She became a certified trauma counselor and spiritual director, serving for a time with Birthright. She later became the first Respect Life director in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

In 1984 with the support of her Archbishop, Thorn founded Project Rachel as a program to teach clergy to help women find healing after an abortion. The name comes from the Book of Jeremiah (31:15): *In Ramah is heard the sound of sobbing, bitter*

*weeping! Rachel mourns for her children; she refuses to be consoled, for her children — they are no more!* The ministry team included specially trained priests, spiritual directors, and other caregivers.

The response was overwhelming, and not just from post-abortive women: boyfriends, husbands, siblings, fathers, grandfathers, and other family members also needed help and healing. The project's success led to Thorn training clergy in many U.S. states and nearly 30 countries, and Project Rachel soon went worldwide.

Thorn received much praise and many awards for her work: in 2008, both she and her husband William were granted papal knighthoods by Pope Benedict XVI. In 2009, she received the People of Life Award from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; and in 2017, Pope Francis re-appointed her as a corresponding member of the Pontifical Academy for Life. In July 2021, the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture (University of Notre Dame) awarded Thorn the Evangelium Vitae Medal, a lifetime achievement award for heroes of the pro-life movement.

A self-described highlight in Thorn's life was a visit to Rome in 1994. She and her entire family had a private audience with Pope John Paul II, who blessed them and congratulated Thorn for her work. But equally humbling and



***Vicki's life was dedicated to a single mission; caring for men and women wounded by abortion. [Her] life and work stand as a living testimony to an unwavering and unconditional defense of life at all stages, and to the mercy of God's love.*** ”

gratifying to Thorn were the countless times when post-abortive women came up to her and thanked her for opening the door to healing and restoration through Project Rachel.

Her unexpected death shocked and saddened pro-lifers, and tributes quickly appeared online. Students for Life (America) president Kristan Hawkins tweeted: "Vicki Thorn was a fierce advocate for the least of these. She changed the pro-life movement for the better, and we will strive to continue her legacy in the Pro-Life Generation."

Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI issued a statement praising Thorn's legacy: "Vicki's life was dedicated to a single mission: caring for men and women wounded by abortion. [Her] life and work stand as a living testimony to an unwavering and unconditional defense of life at all stages, and to the mercy of God's love." ♥

Editor's Note: Rachel's Vineyard Ministries was established in Saskatchewan in 2008. Since then, they have held one or two retreat weekends a year, helping women and men heal from the devastating effects of their choice to abort their children. For information, contact Elaine at 306-480-8911 or [r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net](mailto:r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net).

***Compiled with files from the National Catholic Register ([www.ncregister.com](http://www.ncregister.com)) and Mrs. Thorn's obituary in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel ([www.jsonline.com](http://www.jsonline.com)). Used in accordance with the Fair Use and Fair Dealing Exemptions of the Canadian Copyright Act, for the purposes of research and education.***



Vicki Thorn (CNS Photo/Carol Glatz)



# BRITISH COLUMBIA Victory for Delta Hospice

By Anthony Murdoch, LifeSite News

The Delta Hospice Society (DHS) scored a huge win for life at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on April 2, 2022, electing a full pro-life board and voting in a new constitution which affirms life to its "natural end."

The triumph, said DHS's president Angelina Ireland, was "a clear victory for life-affirming palliative care in Canada. With a huge margin, all 10 pro-life, pro-palliative care candidates have been elected to govern the Society."

"Delta Hospice Society is committed to a traditional understanding of the principles of palliative care, which excludes Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD), prohibiting the Society from engaging in any MAiD-related activities, and requiring all new applicants and renewing members to demonstrate a commitment to...palliative care."

Vote tallies from the AGM resulted in each of the 10 pro-life candidates on average getting 75 percent of the vote. The slate of pro-euthanasia candidates, dubbed 'Take Back Delta Hospice,' received 25 percent of the vote. Ireland said that the special resolution to amend DHS's constitution and bylaws was carried by a vote of 73 percent in favour to 24 percent against.

"It required a 66 and two-thirds percent supermajority to pass. Our Constitution now states explicitly that we are a palliative care organization that will do nothing to hasten death, and our bylaws prohibit any participation in euthanasia," said Ireland.

Well over 5,000 people attended the DHS's first-ever virtual AGM on Saturday [April 2], which originally was scheduled to be held on March 26, but had to be postponed due to technical difficulties. The good news from the AGM, Ireland told LifeSiteNews, "gives a clear

mandate that our members want us to move forward with our vision of Hospice Sanctuary: Safe places for the dying, free from euthanasia."

"The focus of the Board going forward will be to create a space for people who do not want to be killed... but rather to be cared for and supported to live their best life until their natural end. It is our hope and prayer that other organizations will follow suit and outlaw participation in euthanasia," said Ireland.

The DHS had earlier urged all of its pro-life members to attend the AGM to ensure enough votes to pass a revised constitution and pro-life bylaws. Ireland had earlier declared that the DHS's 2022 AGM would be the "ultimate showdown between our members for control of the Delta Hospice Society."

Last year, Ireland told LifeSiteNews that the goal of the "pro-death" side of the divided Society is to take DHS's assets and "use them in conjunction with the Government's 'MAiD' agenda, promoting thinly-veiled slaughterhouses they call end-of-life care centers."

The DHS won a legal battle regarding voting rules concerning its AGM last year. On July 13, 2021, a judge ruled that a virtual Special General Meeting (SGM) could be held to "ask our members if they want a virtual/electronic AGM." As a result, the DHS put out a call to all pro-lifers to join the society by October 22, the cut-off date for membership, to help safeguard its future.

Euthanasia activists went to court for the right to join the society. The British Columbia Supreme Court ruled that the DHS could not exclude applications from euthanasia supporters. A local group, Take Back Delta Hospice, with the help of the euthanasia lobby group Dying with Dignity, has been trying a hostile takeover of DHS since April 2020.

The Canadian government legalized euthanasia in 2016. Since that time, DHS had been under attack by both the provincial government and euthanasia activists, because it refused to allow the



practice at its palliative care hospice.

Those interested in becoming members of the DHS can email [membership@deltahospice.org](mailto:membership@deltahospice.org) or call 1-800-232-1589. ♥

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The past two years have seen the Liberal government divide, discourage and refuse to listen to Canadians. Sadly, we have seen a movement away from respect for our constitution and human freedoms like freedom of conscience, speech and religion.

Leslyn has succeeded as a lawyer, small business owner and politician because she knows how to listen with compassion and understanding. As a politician, she has proven that those who listen are often the most powerful voices.

She believes that Canada is only strong when all Canadians have a voice, and where we can all unite in forging a Canada where we all have an equal opportunity to optimize our potential.

This is a goal that sees all Canadians as equal under the law: where race, religion, creed, orientation, and political affiliation are no longer used to divide us.

It's time to unite in the spirit of love and togetherness and build a hopeful, united and compassionate Canada again.

**On September 10, the Conservative Party of Canada elects a new leader.**

**VOTE PRO-LIFE: VOTE FOR LESLYN LEWIS**

[LeslynLewis.ca](http://LeslynLewis.ca)

## SASKATCHEWAN PRO-LIFE ASSOCIATION PRESS RELEASE

# Rejection of Pro-Life Month by the Saskatchewan Government

Regina, Saskatchewan, May 5th 2022

In January 2022, Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association (SPLA) officially asked the provincial government to proclaim May as Pro-Life Month and fly the International Pro-Life Flag outside the legislature. After two months of follow-ups and waiting, we received a reply from the Justice Minister, who responded that the government “is not in the position to grant your request at this time,” with no further explanation.

On April 28th, we asked the government to clarify why they could not proclaim Pro-Life Month in Saskatchewan. We repeated our request that Pro-Life Month be promptly proclaimed in the province to respect and represent the beliefs of a great number of Saskatchewanians. As neither the Justice Minister nor the

Premier have responded to us, we are reaching out to our members and the media to highlight the inequality in provincial proclamations.

The following are some proclamations from 2021: *Saskatchewan Art Gallery Day, Recreational Professionals Week, Animal Health Week, National Veterinary Technologist Month, and Gender and Sexual Diversity Pride Month*. We do not understand why our proposal has not been given equal consideration by our politicians. We affirm that May, the month in which Mother’s Day occurs, as well as the annual March for Life, is fitting to celebrate family, motherhood and the sanctity of life across the province.

We applaud the government’s recognition of *Prenatal Loss Day*, as it recognizes the trauma and tragedy of

losing one’s baby before birth. We recognize this as common ground upon which our Association and others with pro-life sentiments can dialogue with the government and receive representation in our democracy.

Furthermore, with the United States Supreme Court leak, [it is important that] free, fair, and open discussion needs to be held on these issues. [...] We call upon our Sask Pro-Life Association members, all other pro-lifers, and the media to ask why consideration and respect is not given to our position. We remain open to discussions with the Justice Minister and Premier to make a Pro-Life proclamation a reality. ♥

Frances Stang, President  
Sask Pro-Life Association Inc.

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# Local and Global Issues Highlighted at Annual Gathering

By *Mariette Ulrich*

The Sask Pro-Life Association held its convention and Annual General Meeting on the Zoom online platform, Saturday, April 2, 2022, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Guest speakers were Steven W. Mosher, director of the U.S.-based Population Research Institute, and Marty Moore, a Calgary lawyer with the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms.

While nothing compares to an in-person event, the virtual format allowed SPLA to offer the conference registration free of charge, and allowed people to participate who would otherwise have been unable to travel and attend. Over 80 registrants signed up to participate. The schedule of events was ably moderated by Francis Nowak, SPLA's Operations Coordinator.

Steven Mosher presented the first session, beginning with an overview of China's disastrous 'One Child Policy.' In the late 1970's, Mosher (then a pro-abortion atheist) was the first American social scientist allowed into China. He observed up close the communist regime's population control policy: police arresting pregnant women; forced sterilizations; forced abortions—some as late as 7-9 months, where babies were delivered by Caesarean section and then killed.

These horrors had a profound effect on Mosher: he converted to Catholicism and became staunchly pro-life. Instead of praising Chinese policy, he began to expose and criticize it. Unsurprisingly, he was declared an "international spy" and expelled from China. Mosher joked: "I was cancelled before cancelling was cool."

Now an international expert on global demographic trends, Mosher said that world population is predicted to level off by 2040, and then begin falling. In

most western and many Asian nations, fewer and fewer young couples are opting to marry and raise children. Some countries have adopted pro-natal polices, but with few exceptions (like Hungary), these efforts are not working to increase population growth.

Nevertheless, powerful movers, whom Mosher dubs "the Billionaires Boys Club" (individuals like Bill Gates, Ted Turner, and Warren Buffet), are still focusing on population control, most notably in Africa. The idea is that you eliminate poverty by eliminating people. Foreign aid from wealthy European and North American nations is still routinely tied to coercive measures that include abortion, sterilization and contraception programs. This is hypocritical, patronizing, and colonialist, as it interferes with developing nations' cultural and religious values, as well as their political sovereignty. Find out more about Steven's work at [pop.org](http://pop.org).

The next speaker was Marty Moore, a lawyer with the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms. He spoke about how Bubble Zones (often euphemistically called "Safe Access" zones) undermine Canadians' Charter Rights when it comes to conscience, religion, peaceful assembly, freedom of association, and freedom of expression.

Moore criticized recent amendments to the federal criminal code: the wording is extremely vague, and is invariably interpreted in ways that target people of faith, social conservatives, and pro-lifers. Likewise, Saskatchewan's Bill 608 carries a very broad list of prohibitions, again with vague language. It criminalizes opinions: public "disapproval" of abortion is now illegal, particularly expressing such by "oral, written or graphic means."

Moore pointed out that many bubble zone laws across Canada were brought in because of past behaviour such as



**Steven W. Mosher, Population Research Institute**

loud, aggressive protests, obstruction, or in extreme cases, the firebombing of abortion clinics or the shooting of abortionists. But Moore added, "We're not dealing with this anymore," adding that most pro-lifers who show up at clinics and hospitals are non-confrontational, non-intimidating people who want to help and support women, not harass or condemn them.

"Caring and informative conversations should not be illegal," Moore maintained, but should be constitutionally protected. Thus, the bubble zone laws are an attempt by ideological opponents to silence pro-lifers, and to suppress their right to peaceful protest. It is "unconscionable from a Constitutional perspective."

These laws not only prevent pro-life expression, they also prevent women seeking abortion from participating in fully informed consent, or from accessing help to carry their babies to term. Many post-abortive women who regret their decisions would agree with Moore when he says that women have a right to information or support from pro-lifers willing to assist them.

*continued on page 13*

*continued from page 12*

Moore advised listeners to be willing to speak to their MLAs, to be well informed about what the legislation contains, and also to be clear about why we object to specific aspects of legislation. For more information about the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms, visit [jccf.ca](http://jccf.ca).

For those who missed these excellent presentations, or those who wish to see them again, the videos of the guest speakers have been uploaded to the SPLA website, and can be viewed at [www.saskprolife.com/videos](http://www.saskprolife.com/videos).

During the lunch break, Francis screened a short film, "I Lived on Parker Avenue," the moving story of a young man and both sets of his parents, birth and adoptive. It is about reunion, love, and gratitude. Interestingly, the birth mother credits a protestor outside the clinic where her abortion was scheduled as the moment that prompted her to change her mind and choose adoption. As outgoing SPLA President Val Hettrick later remarked, this film represented, "that one moment in time that could be the difference between life and death."

**Since Bubble Zone laws have been enacted across Canada, how many**



**Marty Moore, JCCF**

**babies have been killed, who could have been saved by one word of love, truth, or support?**

The AGM took place at 1:00 PM and was chaired by Val Hettrick. The past year brought changes in staff, including the hiring of Cecilia Wanner, Office Coordinator, and the return of Celeste Mann in the new part-time role of Resource Coordinator. Val expressed anticipation about the proclamation of May as Pro-Life Month, and excitement that Saskatchewan is returning to an in-person March for Life in Regina.

Regional reports followed. Currently, there are seven regions in Saskatchewan that have no representation on the SPLA board. These are: Carlton Trail, Moose Jaw, North East, South West, West Central, Weyburn, and Yorkton. Might you be willing to sit on the board to represent your region? Call the office for more information.

Past President Colette Stang brought forth nominations for four of five open positions on the Board of Directors. She thanked Val Hettrick for her work as President through two terms; Val will stay on as Past President for another term. Sask Pro-Life's new President is Frances Stang from Macklin. The new Vice President is Catherine Syrota from Regina. Two Members-at-Large positions were filled by Janis Waldegger (White City), and Chris Hradecki (Prince Albert). Sandra Timm stepped down as Treasurer, but will stay on to train whoever accepts this position.

The AGM concluded with a greeting from incoming President Frances Stang, who also ended the day's activities with prayer. Sask Pro-Life thanks everyone who attended and we hope and pray that many will be able to gather for an in-person Convention in 2023. ♥

## SAVED FROM ABORTION Dad Wanted a Second Opinion

In January 1942 a doctor in North Battleford told Mom she had a malignant growth that had to be removed. Mom was 41 years old. Dad said, "We're not listening to only one doctor," so an appointment was made with a doctor in Saskatoon.

Dad didn't have a car so he borrowed one from his brother-in-law. Travelling to Saskatoon in winter was a lot harder in those days. The road was gravel and cars did not travel as fast as they do now. The car did not have a heater so Dad had to put blankets around Mom to keep her warm.

After the doctor examined Mom, he said, "You're not sick, you're pregnant!" The date was February 7, Mom and

Dad's 3rd wedding anniversary. This good news was an anniversary present they were happy to receive. I used to think of February 7 just as Mom and Dad's anniversary. Now I think of it as the day my life was saved. Mom would have been two months pregnant in January when she saw the first doctor, and three months pregnant in February when she received the good news. I was born on August 4. I am their only child.

I thank God for saving me from being aborted and I thank Mom and Dad for the extra efforts they made to give me life. ♥

**Submitted by a Sask Pro-Life supporter from the Northwest region.**



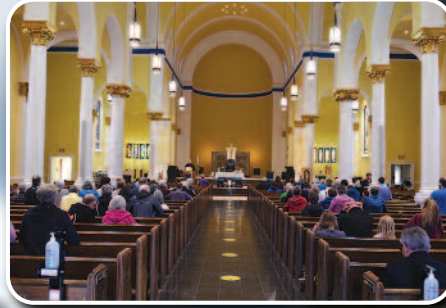
# SASK MARCH FOR LIFE 2022

## 200 March in Regina

On Saturday, May 7, about 200 marchers, from seniors to babies in strollers, gathered in Regina to celebrate and witness to life. The day began with Mass at Holy Rosary Cathedral, officiated by Fr. Gaspar Lucas from the Archdiocese of Regina. After Mass, Fr. Lucas led a dedication outside the church at the monument for the unborn. Marchers gathered in the cathedral parking lot to collect signs and the walk was underway by 2:15. Countless drivers honked in support along the route; some detractors also made their voices heard, but the marchers maintained a peaceful and joyful witness.

The program at the Legislature was emceed by Louis Roth, representing the Knights of Columbus and Campaign Life. Dignitaries included former MLA Warren Michelson, former Premier Grant Devine, and his wife Chantal. SPLA President Frances Stang opened with prayer, and then proclaimed Pro-Life Month, raising the international pro-life flag. Louis Roth brought greetings from the K of C, and Chantal Devine spoke on behalf of the Catholic Women's League. NCLN coordinator Josephine Sarao gave an inspiring presentation, followed by remarks by SPLA Operations Coordinator Francis Nowak. Finally, Past President Val Hettrick announced this year's Dombowsky Award recipients, Sandra Timm and Colette Stang.

The day's events wrapped up with a group photo on the steps of the Legislature. THANK YOU to the many organizers for their hard work—and most of all, to everyone who joined in the 2022 SK March for Life!





# BATTLEFORDS RIGHT TO LIFE A Living Legacy for Life



I will always remember 1989 for three reasons: we were expecting a new baby (our son James); Alex Banga spearheaded two great SPLA projects: 'Let Me Live' and 'Plant a Tree for Life,' and the Berlin Wall, which divided East and West Germany, finally came down.

Alex told me to sell as many trees as I could, and to plant a few myself if we had any left over. He brought a few thousand trees on a huge flatbed for Battlefords Right to Life and the Northwest region. After a few weeks of promoting and peddling the little saplings, we did have a few extra, so I took his advice to make the planet greener and "decrease my carbon footprint"—Alex and I were way ahead of the environmental curve back in 1989!

In the autumn of that year, I planted four trees in front of St. Vital's Roman Catholic Church in Battleford. Over the

years, the trees grew so big, two were removed, but the two remaining trees in front of the church look very stately. This past spring, I took two photos to show the SPLA membership what these trees look like 33 years later.

That same day in 1989, we also beautified the town of Battleford by planting about a dozen trees along the riverbank. Last autumn, the town thought these trees looked so inviting, they nestled a new gazebo amongst these beautiful trees.

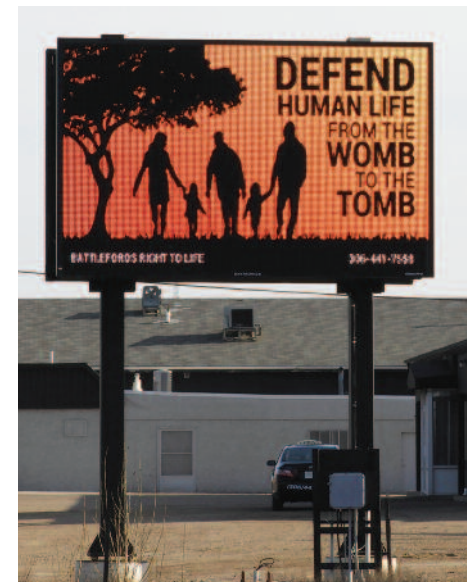
The 'Let Me Live' and 'Plant a Tree for Life' projects were a great success. The tree planting was a lot of work but truly rewarding, as I met many very nice people who planted thousands of trees throughout the Northwest region to help us remember the sanctity of all human life.



## Electronic Billboards Witness 24/7

Battlefords Right to Life has a roughly \$5000-\$6000 budget to run electronic pro-life ads in the city of North Battleford. These ads are run daily all year long, 24 hours a day and are featured about 30 times per hour.

*Submitted by Jim McLane, Battlefords Right to Life*





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A young woman with a blue baseball cap and a plaid jacket is smiling and holding a large white sign. The sign has handwritten text in black and brown ink. The text reads: '1/3 of our Generation is Missing'. The word 'Missing' is written in brown and underlined. There is a white rectangular redaction box on the right side of the sign.

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