



# Right to Life Association of Mississauga and Area

(Mississauga-Brampton)



*All human beings, from the moment of conception, have the right to life, the basic right on which all others depend*

## President's Message

Dear Pro Life Friends:

Do you feel it? The tension? Even though every major media outlet refuses to cover issues related to abortion, the issue (and other related topics) keep surfacing. The hundreds of thousands who gathered in Washington were ignored except by Fox News and EWTN. The Gosnell movie had a short run only because theatres wouldn't pick it up; the superb work exposes how reporters refused to cover the arrest and conviction of one of the US's biggest serial killers...because he was an abortionist. Thousands of parents provided the Ford government with their objections to gender ideology being taught in school through the on-line consultation process. Hundreds braved the cold to demonstrate opposition to the Wynne Sex Ed curriculum, yet news reports consistently highlight only the shrill protests of union reps and isolated parents who want to push the radical agenda.

These are just a few examples of the bias that exists among media, academics, professional organizations and social engineering politicians like our Prime Minister. Those in power try desperately to silence social conservatives. But our voices continue to object. The Truth, when it comes to defending the unborn, the medically fragile, the elderly, the innocence of children and Godly values, cannot be suppressed. You and I are part of a Grassroots movement that refuses to be muzzled. Respecting the God-given rights (and the Common sense) that stem from Natural Law, we must get informed, articulate well, be bold and act always out of Love to defend Life. This is our Mission; *to make abortion unthinkable*. Read on and see how RTLMB (thanks to your support) has made real efforts to keep the Life issues alive in our community.

For Life, Genevieve 

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### Pro-life Activism: Alive within Our Youth

**Laura Baron, Youth Member Right to Life Mississauga & Area**

I am a fighter. I am fighting for the rights of the innocent (Isaiah 1:17). I am the voice to the voiceless (Proverbs 31:8). I am the defender of the weakest and purest of our kind (Psalm 82:3). I am an activist, engaging in ways to stop the persecution of the most vulnerable (Proverbs 24:11-12). And lastly, I am a sister, seeking for ways to save the lives of her little brothers and sisters (Matthew 18:10).

My name is Laura, I am 22 years old, I am a student at York University, and a parishioner at St. Mary's Church in Brampton. In February, 2019, I made a trip to Florida to be part of an Abortion Awareness Project created by the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform (CCBR). Through this project, I was able to engage people in conversation regarding abortion for an entire week. Personally, I can say that this is by far the best experience I have had during my work with the pro-life movement. Our project took place at two different Universities: Florida Atlantic University (FAU) and Florida International University (FIU). Our job was to show the reality of abortion by exposing Abortion Victim Photography (AVP) and to engage people in dialogue about human rights to change hearts and minds — and save lives. I cannot express the value that these photos had during our conversations with people. Students had the truth in front of their eyes and they could not deny it any longer; the truth that abortion is killing human beings. During our stay, we were able to take half a day off, to stand in front of an abortion clinic to pray for the mothers and their children. I was looking...

*Continued on page 8*

Mississauga and Area Right to Life seeks to re-invigorate and grow its membership across a broad body of age groups and backgrounds and in doing so seek to educate members and the public at large, expose injustices and reveal the truth surrounding the victims of abortion

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Membership Update

The 2019 Membership year (May 1, 2019-April 30, 2020), is fast approaching upon us. In 2019, our focus continues on delivering pro-life programs and events fulfilling our obligation to keep the pro-life message in the forefront of our local communities. Right to Life Mississauga & Area will once again focus on key events including 40 Days for Life 2019, Life Chain, Youth Symposium and the 2019 March for Life in Ottawa (the 50th anniversary of the striking down of abortion law in Canada), where we will subsidize transportation costs for local Catholic high school students, who otherwise would not be able to attend. We will also continue to deliver the pro-life message by hosting presentations, providing materials and messaging, and continuing to support worthy groups embodying the pro-life cause.

In advance of our 2019 fiscal year start, we have seen good proactivity in membership renewals, as well as new memberships. The support of new and existing members is essential, enabling us to continue to educate and deliver programs carrying the message that "All human beings, from the moment of conception through natural death, have the right to life, the basic right on which all others depends". If you have not already done so, please send in your 2019 renewal as soon as possible to ensure that we can budget for initiatives for the balance of the fiscal year. Good works never stop and we need your support more than ever. Please see page 10 (back page of newsletter) for the Membership Renewal/New Membership form along with completion and payment instructions.

Movie Night



The Trial of America's Biggest Serial Killer is a 2018 American film based on real life events about Kermit Gosnell, a physician and abortion provider who was convicted of first degree murder in the deaths of three infants born alive, involuntary manslaughter in the death of a patient undergoing an abortion procedure, 21 felony counts of illegal late-term abortion, and 211 counts of violating a 24-hour informed consent

law. The film is the shocking true story of the investigation and trial of Dr. Kermit Gosnell - his 30 year killing spree and the political and media establishment that tried to cover it up. Originally investigated for illegal prescription drug sales, a raid by DEA, FBI & local law enforcement revealed crimes they could not have expected within the clinic. Copies are available from Right to Life Mississauga & Area for use by local church and community groups.

Get your Right to Life News in paper or on-line!

Your newsletter, Right to Life and educational web-sites, special events, and guest speakers will continue to provide you with education on the issues.

To receive a copy of the Newsletter via e-mail, please send an e-mail to: righttolifemb@gmail.com with the Subject: "Send Newsletter Via E-Mail".



Looking for Volunteers for open positions!



Pastor’s Corner



In each Newsletter, our Parish Priests are invited to share their thoughts on Right to Life issues. In this 10th Edition, Rev. Walter Tonelotto, C.S. offers his insights.

From the Desk of Rev. Walter Tonelotto, C.S.

Infanticide on demand!

On February 25, 2019 extremist politicians, south of the border, have reached the incredible, immoral arrogance of casting a vote against the "Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act" opening the door for "legalized infanticide in the USA. Never in history has a government decided to kill babies *outside* the womb of the mother. Now several states in the U.S. have decided that a doctor can “finish off” a baby, who has survived an abortion.

What is the difference in the life of a baby 10 minutes, 10 days or 10 years of age? We will reach that line soon! Once we accept the notion of "infanticide", then it is a minor change between a minute and a year! This is the slippery slope of the entire "pro-choice" mentality, which is contaminating the minds of politicians, and many in the public sphere, and slowly will bring our society to self-destruction. For once, I agree with the tweet of Mr. Trump: "The Democrat position on abortion is now so extreme that they don't mind executing babies AFTER birth...".

These decisions will be remembered as some of the most shocking in U.S. political history. If there is one thing we should all agree on, it's protecting the lives of innocent babies". We Christians have failed our Creator! This deadly mentality is also making inroads in our Christian communities. Many think that because the government allows it and pays for, it is something that they can accept. Killing is killing, in any way, shape or time. Killing will always remain killing! And the blood of these babies will cry to God for justice.

Certainly we need to show mercy to all the victims, both mothers and babies. However, the justice of God will not ignore the cries of these children, against the politicians who have decreed their elimination. They will have to respond to the Creator, the only Lord of life. "Cain, the blood of your brother Abel is crying up to me!" It is clear now that pro-choice means pro-infanticide. Human beings must reject such abhorrence, especially when coming from a nation, which claims to be civilized. Ancient Sparta engaged in throwing off of cliff, unwanted babies born with deformities. Now our society is throwing babies into the garbage, who are strong enough to survive an abortion. This is a clear sign of the end of civilization!

Important Dates to Remember 2019

Event	Date	Location	Time
Mass for the Unborn Presentation by Missionaries from Regeneration on “Authentic Love and Chastity”	Wednesday, May 1 <sup>st</sup>	St. Anne’s Church 115 Vodden St. E., Brampton	7:00pm
March for Life Ottawa	Thursday May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Parliament Hill	12:00pm (Buses departing local Parishes at 6:00am)
Annual General Meeting Right to Life Mississauga & Area with special guests the Sisters of Life	Saturday, May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Merciful Redeemer Church 2775 Erin Centre Blvd., Mississauga	Immediately Following 9:00am Mass
Fatal Flaws Movie plus Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director Euthanasia Prevention Coalition	Wednesday, May 29 <sup>th</sup>	St. Mary’s Church 66 Main St S, Brampton	7:00pm
Life Chain	Sunday, Oct. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Multiple Parishes locations & intersections	Following last midday mass on Sunday
40 Days for Life Vigil	Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup> – Nov. 3 <sup>th</sup>	Mobilizing out of St. Catherine of Siena 2340 Hurontario St, Mississauga	Daily 7:00am-7:00pm
40 Days for Life Opening & Closing Masses	TBD	Stay tuned for details	TBD



## March for Life 2019

Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, Parliament Hill, Ottawa

Back in January, two Right to Life Mississauga & Area Board members boarded a bus with dozens of others from the GTA, heading for the March for Life in Washington, D.C. We drove through the night and arrived in Washington where we joined other pilgrims from several states for Mass before descending on Capitol Hill for the Annual March For Life. The size of the crowd was mind-blowing. Hundreds of thousands were there to decry the infamous Supreme Court decision in Roe Versus Wade which legalized abortion in the U.S. and has resulted in roughly 1 million deaths by abortion in that country *each year since*.

Despite this awful reality, the atmosphere was charged with hope and the joy that comes from proclaiming *Truth*. We got to hear from U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, Ben Shapiro, Senator Katrina Jackson from Mississippi, Supreme Grand Knight Carl Anderson, Dr. Alveda King, Abby Johnson and President Trump himself (via Jumbotron) who has done more legislatively to protect the unborn than any other sitting president. After the rally, we joined with the others and stood outside the Canadian Embassy. As the thousands of participants marched by, they thanked us profusely for being there to support their efforts. We, in turn, asked for their prayers since Canada is so lost with our very Pro Abortion government. The feelings of unity were palpable.



Once again we are urging you to take the day and join us for the trek to Ottawa for our own March For Life. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the decriminalization of abortion by our lawmakers. We remain one of the only countries in the world (along with China and North Korea) without any law to protect the unborn. Several buses will be leaving from Mississauga and Brampton, so please consider coming. The crowds, the number of youth in attendance, the talks from the steps of Parliament Hill from Pro-Life leaders, clergy, and the brave Pro-Life politicians who are grateful for our support, are all exhilarating. You will not regret the sacrifice made in attending. For Mississauga departures call Genevieve at 416-888-0251. For Brampton Buses call Liz at 647-894-9330. (P.S. It's not too late to organize a bus from your church!). For a complete listing of events in Ottawa go to [marchforlife.ca](http://marchforlife.ca), [#WHYWEMARCH](https://twitter.com/WHYWEMARCH) or [campaignlifecoalition.com](http://campaignlifecoalition.com)

### Schedule of Pro-Life Masses 2019

Year	Church	Date	Time
2019	St. Christopher's	Monday, April 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am
2019	St. Anne's Church	Wednesday, May 1 <sup>st</sup>	7:00pm
2019	St. Francis of Assisi	Sunday, May 26 <sup>th</sup>	12:00pm
2019	St. Joseph's Church	Sunday, June 15 <sup>th</sup>	All Masses
2019	Our Lady of the Airways	Wednesday, July 17 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm
2019	St. Catherine of Siena	Tuesday, August 13 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm
2019	St. Mary Star of the Sea	Monday, September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00am
2019	Saints Peter and Paul	Tuesday, October 1 <sup>st</sup>	12:10pm
2019	Maximilian Kolbe	Tuesday, November 26 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm
2019	Merciful Redeemer	Wednesday, December 11 <sup>th</sup>	12:15pm

## RECENT EVENTS

## 2018 Youth Conference – “Human Rights for All”



This past November, Right to Life Mississauga and Area hosted its 2018 Youth Conference entitled “Human Rights For All” in the main auditorium of St. Francis Xavier Church in Mississauga. Sanctioned by the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board, 150 students from 7 Catholic Schools in Mississauga & Brampton (grades 9-12), along with their teachers and chaplains, enjoyed breakfast and lunch, and listened to highly trained apologetics experts from Toronto Right to Life. The objective of the Conference was to articulate the pro-life position from a scientific and human rights perspective, understand the heart and mind of a woman considering abortion, meet other pro-life supporters, teachers and students and to hi-lite messages in defense of human rights for all human beings.

The powerful and effective agenda, including presentations of facts and truths surrounding the impact of abortion on pre-born children, and would-be mothers, was presented by Michelle Caluag, Executive Director, Toronto Right to Life and Blaise Alleyne, President, Toronto Right to Life. Michelle presented, through animated (but non-graphic) imagery, what actually happens physically to an unborn child during first, second and third trimester abortions, putting a very human perspective on the pre-born child. This counters the dehumanizing arguments which abortion supporters have perpetuated through misleading euphemisms such as “clump of cells”, “foetus is not human” and “foetus is not alive”. Michelle concluded that abortion was simply discrimination against the pre-born, whose only difference from born children was stage of development and subjection to transient definitions, versus the absolute definition, of “personhood”. Michelle concluded that all humans deserve human rights regardless of their age, stage of development and level of dependency.



Blaise presented the justification for the pro-life movement, defending the right to life, advocating on be-half of the pre-born, as a human rights issue similar to the supporting the abolition of slavery. Blaise also moderated a diverse panel of women across the spectrum of pro-life experience including Angelina Steenstra of Silent No More, Victoria Martin, mother who held out against pressures to abort and Pauline Murphy, pro-life services provider from Birthright Brampton. Angelina Steenstra spoke emotionally regarding her pain, struggles with drugs and alcohol, and long term ramifications of having gone through an abortion as a young woman. Angelina was clear that her abortion never alleviated any pain or concerns surrounding an unplanned pregnancy and in fact compounded the pain in which she has spent a lifetime trying to heal. The sharing of pro-life experience by these woman had a profound impact on the students’ perspective.



Using a scientific approach, 134 survey forms were completed by students before and after the presentation, which were used to capture their views and attitudes regarding abortion. The results after the presentation showed an overall positive gain of 39% in terms of shifting views from the “mushy-middle” or “mostly pro-abortion” view to “mostly pro-life”. This included a 45% change in the views of the “mostly abortion” subset, and a 58% change from the “mushy middle” subset to mostly pro-life respectively. While the numbers were impressive, the comments and feedback were equally insightful. A sampling of students provided the following feedback; “You should care about the unborn’s life and this presentation answered a lot of questions that I had”, and “It really puts my views into perspective that abortion will never solve or take away your pain, it only creates more pain emotionally.”



The format and approach to measuring views and attitudes towards abortion and pro-life issues, developed by Toronto Right to Life, has proven to be the most effective methodology to educating students on the truths and impact of abortion. Make sure you ask your Catholic high school trustee or local school chaplain to request more presentations by Right to Life Mississauga and Area.

RECENT EVENTS

Breakfast for Life

In January of this year, Right to Life Mississauga & Area hosted it first annual “Breakfast for Life” gathering for those connected to and supporting right to life issues in Mississauga & Brampton. Originally focused on recognizing organizations and volunteers in the local pro-life movement, the event drew many who were interested in participating and offering their support. As a result, we enjoyed an overflow of exuberant participants which included representatives from Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women’s League, local Monseigneur and parish Priest, Youth groups, families and individuals.



The objective of the event was to thank supporters for their tireless work, build comradery with one another, share experiences, inspire and motivate each other, and to solicit ideas to increase the overall effectiveness of our efforts. The agenda was action packed and included a review of this year’s extremely successful March for Life in Washington, featuring keynote addresses and presentations by political activist Ben Shapiro, Democrat Senator from Louisiana, Katrina Jackson (*a Christian first!*), former pro-choice advocate Dr. Kathi

Altman, Knights of Columbus Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson, and Rap artist Justice featuring his song “Unique From Day 1”. Together, the messages and passion emanating from the March in Washington served to “pump-up” the audience, setting high expectations for our own local efforts.

Many great questions and ideas were solicited from attendees, including the need to be more effective in our pro-life messages to youth. In response, we were able to share our efforts, in changing hearts and minds about abortion, through our recent 2018 “Human Rights for All” Youth Conference held November 2018. This event was hosted by Right to Life Mississauga and Area, with the support of highly trained apologetics experts from Toronto Right to Life. We were able to share extremely encouraging news using a scientific approach. Exposing the facts and truths about abortion, combined with surveys of attitudes before and after the presentation, had an extremely positive effect on changing attitudes towards the pro-life view.



In addition, and in reply to practical “on-the-street” responses to challenges by bystanders during pro-life street vigils, like 40 Days for Life and Life Chain, or in any other circumstance where pro-life discussions may arise, we were tasked with the challenge of putting together solid talking points to educate objectors and to respond to the question, “why are you doing this?”. More information can be found on the RighttoLifeMB.com web site under “Responding to a Pro-life Encounter...”.

The overwhelming positive response to delivering great pro-life content and great food was not lost on the Board. We will be planning similar events in 2019.

The Case Against Assisted Suicide

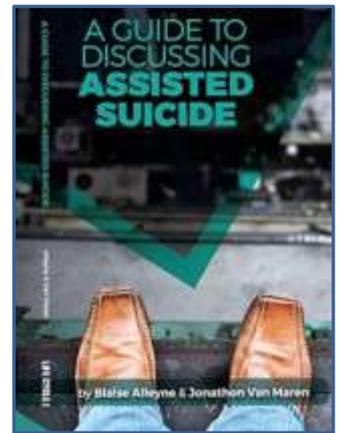


This past November, Right to Life Mississauga and Area hosted a presentation delivered by Blaise Alleyne, pro-life activist and President of Toronto Right to Life, entitled “The Case against Assisted Suicide”. Euthanasia, or medically assisted suicide, in Canada became legal as of June 2016, initially focused on ending the suffering of terminally ill adults. As we have witnessed in Europe and North America, predictable suicide “creep” has materialized targeting an increasing number of vulnerable in our society. As a result, the number of deaths due to assisted suicide is alarmingly on the rise.

Blaise’s dissertation focused on the works of neurologist, psychiatrist, and Holocaust survivor, Viktor Frankl, who sought to understand the meaning and impact of suffering and despair of his fellow prisoners. His analysis brought him to the understanding that difference between those who took their own lives, amidst the extraordinary suffering in the Nazi concentration camps, and those who miraculously survived, came down to their suffering and level of despair. Frankl concluded that suffering did not determine despair alone. Despair, and hence the contemplation of, or desire for suicide was the greatest when suffering occurred without meaning (D=S-M).

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We can all agree that many people in this world, “modern” civilization being no exception, suffer in one way or another, from physical circumstances such as war, poverty and natural disasters, from physical or mental illness and from degradation of ability. Others again suffer from loneliness or apparent lack of purpose. In studies presented by Blaise, in virtually all cases, contemplation and desire for assisted suicide seemed to have been a symptom of some *unmet need*, including proper medication and care, lack of companionship and support, loss of past physical and mental capability and loss of purpose. Rather than caving into despair, Blaise offered up the pro-life position that suffering unleashes love and creativity, in how we can mitigate pain and offer purpose.



Interestingly, Blaise also presented data on the fact that, in individuals studied, contemplation and desire to commit suicide, or request assisted suicide, changed frequently over time, for example within a day or a week, based upon fluctuating levels of despair. Blaise also positioned the key question; “who gets suicide prevention and who gets suicide assistance?”. It became apparent that younger or able bodied individuals were offered suicide prevention, while older or disabled individuals were offered suicide assistance. It seemed clear from the data that society has made some sort of misinformed judgement on the value of the most vulnerable, the aged and the infirm, those most subject to despair.

Blaise’s book, “A Guide to Discussing Assisted Suicide” co-authored with fellow pro-life author Jonathon Van Buren, provides an informative perspective on the topic of assisted suicide. The apologetics methodology delivered in the book also provides concrete and practical talking points on shifting the points of view of those who support the “total choice” (totally justified if the person wants it) and “split” (justifiable under some circumstances) positions to the pro-life position. Order this book today and start defending the pro-life position and the case against assisted suicide.

Stories That Inspire Us



Right to Life Youth Conference: A Student's New Insight...

“Hello, my name is Sebastian. I am an alter server and parishioner here at St. Mary’s church. About 4 weeks ago, I had the opportunity to attend the Right to Life Conference. For me personally, it was a very moving and needed conference. The Right to Life (“Human Rights for All”) Conference is a conference where teenagers and members of chaplaincies from different catholic high schools got together and heard various talks and speakers, and really learned the truth of abortion. Personally, I was split on my stance on abortion. I always knew it was bad but in the scenario of rape I thought it would have been ok. The conference really opened my eyes and changed my views.

At this conference I learned how an abortion works and it is very inhumane and disgusting. Basically, a tube is inserted into a women's area and it gets turned on it than takes in air at a power that is twenty times greater than an average household vacuum cleaner. The baby is than forcefully ripped out of the mother's womb and sucked through the tube and then what the doctor does is takes a Curette, which is basically a sharp ended blade, that scrapes the line of the uterus to make sure no parts of the child are left over. This IS the big thing that caught me off guard. It really made me think and change my mind, the thought of one of God's children being ripped apart because the woman didn’t want to have the baby.

The other thing that really moved me is when the speakers came on and they had this one lady who had an abortion when she was in her early twenties. She had gotten an abortion and then her life just got worse. She got into drugs and alcohol. She had been with many different men and she didn’t have many friends. She said that her life was going into a downward spiral and that she wished she had gone to Birthright and kept the baby. This story moved me, and I even went as far as doing a morning reflection on this prayer at my school and I didn’t get any backlash from anybody. For these reasons this conference has forever changed my mind about abortion, and I am now one hundred percent pro-life. If you or somebody you know is thinking about going through with an abortion, please don’t hesitate to call Birthright at: 905-874-0607 or go to their website at: [birthright.org/Brampton](http://birthright.org/Brampton). And Finally, the last thing you can do to help the unborn child is pray to St. Gianna Berretta Molla, who is the patron saint of mothers, physicians, and unborn children. Please keep unborn children and their mothers in your prayers. Thank you.”



@RightToLifeMB



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416-888-0251

Pro-life Activism: Alive within Our Youth (cont'd from page 1)

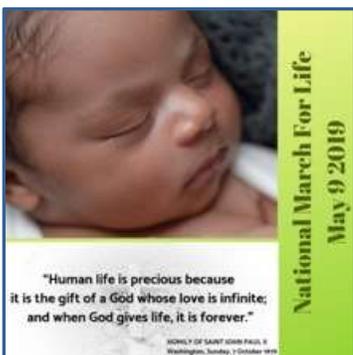
forward to this opportunity, as we are not legally able to do this any longer in front of most abortion clinics here in Canada. It was here where my view on abortion was strengthened. I had attended the 40 Days for Life to pray in front of clinics, in previous years, but none of these moments could compare to my experience in Florida. After having spent a week, being exposed to AVP continuously for so many days, I was more aware of what was really going on in that clinic right behind my back as I was praying. The hardest part was the feeling of helplessness as I saw these mothers go inside the clinic with a baby and come back out without them. The feeling of not being able to do anything in front of the clinic, motivated and convicted me more about the critical need to reach people earlier through pro-life activism in order to save lives, long before they get to the clinic. I can say that I came back a new person from this volunteer work, and I am committed to doing everything I can to spare children's lives and spare women the trauma of abortion.

My work continues here in Toronto, I am part of the group Youth Protecting Youth at York and I joined Toronto Right to Life in doing street activism; in both groups I get to engage people in conversation about abortion for about 2 hours a week. The photos of abortion victims are the only baby photos these children will ever have. Their voices cannot be heard, but we can be their voice. Will you join me in devoting whatever time and energy you have, to be a voice for the voiceless? To changing hearts and minds on abortion by showing the evidence of the injustice and making the case for human rights for all human beings? The babies need your time, energy, and your prayers.

I'd like to leave you with a conversation I had with a young man in Florida, his name is Ross. As I was talking to other students about abortion, Ross approached me very upset by our presence on campus and by our pictures; he said I was "harassing" people. After going back and forth for about a minute about the definition of harassment, Ross realized he was wrong and decided to continue his conversation with me on why he thought abortion was okay. I asked Ross if he believed in Human Rights, he said he did. I then asked him "Who gets Human Rights?", he responded "all humans". And so, I continued to carry our conversation based on science and humans' rights. I explained that babies are human, and since they are human, they too should get human rights. He agreed but had further justifications on why sometimes people need to have abortions. At this point, we had walked far from where the AVP was being exposed, but I had a pamphlet in my hand with a picture of an aborted baby. I asked Ross, "do you think we should ever have the right to do THIS (pointing to the photo) to any human being, under any circumstance?", Ross replied by saying no. We continued talking for about another 30 minutes, I had already addressed his questions and he ended our conversation by thanking me for taking the time to talk to him and he agreed that abortion was always wrong, under any circumstance. Ross also expressed how uneasy he was about the pictures prior to our conversation but he later recognized they are useful to show the reality of abortion. Note: As we were talking, his younger brother John walked by and he himself started questioning him about abortion and his opinion on it. I think John became pro-life as well.

Pro-life Movement 2019...Where Do We Stand Now?

By Jolanta Galazka, 40 Days for Life Mississauga



Abortion became legal in Canada in 1969 as part of a call in Parliament from then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau to "get the government out of the bedrooms of the nation". Though legal, abortion had some restrictions. Then in 1988 the criminal law against abortion was struck down making abortion a medical procedure, meaning it's governed by medical standards and not by political will. This, sad to say, also created a huge moral blot on the landscape of this country. Abortions are legal up to the moment of birth. No government to date has taken on the challenge of creating a law banning, or even restricting, abortions.

I wish I could say that that Canada and the pro-life movement is close to reversing our laws to respect all human life, especially the unborn. Regrettably, I don't see abortion on-demand going away soon. Realistically, there have been no legislative achievements since abortion was decriminalized. However, that's not to say that the pro-life movement has failed to keep this issue

in the public square. Many pro-life groups are continuing to try to change public opinion about the sanctity of human life in the "public square". Let's remember that the "public square" is bigger than the "parliament square".

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It is worth noting the increasing involvement of young people in pro-life movement. They are younger, energetic and more tech savvy using social media to get the truth out. Since mainstream media totally ignores all pro-life news, they have reached out to those who would otherwise never see it. “The hairline cracks are starting to form in the abortion consensus, and the more young people we throw at it, the bigger the cracks are going to get” says Jonathan Van Maren of Canadian Centre of Bioethical Reform.

The abortion debate is again entering political discourse using “strategic political involvement”. At the 2018 Progressive Conservative Party convention, pro-life groups such as *Campaign Life Coalition*, *Right Now* and *WeNeedALaw* successfully organized pro-lifers and lobbied delegates at large to turn several resolutions into official Party policy that will be included in the upcoming election. One example was the passing of a resolution to end the funding for abortions in other countries under the “maternal and child health” program (recall on Women’s Day in 2017, the Trudeau government responded by sending \$650 million dollars for abortion and reproductive rights to developing countries).

However, laws and politicians don’t reduce abortion ...people do. At the local level, pro-life groups such as *Mississauga/Brampton Right to Life*, *Kolbe pro Life* and various church groups have put time and effort into getting the truth out. The hope is to change hearts and minds and help others see the “personhood” of the unborn child. In recent times, these groups have doubled down efforts to send a message that is not only pro-child, but also pro-mother. Therefore, the work of cultural persuasion is before us.

So what lies ahead for pro –life work? I can see the movement continuing to make modest legal and legislative gains, with young people leading the cause. Challenges lie ahead as how to do that without alienating many Christians still believe a woman “has a right to choose”. We cannot stop being active, or worse, become indifferent, until all pregnant women choose to go to maternity clinics and not abortion clinics. We must not forget that Canadian laws did at one time protect the most defenceless and most vulnerable among us. We can get there again, even if it takes another 50 years.



The pro-life movie **UNPLANNED** was released in the US on March 29 and finished fourth at the box office on its Opening weekend. UNPLANNED is based on the true story of Abby Johnson, a former planned parenthood director, whose heart was converted after she watched (on an ultra sound screen) as a baby was being aborted in her clinic.

Actress Ashley Bratcher, who plays Abby Johnson, made headlines when she revealed that she recently learned her mother had scheduled an abortion when pregnant with her; she changed her mind and left the clinic. This had a profound

impact on why and how she would take on this role.

The media has tried to blackout coverage of the film. Twitter initially suspended it. UNPLANNED was given an R rating in an attempt to discourage viewers. Despite all this, the film is a huge success.

Says Abby Johnson “Every day I am waking up to messages about how people have been impacted by seeing unplanned. Some walked in pro-choice and walked out a pro-life. Others are finding healing from past abortions. And many are finally seeing for the first time that this is what abortion looks like...It is my hope that unplanned will be the catalyst to make abortion unthinkable, not only in this nation, but the entire world.”

Pureflix Intends to release the film to other countries once it is finished in US Theaters. RTLMB will be working with groups who are anxious to get it into our local theaters, so keep posted.

Additional Educational Web-Sites to Keep You Informed



Life Site News  
www.lifesitenews.com



The Interim  
www.theinterim.com



Euthanasia Prevention Coalition  
www.epcc.ca



Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience  
www.canadiansforconscience.ca



RighttoLifeMB  
www.righttolifemb.com

