



Defending the Human Person, From Conception to Natural Death



Keeping Watch

Evening for Life

December 2 & 3 marks the beginning of the Advent season, the four-week preparation period awaiting the arrival (in Latin *adventus*) of Our Lord, the King that is to come.

Since 2010, 200 faith communities on average per year have celebrated the first Sunday of advent with prayer, song, and fellowship in defense of life.

Watch & Pray, Learn & Act

This year's theme will be celebrated by an anticipated 300 communities.

These gather to watch & pray in parishes, with the clergy, in union with the bishop about the Eucharist in adoration.

The goals are to get Christians to respond in prayer, thru bioethical training, and acts of solidarity to the urgency of renewing the culture of life in our midst.

Veillée pour la vie (Vigil for Life) is an initiative stemming from the vision of Saint John Paul II as expressed in the encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (EV), inaugurated by Pope Benedict XVI, and blessed and encouraged by Pope Francis.

We need to begin with *the renewal of a culture of life within Christian communities themselves.* (EV95)

... a great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. (EV100)

Vigil for Life is scripturally inspired to be in solidarity with the most vulnerable in our society.

Believe me, when you did it to one of the least of my brethren here, you did it to me
(Mt 25:40)

Further information about the vigil may be found at <https://veillespurlavie.org> or by contacting our offices at (514) 344-2686 or 1-855-996-2686.

Campagne Québec-Vie Colloquium

Report: the November 4 Colloquium (by Georges Buscemi)

This past November 4th conference was greatly appreciated by the participants of this memorable day. Held in downtown Montreal at the Europa Hotel, this conference brought together the *Campagne Québec-Vie* family to listen to talks about the family, religion, politics and protecting the unborn child.



I began the day by giving a lecture entitled "Leaving Omelas: Do we know where we are going?" Omelas is a utopian city described in a science fiction short-story entitled "The Ones who leave Omelas". But this city of delights hides a terrible secret: its good functioning, the happiness of its citizens, directly depends on the atrocious penalties inflicted on a single child of this city, a child who is kept locked in a damp dungeon. The parallels between this fictional city and our contemporary situation are evident when we see that the so-called "freedom" of Quebecers exists at the expense of the crushed lives of more than

30,000 unborn children each year. However, if we want to "leave Omelas", that is, leave behind this situation of injustice and murder, where do we go, what kind of better city are we looking for? And my answer, which came at the end of an argument that I cannot reproduce here: for the bloody sacrifice that founds our unjust city, we must substitute the supreme sacrifice of Christ. In other words, only a Christian city can sustainably and adequately replace today's unjust city.

The second speaker, the historian Jean-Claude Dupuis, addressed the very controversial question of a supposed birth-rate policy among the clergy before the quiet revolution. Entitled "The Black Legend of *Clérico-natalisme*", his presentation effectively refuted, with ample evidence, the notion that Quebec clergy refused women absolution as a consequence of not having enough children.



Mr. Dominique Boily, President of Notre-Dame du Mont Carmel School in Ottawa, was the third speaker. "Reminiscence and Civilization" aimed to answer two questions: "How can we work effectively to end a barbaric culture whose crimes accumulate? and "How to learn tactical mistakes of the last 50 years?" Boily says we need to work on the sidelines of today's pro-abortion /pro-euthanasia regime to replace it.

(CQV Colloquium – continued)

According to Mr. Boily, Quebeckers need to remember what they are so as to get out of the tumultuous waters in which he finds themselves, and this reminiscence is done through the beautiful and the true. He argues for the formation of young people and the transmission of ideas which will permit Christianity to flourish in Quebec.

For her part, our fourth speaker, Ms. Anne-Marie Genest, shared the importance of chastity and modesty, arguing that abortion is only a tragic symptom of sexual dysfunction that has hit the West in the 1960s, and even earlier.

Preparing for the Forthcoming Elections

Finally, some of us stayed to discuss, at an evening meeting, ways in which we could take advantage of the 2018 provincial elections and the federal elections of 2019 to advance our project for a pro-life and Christian Quebec.

The four talks are gradually being uploaded onto the internet, at

www.youtube.com/campagnequebecvie

Georges Buscemi
President
Quebec Life Coalition



Stocking Stuffers?

Rev. Di Rocco in Song

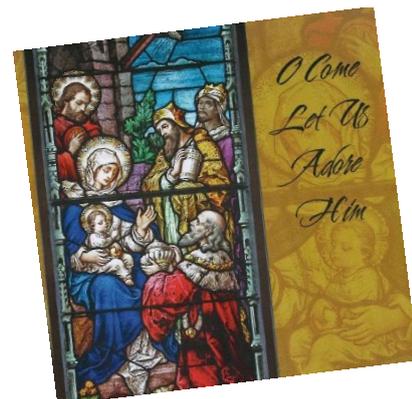
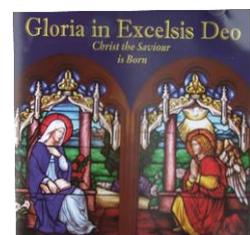
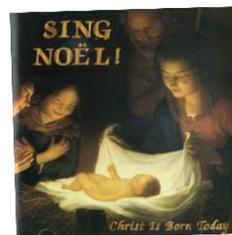
With the Christmas season rapidly approaching, here are some stocking suffer gift suggestions.

Our friend and pro-life priest Rev. Louis Di Rocco, the same one who accompanied our founder, Mr. Gilles Grondin, to many UN conferences, has orchestrated 3 different Christmas songs on CDs.

You have the choice of three– “Sing Noel: Christ is Born Today”, “Gloria in Excelsis Deo: Christ the Saviour is Born”, and “O Come Let us Adore Him.”

Each CD contains between 18 and 22 favorite Christmas time tunes, in a variety of languages: English, French, Italian, Polish, Spanish, and Latin.

For any donation of \$ 35 or more, you can receive a free Christmas music CD. Simply check the box on our reply coupon. Thank you for your support!



PRO-LIFE APOLOGETICS

Sometimes It's Not About the Argument

Many of us who have prayed for the end of abortion on the streets of Montreal know well how our presence elicits strong emotions in passersby.

Tim, a pro-life advocate, thought that changing someone's mind about abortion was primarily about making good arguments, being clear and fast on your feet, and maybe having a little bit of relational skill.

Recently he has changed his approach, a change he believes to be the best he has done in a long time.

Namely: Affirming the pro-choice person's feelings.

By affirming feelings, without compromising our pro-life's stance, can create safety, a necessary precursor to changing minds. By affirming he means acknowledging feelings as reasonable, understandable, and appropriate.

He says people do not change their minds if they feel combative instead of emotionally safe, or defensive instead of receptive. Safety permits people to honestly question their beliefs.

For some people, he adds, having their earnest, deeply held feeling acknowledged helps them to argue about the issue.

Tim's 12-minute audio blog touches on other points as allow for venting and bringing up compassion. All this may be seen on YouTube by plugging in the title of this article – "Sometimes it's not about the argument," in the site's search engine.

Diaper Donation



Recently we received a large donation – 24 boxes of diapers! In addition we were given wipes and laundry soap. These will be distributed to women we are supporting. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus and their associates in the Lanaudière region.

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