



## *Defending the Human Person, From Conception to Natural Death*



## CARRYING THE PRO-LIFE MESSAGE

At its most basic level, the pro-life message is this: an unborn child is a human person made in the image and likeness of almighty God, whose life therefore has value and deserves to be protected by our society.

There are many ways to communicate this message.

Two which the Quebec Life Coalition has adopted over the years are the **Life Chain** and the prayer vigil for the end of abortion – i.e., the **40 Days For Life**. (See texts on the following two pages.)

Another is through personal contact.

One-on-one exchanges are often unpredictable. Recently, while visiting a relative who does not share my pro-life beliefs, I arrived while she was conversing with a neighbour. He was introduced as a deacon in his church and I, in terms of my pro-life involvement. This led to a conversation in which my relative was exposed to an affirmation of the pro-life platform by another person.

Other one-on-one exchanges can be solicited. One of our supporters regularly presents himself publicly defending the pro-life message, and as a result is approached to share his view. He has subsequently drafted several talking points to aid him. These are reproduced here for your usage.

- The reason I am standing here is to proclaim the truth.
- The truth is that they are my brothers and sisters inside the womb. I love them dearly. I care deeply what happens to them.
- They cannot speak for themselves therefore I am speaking for them. My conscience compels me to do so.
- My hope is that people will see my sign, will recognize and accept the truth.
- I know that this message will offend and upset some people, but the truth is more important than people's feelings.

As a people of faith, we trust that God is using us in ways unimaginable – and unpredictable – to carry His message of life forward.

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE Prayer Vigil

*The prayer vigil for the end of abortion - 40 Days for Life, began this past Wednesday, September 27. I have been keeping a journal of daily events. For your reading pleasure, the following accounts are drawn from this journal.*

**Day 1 – God is with Us.** The 40 day vigil begins with a bang. In speaking with a colleague with whom I have paired up to accompany a pregnant woman struggling with the decision of keeping her unborn child, I learned that the woman has decided to say yes to life, cancelling her appointment with the abortionist set for the next day! Praise God!

**Day 8 – A Humble and Contrite Soul.** The vigil touches people in unimaginable ways. In early afternoon I'm approached by a young woman with tears streaming from beneath her sunglasses. She tells me about the multiple abortions she has had. She then apologizes for having been judgmental against those of us in the pro-life movement taking aim at helping pregnant women in a crisis pregnancy. Finally, she then goes on to say how she has returned to the faith and has begun to give back to the community. Sadly, abortionists have a huge **conflict of interest**, as this is how they make millions of dollars, on the backs of naïve pregnant women.

**Day 10 - A Light in Darkness.** A *Le Devoir* Letter to Editor is critical of the vigil, focusing on my person and the signs I wear, front and back, one with our toll-free number and the other pictures of an infants, born and unborn. The article is an act of public shaming. Yet, does not a beatitude say: "Blessed are You when we are shamed for His sake."

**LaSalle, Laval, and Pointe-Claire** – What do these three municipalities have in common? Each, this very day, has a prayer evening for the unborn life scheduled. I went to the Laval one which has been active for several years now, meeting on the first Friday of each month. As longstanding as the latter, the gathering in PC meets twice weekly before Our Lord in an adoration chapel. Joining these two is the LaSalle faithful who held its first gathering this same night, being coordinated by two women supportive of the 40 Day's for Life ministry for several years now. (Feedback received subsequent to the evening, I learned that the organizers had more people than anticipated.) Three groups are few, yet important to bear light for the unjustly treated.

**Day 13 - The Holy Woman of Montreal.** Thanksgiving Day rain from the outset to closing, and for the most part pretty steady. The temps were pretty high, averaging about 20C.

I was blessed to have a steady stream of women accompany me this day. Myriam was the first, and as she was leaving Teresa arrived, having travelled from the West Island. No sooner had we started a rosary that Johanna-Teresa came and the three of us preceded together. The latter of the two ladies stayed until 2 pm and for the next hour I was alone. At 3 pm, Johanne unexpectedly arrived and we were so joined by Stella. Another period of silence followed before Carole arrived and together we closed the day, enjoying mass together afterwards.

*The prayer vigil runs through to Sunday, November 5. Join us, either by your physical presence or in prayer, alone or with your faith community. Details : (438) 930-8643.*

## LIFE CHAIN



On a sky blue, warm Sunday afternoon, upward of 25 persons attended the Quebec Life Coalition-organized Life Chain.

The Life Chain is a peaceful silent one-hour vigil done at a busy intersection where participants promote the pro-life message by holding signs respectful of unborn life.

On this day, Montrealers and persons from points beyond gathered on Decarie Boulevard, at the corner of Jean Talon Street West.

The Life Chain held annually and simultaneously across Canada and the United States on the first Sunday in October, marked its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.



According to Campaign Life Coalition, there were 200 Life Chains in Canada.

In Quebec City close to 60 participants came out while in Ottawa, on Montreal Rd., 40 could be seen.

For the duration of the hour, the traffic on Decarie Blvd was dense. The three lanes were constantly filled and sometimes overflowing into a fourth lane.

The response by the passing motorists was favourable. Many giving thumbs up, others honking approval while smiling.



Vigil participants felt buoyed by the event. One person suggested repeating the event monthly and at this, many voiced approval. Details will be forthcoming and most likely once the 40 Days for Life prayer vigil ends in early November.

Afterwards, many gathered at a local eatery to conclude the afternoon.

## COMMENTARY

The abortion industry won't talk about one thing — abortion. They avoid the gruesome reality of abortion through vague phrases and rhetoric like choice, privacy and reproductive health.

If you spend any time at a vigil outside an abortion center, you know that the woman seeking abortion isn't living in a vague world.

One campaign tells of a grateful woman who stopped by to thank vigil participants for standing in prayer.

When she was 13 and pregnant, her mother tried to force her to have an abortion. The pressure was so strong that she ran away from home ... and fortunately found help at a home for pregnant, homeless women. Her story had a happy ending – through the grace of God.

Not all women are so fortunate. And that is why we stand and pray.

Shawn Carney  
President  
40 Days for Life



## CQV Conference:

### Preparing Quebec for the Forthcoming Elections

In both 2018 and 2019, Quebecers will be heading to the polls, as provincial and federal elections are due.

On **Saturday, November 4, 2017**, you are invited to attend the annual QLC conference (French) as three guests along our President Mr. Georges Buscemi will meet in downtown Montreal to present their views on how best to prepare for these two elections.

The day-long meeting will be at the Hotel Europe, on Drummond Street, registration at 9:30 a.m. The fee is \$25, \$15 for students. For further details contact the office at (514) 344-2686, 1-855-996-2686 or visit [www.cqv.qc.ca/colloque](http://www.cqv.qc.ca/colloque).

*Culture of Life* is published by  
Quebec Life Coalition  
C.P. 55053 Comptoir postal Maisonneuve  
Montréal QC H1W 0A1

Email: [info@cqv.qc.ca](mailto:info@cqv.qc.ca)  
Internet: [www.cqv.qc.ca](http://www.cqv.qc.ca)  
Toll Free: 1-855-996-2686  
Local: (514) 344-2686 Cell: 438-930-8643

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