



CULTURE OF LIFE

Easter 2020
Quebec Life
Coalition

Building a Christian society that defends faith, family, and the human person, from conception to natural death

40 DAYS FOR LIFE® THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION.

Vigil Survives Virus

This past Sunday, April 5, 2020, we completed our 23rd prayer vigil for the end of abortion.

Over a forty-day period, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020, over 100 people came to pray at the vigil location on Ste-Catherine Street, resulting in over 450 visits.

This public outreach went on daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., good weather, bad weather.

As with the previous outdoor vigils, this one did not lack challenges. Yet unique to this edition of promoting a culture of life in the streets of Montreal was something of global significance - the Coronavirus pandemic – aka COVID-19.

The start and spread of the virus impacted all global citizens and events, including the 507 prayer vigils occurring simultaneously in the world, including our humble one here in Montreal. The following notes key moments of the Montreal vigil in the light of the virus:

- Day 16: For fear of spreading the virus, masses province-wide are cancelled indefinitely.

- Day 18: 507 vigils worldwide, vigil U.S. headquarters issues warning to participants to be cautious.
- Day 22: N-D-de-Lourdes chapel closes and remains closed for the remainder of the vigil.
- Day 26: Vigil headquarters suspends vigil worldwide; Montreal vigil continues as the 2 local abortion facilities continue to operate.
- Day 28: Civil government issues decree permitting only essential services to operate; the streets of Montreal thin noticeably of both vehicles and pedestrians; abortion facilities are open as these are considered essential services; Montreal prayer volunteers continue vigil.

A silver lining in the cloud

We received a trifold blessing on account of the virus. With fewer people on the streets, those going for an abortion were more noticeable, permitting us to identify them and share our pro-life message. Also, the two local clinics implemented a policy in which those accompanying the woman needed to leave the premises; such permitted us another opportunity to share our message. Finally, to the exiting post abortive women we were able to offer some healing compassion.

The next vigil is set to run from Wednesday, Sept. 23, to Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020.

Laura's Story – Part I

I am Laura. I had an abortion.

It's been thirteen years since that day and I still remember it as if it had happened yesterday.

Mexico, 2006. I was in a very bad relationship. I am sure he has changed by now, but back then he was just a young, immature, foolish guy who thought that his girlfriend should be blond, tall, with blue eyes and skinny (just to let the reader know: I am none of those things). He also thought that success was all about showing off this kind of woman to his friends. (It goes without saying, he was not considered successful at all.). He was a bad student and a heavy drinker so you can imagine the kind of fights we used to get into. There were six toxic months with lots of crying and bad self esteem (all on my side).

I was 21 years old. I was a virgin, naive, curious about what sex would be like and quite smitten with this guy. I honestly regret to say that my first time was with him. We had unprotected sex and 2 weeks later, I found out I was pregnant (yes, I was as foolish as he was). A million emotions flooded me; I was terrified. But I also remember thinking that I would love to have a baby. When I told him, he said to get rid of it; that we were too young, both in the middle of our undergraduate studies and that he would pay for *some* of it.

I don't remember what his reaction made me feel but the crying became worse; I felt utterly alone, and I didn't know where or who to turn to. He would be out drinking with his friends and I would be at home with the *get rid of it* lingering in my head.

Abortion was illegal back then in Mexico. But a friend heard from a friend about this doctor that performed abortions "discretely" and it was very safe. I didn't dare go there by myself, so I asked my best friend to come with me. I remember distinctly the huge fish tank inside the doctor's office which, in a way, distracted me from the anxiety I was feeling. I talked to him for a brief time. (I think he even tried to comfort me by saying condescendingly that I wouldn't be going to hell.) He did an ultrasound and said he had to wait four more weeks for the "product" to grow. He explained that he would be vacuuming my uterus and at that time "it" was too small, and there was a risk of leaving "stuff" inside that could cause a serious infection.

We scheduled the appointment in four weeks. When we were leaving, I was standing at the door and in the corner of my eye, I saw my friend paying for the consultation. I felt so ashamed for putting her through that.

The following four weeks felt like an eternity. My boyfriend stopped answering my calls. The abortion was expensive, and I didn't have any money. I started borrowing money from my friends, but they all refused to give me any. One of them asked me to consider adoption. "Give that baby a chance to live", she said. I still have those words tattooed deep in my mind.

Every day I felt more and more ashamed of what I was doing, but I never stopped. And up to this day, I don't know why.

(Laura's story will be continued in next month's edition of Culture of Life newsletter.)

Easter Reflection

COVID-19 Reflection Overcoming Fear

“Courage: in all circumstances the ability to judge rightly about the nature and extent of dangers.”

“For instance, when Homer makes Odysseus strike himself on the chest, and ‘call his heart to order,’ saying: ‘Prudence my heart, you have put up with fouler than this.’” Plato, Republic

Fear is an essential human emotion, so it surely must have its proper place. Yet there are different kinds of fear, or ways of fearing, and it is hard to know how to fear well. It is especially difficult to think clearly about this when much of the fear that we experience probably needs to be set aside, or in any case transformed or redirected.

How do we recognize the difference between good fear and bad fear? This is a great question. The first step is to know that there is a difference. Often, the admonition we need to hear is “Do not be afraid.” But this is difficult, because we know intuitively that some fear is appropriate, and so we are challenged to discern which fear needs to be set aside and which doesn’t.

The current corona virus situation causes much fear in us. We realize that so much more could go wrong, and so many more people might be hurt, in various ways. Simply to say “there is nothing to fear” would be wrongheaded, even dangerous.

I love Plato’s approach to courage as the virtue that moderates and transforms fear. Courage consists, at least in part, in “the ability to judge rightly about the nature and extent of dangers.” This bears much considerations. Clearly, Plato does not mean that the courageous man is the one who can figure out all the facts of just how dangerous a particular situation is – though the courageous man will indeed make a reasonable effort to know what he needs to know.

Plato’s point takes us to a higher, more significant vantage. The courageous man has learned to judge different kinds of danger in their relative importance. He has learned to fear what is most truly to be feared, and not to fear – at least not so much – things that are intrinsically less dangerous in the big picture.

Courage is always rooted in insight into the hierarchy of goods. It is rooted in wisdom, which grasps the primacy of *living well* over such goods as health, safety, and profit. The latter are not ignored. Rather they are seen and treated according to their own limited value.

Plato quotes a gorgeous line from the Odyssey. Odysseus strikes his chest and says, “Prudence my heart, you have put up with fouler than this.” Implied is that the courageous man can judge just how foul things are or not, seeing all in the perspective of just how great certain things are.

The courageous man might fear the loss of lesser things, but that fear is transformed and given context by a richer, life-affirming fear of the loss of what is most important. And so he heeds the admonition “be not afraid” as especially applying to lesser though very real dangers and evils. He is steadfast in his commitment to higher goods, and in his confidence that they can still be achieved – even if he suffers terrible loss of lesser goods.

Courage is a cardinal virtue: it is one hinge on which swings the good life itself. It is a precious jewel sought in a life-long project. And it is cultivated precisely in the context of real dangers – lesser and greater ones – such as we face today. The courageous man learns to ‘overcome’ his fear of lesser but real dangers, while acting with conviction and confidence in the travails of life. Let us then encourage one another. We can learn that in a very real sense, we have nothing to fear – if we see things as they truly are.

(Text taken from <https://life-craft.org/overcoming-fear/>)

Pornography Protest

This past Sunday, March 8, 2020, the Quebec Life Coalition participated in a demonstration outside the offices of an international pornography giant.



QLC President Mr. Georges Buscemi was among three dozen people who gathered for a two-hour vigil outside MindGeek, located near the Namur Metro station on Décarie Blvd.

MindGeek is the parent company of Pornhub, which has hosted videos of child sexual abuse.

A recent story shows that Pornhub, the world's most popular pornography site, has hosted 58 videos of a 15-year-old sex trafficking victim being raped.

Laila Michelwait (shown above), of the California-based pornography abolition organization Exodus Cry, broke the story in February along with evidence that Pornhub subsequently admitted it had "verified" the girl as a "model with valid 18+ ID."

News has now resurfaced that the girl, who was missing for more than a year before her mother identified her in online pornographic photographs, was forced to have an abortion by her male abductor.

A petition has been started, calling for Pornhub to be shut down, and as of April 8, 2020, has been signed by over 56,000 people. The petition may be read and signed by googling "petition, Pornhub Lifesitenews."

Pornhub has 42 billion visits annually, 115 million visits per day: and 39 billion searches performed by site users.

(Photo and content drawn from a LifeSiteNews Tuesday, March 10, 2020, story entitled "Shut it down!": protesters rally against Pornhub in wake of illegal child rape vids" written by Lianne Laurence.)

Pregnancy Updates

I wish to ask your prayers for one of the mothers we are currently helping. While undergoing an ultrasound, she learned that her child's heart had stopped beating.

May the Paschal Lamb spread His healing balm on mother, family, and friends, so that joy of His victory over death bring comfort.

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