

Specialists' prediction fails to pan out



In 2016, Maryse and Magella Pelletier, already parents of five children, were confronted with a dilemma. Not only was their unborn child's development going abnormally wrong but also medical personnel were repeatedly suggesting that they have an abortion. At the end of a closely monitored pregnancy, because of the relatively small size of her baby and the lack of amniotic fluid, Ms. Pelletier gave birth to a 2 lb 12 oz baby girl who, despite her small size, has since grown normally.

The first alarms were raised when, during an ultrasound session, a specialist told her that not only was there very little amniotic fluid, but that the baby was small for his age. In Mrs. Pelletier own words (though translated from French into English):

In June 2016 I was 20 weeks pregnant, at which point I had an ultrasound. Great shock! On the ultrasound, we only saw bumps and there was hardly any amniotic fluid, seen is an undersized child for his age and it was difficult to perceive that it was a baby. Immediately the doctor who was doing the ultrasound said to me, in a somewhat

arrogant tone: "I can't see well, I only see a bunch of bumps and there is no way to tell you what this is exactly, but very possibly spina bifida and trisomy, we need to set up an appointment, ...this afternoon".

I left the hospital in tears and went to tell my husband who could not be present, I told him what is going on.

Back at the hospital with her husband, Mrs. Pelletier was given all kinds of reasons by the doctors to not "keep" the baby, as if to imply that she and not God has control over the continuity of the pregnancy. The doctors simply suggest abortion - which the Pelletiers refused. Returning to Mrs. Pelletier's won words:

Then we went back to the hospital center, where we met three or four specialists as well as the ultrasound doctor, each telling us in a different way that we are going to have to make a (serious) decision – (involving) a disabled child, one requiring many visits to Ste-Justine's hospital, the child will be disadvantaged, etc., consider the travelling costs, etc., the fatigue that you are going to have, your other children you have to care for, (etc.) – I don't remember everything they told us...

My husband and I looked at each other and we both said: abortion is not an option for us, we don't want to kill our child; we'll keep it as it will be.

The specialists answered us: well then, we are sending you to the CHUS (Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Sainte-Justice in Montreal), the most specialized hospital in the region, you have an appointment in three days. We left the hospital very sad but determined to let God decide.

Pregnant? Worried?...Testimonial

In this uncertain situation, the Pelletiers turned to God, through the intercession of Saint Gérard Majella:

One day before our appointment, as a family (dad, mom, the five eldest and baby, no.6, in the womb) we drove to the little shrine of Saint Gérard Majella in Weedon, (Quebec) there we prayed to Saint Gérard to help us in this trial and we asked God to help us and that His will be done.

On the day of the appointment, the couple went to the hospital. There, again, the doctors tried to convince them to go through with an abortion - the family's response was clear, there was no question of killing the baby:

We went to the CHUS the next day, and there, a dozen specialists were waiting for us, once again each one trying to convince us (to abort the child). We told them clearly that we would not kill this child and that God would help us. Then we were taken to another room to redo an ultrasound ...

Brought for another ultrasound and surprise! Mrs. Pelletier was told that the baby is clearly visible this time around although it is small; the umbilical cord was not sufficiently nourishing the child.

The doctors then suggested drawing some amniotic fluid to see whether the baby has any abnormalities, which Ms. Pelletier outrightly refused, because not only because she has so little fluid to spare but also such a method carries the risk of a spontaneous abortion:

Big surprise! No more bumps. (I'm told:) the baby is very visible even though he is still very small for his

and (there is) still ... not have much amniotic fluid; the baby is malnourished by the umbilical cord which is not doing its job well, (you) ... will surely have a mentally disabled child or it will die at birth, there is nothing for sure, the only way to find out would be to take amniotic fluid" which is a high risk to inducing childbirth and even to kill the baby as there is already not much fluid, so I refused.

Ms. Pelletier is closely monitored for the remainder of her pregnancy.

Over time, the baby's development appeared to be diminishing more and more. Her doctor decided to induce delivery at the 32nd week. Although underweight, the newborn, a little girl, did not present any abnormalities:

From this point, I am followed closely throughout the pregnancy, I have frequent appointments at which time the baby's condition is checked, there are ups and downs all along, towards the end of July I am hospitalized, the baby is seen to grow less and less, the umbilical cord is working less and less. And on September 9, I'm 32 weeks pregnant, the doctor decides to induce labor, (and) after almost 24 hours of labor, baby arrives, it's a little girl, she cries and breathes, she weighs in at 2 lbs 12 oz, she is tiny, the staff brings her to the neonatology ward, she is given a lot of tests, all is well, she has absolutely nothing wrong with her.

A striking incident for Mrs. Pelletier occurring during her hospitalization (after the birth of her daughter) was the surprise visit of one of the physicians who had originally suggested that mother abort her daughter:

The little girl, named Lilyrose, has below average

Testimony

A few days later, one of the specialists present at the start of the pregnancy took my daughter in his arms, looked at her then turned his gaze to me and says, shaking his head "no"; and "if we had (aborted her), and if we had (aborted her) ..."

We remained about two months (at the hospital) and then we went out, she only weighed 4 lbs at that time.

The little girl, named Lilyrose, has a below average stature for a five-year-old, but mother says that she is doing wonderfully. Every time Mother sees her daughter, she can't help but thank God for granting her the grace to do His will:



Lilyrose (our little miracle girl) will soon be five years old, she is still very small, in height and size she does not look her age, but she is in great shape, she is very intelligent, has the same mental and motor development as the children of her age.

Almost every day when I look at her, I thank God for giving me the grace to do his will.

(Blog written by Augustin Hamilton, translated by Brian Jenkins. Photos provided by Lilyrose's parents Maryse and Magella Pelletier.)

Upcoming Event

The Pilgrimage of Life

The 5th edition pilgrimage undertakes a new course, covering the streets of the southwest sector of Montreal – i.e., the communities of LaSalle and Lachine.

Previous walks were in the downtown core where more abortion facilities are located. Another travelled across the island, beginning on the south shore, stopping in Montreal, before concluding in Laval.

This pilgrimage begins and ends at two sanctuaries – Saint John Brébeuf will be the eastern and starting point of the walk and Saint John Paul II the western most point on this morning activity.

In between three abortion facilities will be stopped at, and prayers of reparation done. These three are the LaSalle Hospital, a Gynecology Centre on Dollar avenue, and St. Joseph Hospital in Lachine.

Two special guests will bless this pilgrimage. Both ladies worked as nurses at two of these three mills and will give a tetimony of their involvement.

Pack a water bottle; food and washrooms are available along the way. For further information, to register, contact the office at: (514) 344-2686.

PILGRIMAGE FOR LIFE

8:00 a.m. to noon

Saturday, September 11, 2021

Meet: Saint Jean-Brébeuf church

7777 George Street, LaSalle

8 km walking pilgrimage, stopping at 2 churches and 3 abortion centres

Bring a water bottle; rsvp (514) 344-2686

Upcoming Events
Corn-on-the-Cob



Join us for a leisurely afternoon of fine food and fellowship.

Fresh Quebec corn will be served along with side dishes of salads and finger sandwiches. Also, persons with a sweet tooth will not be disappointed.

Keeping with tradition, a guest speaker, Fr. Joseph-Réal Bleau, will provide an edifying discourse about matters of life and the family beginning at 1 p.m.

New this year is a second speaker. Mrs. Gaetane Breton, a specialist on colonial Quebec will give a talk on the topic “The King’s Daughters” (aka, “Les Filles du Roy”), brave young women who, under king Louis XIV, came to the colony to marry, establish homes, and start families.

The corn will be served at noon and the clean-up begins at 3pm.

CORN-ON-THE-COB

Sunday, August 15, 2021

St-Émile church

3330 Rivier Street, corner Sherbrooke St. E.

Parking on site

near Joliette metro station

Cost: \$10; rsvp (514) 344-2686



40 Days for Life – Sherbrooke. Prayer vigil for the end of abortion. From September 22, 2021, to Sunday, October 31, 2021. This traditional Culture of Life fall event is changing venues. The familiar Montreal event resettles in the community of Sherbrooke, a first. For details call (514) 344-2686 or visit <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/>

Life Chain coming Sunday, October 3, 2021. Details to come.

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