



OCTOBER 2021
Quebec Life
Coalition
Monthly newsletter

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

Special Edition SHERBROOKE VIGIL UNDERWAY

From Wednesday, September 22 to Sunday, October 31, 2021, the largest 40 DAYS FOR LIFE prayer vigil for the end of abortion is underway.



In total 612 locations worldwide are hosting a 40-day prayer vigil.

In Quebec, we at the Quebec Life Coalition are introducing one to Sherbrooke, Quebec, a first!

Fifteen other vigils are occurring simultaneously across Canada - from Vancouver on the west coast to Halifax on the east; the others being in Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario.

Daily updates of the worldwide vigil are available by visiting the “40 Days for Life” website – www.40daysforlife.com.

Since its inception in 2007, prayer vigils have accumulated some impressive figures:

- Close 20,000 lives have been saved
- 114 abortion facilities have closed
- 222 abortion facilities workers have quit

The Vigil's Three Components

Prayer and Fasting – Available to persons of all ages, whether alone or in community with others, at home or in churches.

Public Outreach – Door knocking, responding on online social media, bringing up the topic with friends and strangers, or leaving notes in public locations about the sanctity of life are all ways that promote the culture of life.

Peaceful and Public Vigil – The public witness to the tragedy of abortion is also witnessing to the compassion of God and to be in solidarity with those in distress – the women who are about to abort and the child who is about to die.

The vigil is also an important public witness to the countless passers-by about the tragedy of abortion. These may realize, some for the first time, that an abortion facility is in their community and they be exposed for the first time to the problem which frequently is ignored by the media.

This peaceful, prayerful presence at the vigil is underscored to every participant who wishes to become a prayer volunteer, each volunteer requiring to sign a **Statement of Peace**.

40 Days for Life draws on all persons particularly Christians of all denominations to defend the unborn child and their mothers.

Pregnant ? Need Help ? Call Toll-Free 1-855-871-4442

The Facility



Sherbrooke is home to two abortion facilities.

A provincial governmental website indicates that abortions may be performed in Sherbrooke at either of two facilities; the university hospital, Fleurimont Campus or in the downtown *Clinique de planning, de santé sexuelle, et planification familiale*.

It is outside the latter that this autumn's prayer vigil for the end of abortion is being conducted – pictured above.

The facility is integrated within the walls of the local community health care facility, often known as a CLSC – *Centre local de services communautaires*.

The whole is a newly renovated centre. Locals citizens remember the site as once harbouring a grocery store.

In January, 2019, with renovations having been completed, a ribbon cutting event occurred. By the end of the month, the abortion services were transferred from its former facilities on North 13th Avenue, Sherbrooke to the new site.

Persons familiar with Sherbrooke estimate about 3000 abortions are performed yearly in this Eastern Township community.

Further, one woman mentioned that at the time of her own delivery, a woman in a cubicle next to her was undergoing a saline solution abortion.

Abortion Method Salt Poisoning (Saline Injection)

This method is used after 16 weeks (four months) when enough amniotic fluid has accumulated. A long needle injects a strong salt solution through the mother's abdomen into the baby's sac. The baby swallows this fluid and is poisoned by it. It also acts as a corrosive, burning off the outer layer of skin. It normally takes a little over an hour for the baby to die from this. Within 24 hours, labor will usually set in and the mother will give birth to a dead or dying baby. (There have been many cases of these babies being born alive, which are then usually left unattended to die. However, a few have survived and later been adopted.)

- source: LifeSiteNews

Our presence, through the onus of our pregnancy resource service *Enceinte et inquiète*, will permit the local population to learn that alternatives to abortion is available and that help is readily available.



The Abortionists

The *Clinique de planning, de santé sexuelle, et planification familiale* website indicates three physicians carrying the load of the work including abortions and the dispensing of contraceptives - Dr. R., Dr. C., and Dr. G.

These need of our prayers.

Over the years our prayers have touched the hearts of many abortionists, converting them to become respecters of life.

Perhaps among these none had been as the once infamous as Dr. Bernard Nathanson.

Wikipedia introduces him as follows:

Bernard N. Nathanson (July 31, 1926 – February 21, 2011) was an American medical doctor and co-founder, in 1969, of the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws (NARAL), later renamed National Abortion rights Action league. He was also the former director of New York City's Center for Reproductive and Sexual Health, but later became an anti-abortion activist. He was the narrator for the controversial 1984 anti-abortion film *The Silent Scream*.

Further Dr. Nathanson debated Dr. Henry Morgentaler, the driving force behind the decriminalizing of abortion in Canada. During this encounter Dr. Morgentaler shared a personal and poignant point.

“I’ll make a confession to you,” Morgentaler tells Nathanson on CHCH TV’s program *Cherington*. “My wife got pregnant while I was a medical student and we decided that she should have an abortion...we regretted that.” Cherington then asks, “Are you really saying that there’s a lot of sorrow attached to this business?” Morgentaler surprisingly responds, “Of course. Absolutely.” (source: Alissa Golob, “Henry Morgentaler and Bernard Nathanson represent two radically divergent reactions to abortion regret.” LifeSiteNews.)

Dr. Nathanson then enters the discussion;

“Why did you regret that?” Nathanson asks to an unsuspecting Morgentaler. “Many women do regret the fact that unfortunately, the context of the situation is such that at this point in time, we cannot provide mothering and care which a child needs,” Morgentaler responds.

A more converted abortionist is Dr. Anthony Levantino.

Anthony Levantino is a pro-life obstetrician/gynecologist. ... At the time of his graduation from medical school, he was adamantly pro-choice and later performed over one thousand abortions. However, after his daughter was struck and killed by a car in 1984, he changed his views on abortion. He is well known for his interviews on abortion, as well as his testimony to congress on abortion procedures.

He has produced several videos demystifying the abortion methods.

Action: Dr. R., Dr. C., and Dr. G need our prayers.

Sherbrooke Vigil

At writing of this newsletter, six days have been completed at the fall vigil. Here are some highlights.

Day 6 – My silent prayer is interrupted by Krystèle. We begin an exchange. She shares a bit about her life. 32 years old, mother of two both of which under the care of the youth protection services. A third child was aborted. Despite a business certificate she works as an escort and asks me whether I would know anybody who could use her services. I show her a Miraculous Medal and describe it to her. She accepts it and moves on.

The same day, on returning from a break, I notice prayer volunteers Sandra and her mom speaking with a middle-age bearded man. Patrice is an adamant atheist occasionally citing Christopher Hitchens. He engages the three of us in a pleasant conversation on matters religious and philosophical. He has a penchant for the Jewish tradition though he brings up Buddhism, Taoism, and Hinduism frequently. The ladies and I return frequently to our touch stone which is Jesus Christ. This emphasis of ours on the person of Christ and our desire, however faulty, to follow him and not some monolithic religion, as he puts it, visibly touches him.

Day 3 – Busy day for prayer volunteer Jean-Luc. He courageously engages not one, not two, but three persons in conversations, defending the sanctify of life passionately in each. First a young woman, then a young man, and then a motorist who elected to stop and meet us.

On day 6 he calls me early in the morning with the news that he will no longer be coming to the vigil. He spoke with his son over the weekend who adamantly opposes his participation in the public witness of the vigil. Yet he is resolute to spread the pro-life message.

Day 1 – Day of contrasts. On arrival at the vigil location for the first time, I am greeted by several police officers. These are all very cordial and the brief exchanges go well. Simultaneously I notice a gathering of young adults. These shadow me from afar as I saunter about to size the vigil location to determine the optimal prayer spot. Over the course of day, the young replace one another, having organised their own vigil – a vigil of the vigilers perhaps. We frequently cross paths and exchanges are not uncommon. One woman shares about her abortion experience ten years past. She is visibly upset and shows great restraint.

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