



Defending the Human Person, From Conception to Natural Death

Open Letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau:

Millions for contraception and abortion?



Sign on display at the March for life in Washington (AFP J de Montreal, 28 January, 2017, p.38)

Background: *This past March 8, 2017, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that Canada will spend \$650 million in the next three years to increase access to abortion in developing countries. Canadian Press reports that the monies are earmarked for sex education, increasing access to abortion, and contraception.*

QLC supporter Solange Viau has written the following open letter to the Prime minister expressing her dismay

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau,

The specificity of woman is her ability to bear and give life. How sad to hear you celebrate (International) Women's Day by promoting contraception and abortion! I wonder why you're always dealing with these issues from the same point of view. You never talk about "collateral damage" to the promotion of contraception and abortion. Birth control has resulted in Canada being unable to renew its population on its own. We have become a people (continued on page 4.)

Highlights of Vigil for the End of Abortion

Vigil for Life

At printing time, we have entered the final week of the 40-day prayer vigil for the end of abortion.

Begun this past Ash Wednesday (March 1, 2017), and continuing through to Sunday, April 9, 2017, an intrepid crew braved difficult weather and social conditions so as to be a presence and voice for the voiceless, the unborn child.

The following are a few highlights of the first 32 days.

WEATHER – The weather, as in any vigil, has been a formidable challenge. The heavy rains of the first day were followed by glacial winds and sub-zero temperatures the very next. Snow falls have not been uncommon over the course of the six-week vigil including a two-day snowstorm about mid-way through, disrupting life for all Montrealers for close to a week. Finally, at both vigil locations – Lahaie Park and the corner of St-Catherine and Berri Streets, prayer warriors needed to be well protected against a steady wind.

PARTICIPANTS – Those coming to the vigil sites have been a deep blessing to me, some travelled fair distances to attend. On the first day, Eva came from the west island to recite a rosary with me, while earlier that same day Betty and five others packed into a van and drove from Laval to spend an hour of prayer at the Berri street location. Alejandra made several trips from her home in Anjou and Peter bused in from Granby on a couple of occasions.

A great support were the regular attendees. Solange came weekly from her home in LaSalle while her prayer partner Pierre from Laval to meet her at the

downtown site. Patrick was a steady presence Friday mornings. Special thanks go to two stalwarts, Charlotte and Ghyslain, who were present almost daily, spending several hours at a time, if not the entire day!

Groups – The vigil attracted several faith-based groups. Mentioned above was Betty and members of the Agape association. The Saturday morning men's prayer group from Holy Name of Jesus church, including their pastor Fr. Joy, came one Saturday morning. Finally, the Eucharist for Life prayer group spent a couple of hours on the first Sunday of

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April to pray, chant songs, and visit.

OUTREACH – Our primary goal is to beseech Our Lord to change hearts around the issue of abortion by praying and fasting; doing so near an abortion mill is paramount.

An ancillary goal, rich in blessing, is public outreach.

At the downtown location, where there are five abortion facilities in walking distance and laws prevent us from getting up close to these, as we vigil, we can easily interact with pedestrians and a good number of exchanges over the course of the vigil have come about over the past weeks.

Affirmations – In a culture that promotes abortion and euthanasia, it is a joy to receive greetings and smiles of support as passers-by. The support varied from a few kind words, a pat on the shoulder, and even a daily blessing from a Catholic priest who commutes by our location.

Opposition – On the other hand, over the course of the vigil, persons, singly or in groups, have expressed their discontent with our presence, expressing their dismay as they continued along their business and not allowing for interactions.

On the other hand some did stop to exchange though many a time, their arguments are familiar to anyone who has ever spent time at a vigil:

- Women have a choice over what to do with their bodies;
- Men have no right to an opinion on the matter that solely concerns women.

- If a child is condemned to a life of poverty is not best that never had been born?
- If a child has a congenital disorder, then it is best to abort rather than have the child condemned to a life of misery?
- If a child is conceived in rape, should a mother be condemned to remember her assailant whenever she sees her child?

Then there were the more irrational arguments. More times I can count I was asked to leave as I was unwelcomed, ignoring my right to freely expressed publicly myself.

Stolen Signs – Unlike previous vigils our signs were the target of vandals on multiple occasions. At press time, seven have been stolen. Typically the signs were unattended and easy pickings for the thief. In one case, a pray'er was holding a sign when it was snatched from her hands.

The sole act of mischief in Lahaie Park was done by a man and woman assaulting the site by tearing down and dragging the banner several yards before leaving with three signs, including the one promoting the toll free assistance phone line.

Noteworthy is that of the seven stolen, five contained the image of the 22-week old unborn child displayed prominently upon it. Fortunately two benefactors have stepped to pay for the replacing of the seven.

All these acts are taken in the spirit of our faith where we expect to be prosecuted as we heed Our Lord's command to be a light in the darkness for the upright.

The next vigil is scheduled for October 2017.

(continued from page 1.) dependent on all other nations for our survival. We should not export this model of underdevelopment.

I have a friend in a Montreal CHSLD. Last summer, I sometimes thought I was in Africa as so many workers from this continent were there caring for our elderly. If all women in the world used contraception and aborted as Canadian women do, the world population would decline and there would be no pool of immigrants available to help us. The result would be the total underdevelopment and global extinction of mankind. *"Do not kill the beauty of the world. Every tree, every flower that we kill, returns to kill us in turn,"* as Mr. Luc Plamondon has justly written.

Another important aspect of the problem that you did not mention in your speech is that contraception and abortion are more likely to serve the interests of men than women. Indeed, while many women use contraception and abortion, it is often because of pressure from their partners who do not want children. In Canada, many women in their forties are childless because they have spent time with for many years with men who were never ready to assume paternity. And sometimes, in a final sprint, with a new partner, they are subjected to the painful process of assisted procreation. Contraception and abortion do not necessarily serve women.

Also, your approach to the problem of abortion shows that you do not feel any empathy for the unborn child. You ignore them; it's as if they were "virtual beings." Yet it is they who undergo the pain of abortion in their bodies. All aborted children die after being tortured (dismembered children alive, poisoned, etc.). No one would want to die aborted. To die aborted is quite the opposite of "dying with dignity." They do not want to die. They want to be born and grow. They are at the

beginning of their lives. But unfortunately for them, their cries of distress remain silent and no one takes up their defense. You and your acolytes hide all these horrors under the expression "reproductive rights". Reproductive right means, the right to reproduce, not the right to kill offspring. The use of this expression to promote the right to abortion demonstrates a great hypocrisy which aims to lull consciences. Mr. Trudeau, you said: "To be against abortion is to deny women their future" (La Presse, March 8, 2017). Remember the following quote when you celebrate the next Women's Day. : "Abortion stops one heart and breaks another," sometimes forever. – Solange Viau

Pregrancy Centre Update

Since its inauguration this past October 22, 2016, the *Centre Saint Enfant Jesus* (CSEJ) pregnancy centre has not been inactive.

Recently we have begun renovations into a second section. That is, in addition to the three-bedroom and living space completed in 2016, four workers, two volunteers and two paid, renovated a second kitchen area and are currently sprucing up another bathroom. The latter involves retiling the floor and walls, applying a membrane inside the shower and resurfacing the bath tub. These last two will prevent water from seeping via cracks in the shower wall into the bathroom located a floor below.

The CSEJ was originally conceived in the summer of 2015 when over a ten-day period, our distress phone line received no fewer than six calls from pregnant women who were being forced to abort their child – three from the father of the child, two from parents, and the other from her employer.

In consultation with the pastor of the Saint Enfant Jesus du Mile-End church, Fr. Pierre Desroches, space was offered on an abandoned rectory third floor to permit pregnant women in distress to have a safe abode to rest and think through their predicament.