



QUEBEC LIFE COALITION

*Defending the human person,
from conception until natural death*

CoL
June
2015

Press Wades into Controversial Waters



Dear friends of Life,

I have been delightfully surprised at the coverage given by the popular press to the usually tabooed topic of abortion over the past little while.

For example, on consecutive days, the Montreal Gazette reproduced articles on issues related to the culture of death taken from the National Post.

First, on Friday, May 29, 2015, the headline read: "Abortion foes hope horrifying flyers derail Trudeau's PM bid." Columnist Victor Ferreira covered how two anti-abortion groups are informing Canadians how Justin Trudeau is promoting abortion. The "#No2Trudeau" campaign, organized by **Campaign Life Coalition Youth** and the **Canadian Centre for**

Bio-Ethical Reform, targets the Liberal Party of Canada leader for his unilateral decision to forbid pro-life members becoming candidates in the next federal election. This is a flyer campaign aimed at distributing close to a million to Canadian homes, a campaign begun this past spring in Vancouver in March 2015 and arriving in Toronto this past May.

The following day the Gazette ran a story on the practice of abandoning prematurely born infants to die unattended after their birth rather than providing life-sustaining support. A premature baby is one born before 37 completed weeks of gestation (more than 3 weeks before the "due date.")

Carter Lake of London, On, is profiled. Born at 22-weeks, his mom Jennifer explained how she felt pressured by doctors and nurses, being “repeatedly urged (that) he be taken off life support.”

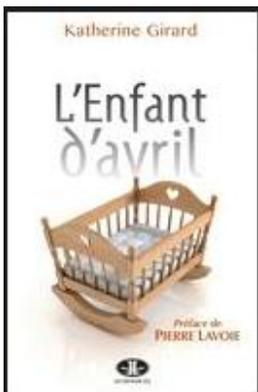
“They told me every absolute horror story in the book.” says Lake. “They told me that he wouldn’t survive, and if he did by some miracle survive, he would have no quality of life... and most likely be a burden on me.”



Jennifer Lake with her son Carter born at 22 weeks

But the young mother resisted their entreaties. Today, despite some disabilities, Carter is a happy six-year-old preparing to enter Grade 1. “He lights up my whole entire life,” she says. “It’s incredible.”

A third media story was the coverage given to the autobiographical account of Katherine Girard about aborting her 22-week old son.



In “L’enfant d’avril,” Ms. Girard relates the events of learning that her child had a congenital disorder, being confronted and pressured by our medical establishment to decide on whether to keep or abort him, and the psychological suffering following her decision, a suffering that propelled over a

five year period and led her to write her account.

Since the book’s release in May, 2015, Ms. Girard has been interviewed by many in the media. She was first brought to my attention when a friend related having seen the CEGEP literature teacher appear on the Denis Levesque show on the LCN television network. A second friend emailed me an article about Ms. Girard appearing in the Quebecor news service. Finally a third friend mentioned that she heard Ms. Girard in a radio interviewed.



Ms. Katherine Girard, author of “L’enfant d’avril,” an account of aborting her 22-week old son due to his congenital disorder.

Miss Girard elected chose to abort her son as her physicians had diagnosed him with a special renal illness - tyrosimonia, a condition similar to one her brother had, a situation which at the age of 17 led her to donate one of her two kidneys to help him.

In the Quebecor story, Ms. Girard described a health care system geared at coercing and aborting children with possible congenital illnesses. She related how within two days of learning of the condition of her child, she had to decide whether to abort or not. She felt additional pressure as she was besieged by a phalanx of health care professionals explaining to her about the dire consequences facing her child were she

to carry him to term. These depicted a rather somber portrait with little hope and poor quality of life. After these grim tidings came the suggestion of performing a therapeutic abortion.

Characteristic of many who undergo an abortion is denial, a trait picked up by the Quebecor writer. "After the abortion, we buried it deeply, my partner and I. Yet, it was so painful, so much so that we tried to bury it."

Also we learn that the denial was not confined to the couple. Family members avoided the topic "as if it had never happened."

The story ends with Ms. Girard sharing a personal reflection that many of us in the pro-life movement have often asked: "I wonder about this procedure. I am neither for nor against. But I wonder whether it is appropriate that therapeutic abortion is proposed so someone with a sick child."

SUMMER EVENTS



Let's Gather in the Name of Jesus !

Community event set for **Ahuntsic Park** (Henri-Bourassa Metro station) on **Saturday, June 20, 2015**, rain or shine. All are welcomed to join Montreal Archbishop Christian Lépine and other Christian leaders for a relaxing time in the park, from 10 am to 2 pm. Bring some food for a picnic; music will be provided as up to five choirs have been invited to entertain. This is a time for Christian men and women from various denominations to gather and share their common heritage and support for one another as followers of Jesus Christ. Ms. Brigitte Bédard will be the Mistress of ceremony. Additional information at: (514) 925-4300 ext. 265.

Summer Corn Roast



Our yearly open house is a regular crowd pleaser, not only for the fine foods and fellowship but also for the speakers that have come to edify us over the years. This year **Fr. Blais**, pastor at Saint-Ambrose parish, has accepted our invitation and he will not disappoint you as I recently witnessed at the cathedral. Asked to give an *ex tempora* talk on the feast of Corpus Christi, he gave an informative spiel on the history of Eucharistic procession, noting the key figures involved in this form of devotion and their contributions. The Corn Roast is scheduled for **Sunday, August 16, 2015**, beginning at noon.

CROSSROADS PRO-LIFE WALK



I learned that there will be no Canadian walk this year. The annual trek of college age adults from west to east across our country did not have enough registered and so organizers decided to focus on the three American walks as well as prepare for a Canadian trek in 2016.

The Quebec Life Coalition has welcomed the walkers for the previous four years as they travelled through Montreal on their journey. Finding host homes, organizing speaking engagements, planning BarBQs and picnics, and accompanying them in their prayers outside the Morgentaler facility have been some of the activities we have done with them

PRO-LIFE PRAYER EVENTS

English Groups

- **Saint John Fisher** (Pointe-Claire) parish hosts a "Rosary for the Unborn," Mondays and Fridays, at 7 p.m., lasting an hour in the adoration chapel, entry via the parking lot.
- **Saint Kevin Parish** (Cote-des-Neiges). A pro-life rosary is recited at the conclusion of the Saturday evening mass on the first Saturday of the month.
- **Mary Queen of Peace** church. Pro-life rosary is recited on the first Sunday of the month, before the 5 p.m. mass.
- **Saint John Brébeuf** church (LaSalle). A rosary for life is recited every Wednesday at 6:30 pm, mass follows at 7:30 pm.
- **Eucharist for Life**. Gathering of families who meet the first Sunday of each month to pray for priests and the unborn and share some recreational time. Information: (514) 481-6502. Next meeting is Sunday, June 14, 2015, from 2 pm to 4 pm at Loyola High School.

French Groups

- **Saint-Joseph's Oratory**, a rosary for life is recited on the second Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m. The location is the left transept, near the altar, in the basilica, not the crypt.
- **Saint-Enfant Jésus church**, 5055 Saint Dominique Street, An afternoon of prayer. Every Saturday, beginning at 1 p.m. adoration, rosary, and mass.
- **Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius** church, (3 blocks east of Iberville metro station, at 2nd avenue) the first Friday of each month rosary for life beginning at 6:45 pm. Tridentine mass follows afterwards at 7:30 pm.

- **Saint Sylvain church** in Laval hosts a pro-life evening of prayer every first Friday of the month - adoration, rosary, and mass. The evening ends with fellowship. It all begins at 7 pm.

PREGNANT? NEED HELP?
Call Toll Free – 1 (855) 871-4442



PRAYER REQUESTS

Over the past few weeks, we continue to receive calls from pregnant women. Particularly, please keep these two mothers in your prayers - a 12-week pregnant mom seeking financial support and a 7 ½ month pregnant woman who needs help with both lodging and financial support.

Yours for Life,

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