



CULTURE OF LIFE

Easter 2021
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 II

A year ago, I reported how the **40 Days for Life** prayer vigil for the end of abortion had continued and completed its run despite the arrival of the coronavirus and the associated sanitary measures.

The same heading may be used again this year.

The virus has not disappeared from the public discourse despite its subdue effects as reported by the Swiss Policy Research (SPR), “an independent, nonpartisan and nonprofit research group investigating geopolitical propaganda.”

The SPR compares its mortality rate to the 1918 “Spanish flu” virus. Whereas the latter paid to attention to age, the mortality profile of Covid-19 “is almost identical to natural mortality” - “essentially zero for children and young adults and near zero below 50, before it begins to rise slowly and then very steeply above 70 and essentially above 80, reaching extreme levels in nursing homes.”

Public orders seem to have had a greater impact on the vigil than has had the virus. Many, including vigil participants, have had their daily lives altered,

opting not to come to the vigil to safeguard themselves.

For example, an attraction for many coming to the vigil was the proximity of the Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes chapel, pictured below.



The faithful could attend daily mass at two separate times and/or do eucharistic adoration in between.

Sanitary measures severely curtailed these activities. Faith-based gatherings underwent near continual changes –ceasing altogether or being limited to 25 participants, and then to ten, and then during the last three days of the vigil, to 30. Despite these hurdles, our community completed its 25th prayer vigil, a remarkable feat in itself as is the fact that worldwide, there were simultaneous 567 vigils this spring.

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

Vigil Photos



There I am above during one of the several snowstorms during the spring vigil.

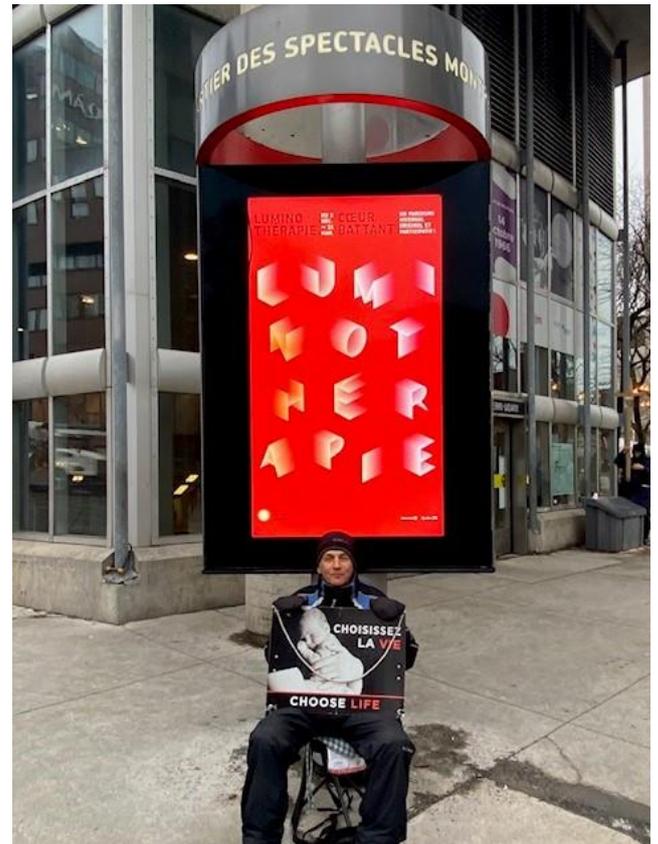
I was told that the temperatures this past winter season were milder than average. Could have fooled me!

Around the vigil midpoint, I remember telling myself that the second half will surely be milder than the first half. Nope!

Though the final week of the vigil – the week of March 22, saw temperatures rise above freezing and at times in the double digits under a beautiful sun, the previous two weeks were brutally cold.

Oddly, despite the cold temps, I believe that I recorded the first sun burn in Montreal in 2021. In late February/early March, as I hungrily sought the sun for warmth, I scorched the tip of my nose. The subsequent flaking was a source of amusement for me as persons I met kept staring at this wonder!

The next photo shows the vigil site – the northeast corner of the Berri and St. Catherine streets intersection. In the background is seen the access building to the Berri-UQAM Metro station.



Above and below we see one of the several faithful prayer volunteers – John, a daily presence who accompanied me twice daily in a procession around the abortion facility in the morning and the metro station at day's end.



A few other volunteers came daily or near daily – in addition to John, among these are counted Charlotte, Joe, and Br. Loic. Still others could be counted upon to come by at least once per week, either according to a fix schedule or as their personal schedules permitted. Special thanks to Mary, Patrick, Théo, Jean-Léon, Mario & Marc,

Easter Reflection

Greg and Denis, and Michael, and to Joseph, Fabrice and Jérémie, Gaetane, Céline, Cécile, Manuel, and Josée.

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Commentary by Shawn Carney

Abortion is many things, but at its worst, it is a sin.

My sins, your sins, and the sins of the entire world are what crucified Jesus Christ...

...and are the reason for this week -- the week that changed the world.

Sin is not a popular topic in our world today (even among many Christians) as we have dangerously lost the sense of sin.

Without sin, Jesus Christ would not have needed to lay down His life, suffer, and die. Without the acknowledgement of sin, we cannot receive forgiveness. By denying the reality of sin, we rob Jesus Christ of the powerful offering of His mercy. As the timeless phrase goes, we allow the devil to steal our shame. Preacher and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer called this *cheap grace*:

"Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the Cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate."

Fulton Sheen said, "Forgiveness is not cheap. If He offered it without a Cross, you would not take it. That Cross is the price God paid to buy you from your sins. Without it, there is neither sin nor God."

The suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ are our hope and our joy. They are why we go pray at abortion facilities.

We must show up at abortion facilities, not because we are sinless, but because we are sinners who know Jesus Christ will forgive any sin and set us free. Sin is at the root of the abortion crisis -- the sins that lead to abortion, the sins of silence surrounding abortion, and the sins of those who do the abortions.

Sin is how we got here. But sin is not how the story ends as we see in the women, babies, abortion workers, and all those impacted by the healing love of Jesus Christ.

We know God can do mighty works when His people come together as is evident by the 18,511 babies saved, 2,011 abortion workers quit, and 111 abortion facilities closed since the founding of 40 Days for Life, including the location where the campaign started which now serves as the headquarters for the organization.

This week is a beautiful time to thank God for the gift of His Son and to ask how He can use you as a vessel of His mercy and love to combat the evil of abortion. As we celebrate Holy Week, may we trust in the power of the resurrection and the mercy of Jesus Christ -- for ourselves and the whole world. That is what is ending and will end abortion.

Have a blessed Holy Week and a Happy Easter,

Shawn Carney is a bestselling author and CEO and president of the prolife organization 40 Days for Life. He is author of "The Beginning of the end of Abortion" and "To the Heart of the Matter."

Pregnant? Worried?

**Two Hearts.
Two Souls.
Two Lives!**

Pregnant? Need Help?

1-855-871-4442



Your prayers are requested for a pregnant mom living a difficult situation.

Six-months pregnant and wishing to keep her child, the eighteen-year-old with a learning impediment is being pressured by her parents to abort her child.

Further, considering the mental impediment, we believe that the provincial youth protection agency, aka, the *directeur de la protection de la jeunesse (DPJ)*, will intervene and remove custody on birth of the child from the mother.

We are currently looking for lodgings for this young mother, that she may receive the support mother and child need to live as secure a pregnancy as they can.

Your prayers would go a long way to this end.

Also, if you are to help in another manner, please contact us at (514) 344-2686.



Pilgrimage in the City

On the heels of a popular pilgrimage held this past September, attended by between 25 and thirty people of all ages, another is being scheduled for next month.

The National March for Life is normally scheduled the second Thursday of May every year. In 2020, in light of the coronavirus, the march and its related activities were for the most part held online.

The city pilgrimage will be incorporated into the activities of the National March.

Dates and the walking path remain to be determined. Details to follow.

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