



*Defending the Human Person, From Conception to Natural Death*

## THE SIDEWALK



### **Our Presence On the Sidewalk is Important.**

Have you wondered why we pray outdoors? Do you believe that we serve a function being in the public space?

Quebec Life Coalition President Georges Buscemi believes that the abortion facility is the modern-day Golgotha, that hill outside Jerusalem where Jesus Christ, the innocent lamb, shed his blood for you and me.

The abortion facility is the modern Golgotha because innocent blood is shed there, the blood of the unborn child.

At the original Golgotha, at the foot of cross on which our Saviour died, few stood in solidarity – His mother, the beloved disciple and a few women. So too today few if any are present at this modern day Golgotha, though some are far off.

A Michigan prolifer writes that “I believe that the

central weakness of the prolife movement is its failure to be regularly present at the abortion facilities – because, quite simply, if we believe that each unborn child is eternally unique and significant, then at the very least we should be at the places where the child’s social and eternal value will be brutally, irrevocably denied.”

What keeps us away?

First, there is the legal justice system. Court rulings prevent us from approaching three private clinics and a legislative movement is underway to keep us away from all such facilities, both private and public, in the province.

Second, an erroneous view of what it means to be effective. “Prolifers truly want to serve the cause of life. ... Unfortunately they are considering effectiveness in the same way the world considers it. Success, for most of us, must be a measurable thing... Being present at an abortion facility, however, is usually a very

frustrating experience, simply because there's very little one can measurably do."

"... the world starts to whisper in your ear, 'Is this the best use of your time? Are you really being effective?' This is the moment at which the prolifer discovers that, rather than being 'effective,' on the contrary he is accomplishing little more than an intense sort of suffering. This is the time at which he must remember – our suffering is our effectiveness."

Our Michigander concludes: "Willingness to suffer is willingness to love, an act which takes us to the very source of life, to the springs of its growth."

A willingness to love by being present on the sidewalk also impacts the abortion facility workers.

A former abortion industry worker writes about the importance of showing up. "I cannot stress that enough. Show up. When it is hot and humid, show up. When it is freezing, show up. The prayers of the people outside were a big factor in my ultimately leaving the abortion industry."

She adds: "If the prayer volunteers hadn't shown up each and every day, I wonder if I would have been able to suppress or somehow justify the truth of what I was doing when it was finally revealed to me. Without their presence, could I have pushed that knowledge away and continued on with what seemed like the easier option? Without their prayers, would I have stayed at my high-paying job where I was on track to be the next chief operating officer? Without people standing outside the fence praying, just praying, I don't know if I could have left."

She was won over by God's grace found among those praying on the sidewalk outside the facility she managed.



Now do you understand why we pray outdoors?

I've resumed praying on the sidewalks of Montreal, either alone or with a prayer partner. At least one other has done likewise without me. And you?

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## LOCAL NEWS

### Clinic Stops Doing Sex- Selective Abortions



Local media reported this past November 22, 2016, that a Ville LaSalle private Ob/Gyn clinic has stated that it is stopping performing sex-selective abortions.

Sex-Selective abortions are those in which the decision to undergo an abortion is based solely on the gender of the unborn child.

TVA quotes a clinic spokesperson saying that the twelve physician staff has had negative experiences with patients desiring to abort a child whose sex they did not desire. So, the gender of the child will no longer be given until the 23<sup>rd</sup> week.

### Legislation Extends Bubble Zone

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Health Minister Gaétan Barrette announced plans to amend health care legislation (Bill 92) to include a provision forbidding pro-life demonstrators from getting within 50 meters of any abortion facility in the province. There are about 72 such facilities in Quebec. These include private clinics, local governmental clinics, and hospitals.

## Late-Term Abortions

The week before Christmas as many of us were preoccupied with preparing for the arrival of the Prince of peace, a local media outlet decried the fact that a woman had been refused a late term abortion from the McGill University Healthcare Centre.

Le Devoir reported that staff at MUHC refused to provide an abortion for a woman carrying a 30-week unborn child.

Interestingly, the newspaper article did not treat the reason for the refusal.

Rather the story focused on the woman's plight, her seeking legal counsel, and the steps taken by her lawyer to find another facility that would provide the deadly procedure, which it did.

In the days following, other stories appeared equally indignant of the fate of this woman and the 'insufficient' number of late-term abortionists in Quebec medical facilities.

Studies show that risk to the mother's health increases at later stages of getting an abortion. An American study on abortion-related mothers' deaths from 1988 to 1997 found that at 13-15 weeks' gestation there were 14.7 deaths per 100,000. At 16-20 weeks, the rate rose to 29.5 per 100,000. At or after 21 weeks, the rate reached 76.6 deaths per 100,000.

In a previous newsletter we reported on the existence of later term abortions at Sainte Justine Hospital.

## Prayer Intentions

Over the past few weeks, several women have asked our support during their pregnancy. We commend to your prayerful intentions the following:

1. Paula is due at the end of February and is experiencing her fair share of challenges. Not only does she find it arduous caring for her three other children but also her physical discomfort has increased at this late stage of the pregnancy.
2. Tina welcomed Claire and I a few days before Christmas as we brought her several boxes of clothing and other items. She's eight months pregnant and is "very happy that everything worked out and extremely grateful for your help thank you and wishing you a Merry Christmas."
3. Celena. is also due at the end of February and is quite excited. She text-messaged the following: Happy New Year to all in our team, health, and thanks for the help you bring to me and my unborn child... I'll be 35 weeks pregnant in a few days. He'll soon be with us. I'll send you photos ... Thank you again XxXx."
4. Nadjia is 5 months pregnant and after some early doubt about carrying her child she is now glad. This is also the case with the father of the child, though the two are estranged.
5. Finally, Julie just learned that she is pregnant and is feeling overwhelmed.

### PRAYER

Most sorrowful Heart of Mary,

May thy mantle of protection be cast over all unborn children of this world.

Preserve them from every evil and nourish their souls with a predisposition for holiness.

Amen

Pierre Ange Marie Désanti

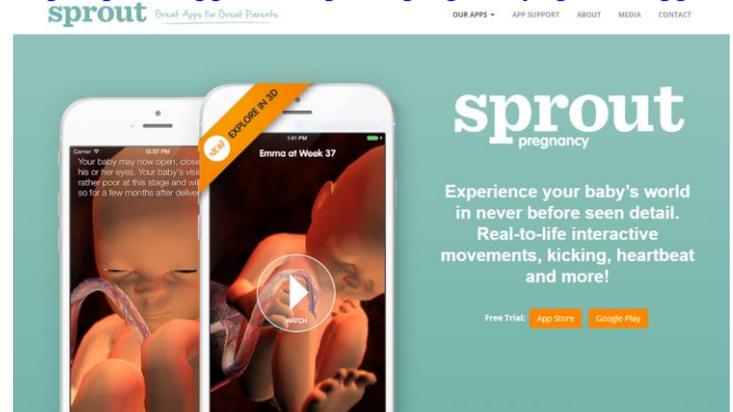
## “APPS” on Fetal Development

*The fact that the unborn child is a unique, growing human person complete with his/her own personal individual DNA is frequently contested, with persons arguing that it is but a blob of tissue or a clump of cells. Here are two Apps that provide the latest embryonic science about the humanity and uniqueness of the unborn child.*

### Sprout

We read on the site's homepage "Comprehensive information about you and your developing baby; award winning fully interactive 3D models of fetal development; Pregnancy tools, including a weight tracker, kick counter, and contraction timer; written by doctors along with pregnant mothers to be.."

<http://sprout-apps.com/sprout-pregnancy-iphone-app/>.



### The Endowment for Human Development

The EHD ([www.ehd.org](http://www.ehd.org)) has produced the Little One Pregnancy Guide, which is described as "an App that enables the user to show each pregnant woman (and her companions) that her baby is doing in just seconds. Say goodbye to outdated videotapes and clumsy DVD players. Stop being sabotaged by poor internet connections and slow streaming video. Instead, show memorable images of developing babies on demand and without delay!"