



CULTURE OF LIFE

May 2020
Quebec Life
Coalition

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

Annual National March for Life goes Virtual

The annual **National March for Life** is adapting to the times.

In this year's context of social distancing, lockdowns, and precautionary sanitary measures, the gathering on Parliament Hill is turning virtual.

Two versions are planned.

Nationally – The first ever VIRTUAL National March for Life is set: a week-long online program culminating on the day originally planned for the 23rd National March for Life, which marks the May 14, 1969 passing of the infamous omnibus bill that opened the floodgates to abortion on demand in our country.

This initiative will also bring awareness to the killing occurring at the other end of the spectrum, near the end of life, with a focus on the proposed expansions to Canada's euthanasia law.

A summary of the program is as follows:

- **May 10, 11, 12, & 15:** a pro-life film festival, showings at **8 pm EDT**
- **May 13:** A pro-life Mass in memory of Fr. de Valk, csb, at **6 pm EDT** and the virtual Candlelight Vigil for victims of abortions at **8 pm EDT**
- **May 14:** 12-1 pm: The National Mass for Life
 - 1-2:30 pm: Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) pro-life special
 - 2:30-4 pm Virtual Pro-Life Rally/March

International pro-life speakers Kevin Dunn and Stephanie Gray will be featured on the EWTN special. Their talks will focus on the most important life issues



facing Canadians today, as well as what can be done as a nation to rebuild a culture of life.

Additionally, Campaign Life Coalition and Niagara Region Right to Life will be hosting a **Pro-Life Webinar** run exclusively by youth for youth on Friday, May 15th, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Regionally - The Quebec Life Coalition will host a livestreamed event - *en français*, interviewing a variety of people involved in the provincial pro-life movement.

This will be on Monday, May 11, 2020, beginning at 1 p.m. and running through until 4 p.m.

Abortion destroys yearly upwards of 30,000 children in Quebec, 100,000 in Canada, and 56 million worldwide. Also, during the current context, calls for more liberal means of abortion are being asked.

As many are immobilized due to stay-at-home orders, persons can still mobilize online. By prayer, education, and internet servers, political leaders can be solicited with the right to life message.

Access the national program at www.marchforlife.ca website whereas Quebec events at the *Campagne Québec-vie* **YouTube** site.

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

Laura's Story – part ii

(**Editor:** In April, we presented the first installment of Laura's abortion experience. We read about the circumstances leading up to her unplanned pregnancy, about her thoughts and feelings, and about her exchanges. The following is the 2nd part of her story.)

I became desperate, so I decided to tell my parents. My mom started crying, my dad was furious, and my older brother was speechless. I honestly don't remember exactly what happened that day or what they said. I remember my mother crying herself to sleep every night for weeks, and my brother calling my ex-boyfriend (I assume we were broken up by then as I never spoke to him again) demanding him to at least pay for it. He did.

Four weeks later, the day came. My father and brother came with me. I remember waiting in that office, staring at the fish tank just blocking all the thoughts inside my mind: mine, my friends', my mom's, my dad's, my brother's, my ex-boyfriend's. Honestly, I was never sure of what I was doing. I just wanted to get it over with so I could forget and move on with my life.

On June 6th, of 2006 I had an abortion. I was probably 8 weeks pregnant. I had a vacuum aspiration procedure with no anesthesia. Along with the enormous pain, thoughts started running again through my mind. When the doctor finished, he told me to stay laying down and walked out of the room. Ignoring him, I sat up and I saw this machine with a blood-stained tube coming from it. There was little blood on the table too. It hit me. Whatever was inside of me had been shattered to pieces and as I tried to deny what it was, I knew it was a baby. My small baby. I didn't cry, though. I told myself it was the right decision; now everything was over (except it was just getting all started).

I GRIEVED MY ABORTION

After the abortion, I had to take some pills to prevent infection. Every time I took one, it reminded me of that day. I just wanted to block it off my mind, but I couldn't. Time passed by and I honestly didn't know exactly what I was feeling. I thought if I talked about it, it would stop haunting me. So, I told my friends that I had had an abortion. I talked about it with them and with priests like some problem I had, but I couldn't take the guilt out of my words. Nobody judged me or anything, but I just couldn't avoid feeling guilty. That picture of that blood-stained tube tormented me (it still does). It didn't matter how many times I talked about it, the pain wouldn't go away, and my sadness wouldn't fade. I started feeling angry at some point. I even wrote a not very nice e-mail to my ex-boyfriend comparing him to a fart (don't ask). Though I still didn't cry about it, I lost 20 pounds, I started smoking more and more and I just couldn't get it out of my system.

I think I was grieving.

(to be continued next month)

* * *

How to talk to a friend who's had an abortion

In Quebec, there are about 30,000 abortions per year. This is a conservative figure, based on numbers given by the **Institut de la statistique du Québec** and the rise and popularity of the abortion pill, RU-486.

You certainly know someone who's had an abortion. There are do's and don't's on how to be a compassionate friend to someone mourning her decision. Andie's story shows how **not to** – <http://hopeafterabortion.com/?p=103>.

Before you talk to her, keep in mind: **what does she need today?** 1. someone to listen; 2. a shoulder to cry on; 3. a referral to a professional counselor; 4. a priest or minister; or even a crisis intervention. Learn more at: www.hopeafterabortion.org.

Pro-Life Apologetics

Bodily Rights Argument

Sovereign Zone Argument

While on the front lines defending the unborn child's right to life, it is not uncommon to hear one of the following claims:

- “My body, my choice”
- “Nobody can tell me what to do with my body”
- “The fetus is part of her body”
- “The fetus is inside of her body”

How to respond? First, seek clarity. The speaker may mean one of two things by these statements:

1. Does the person simply need biological facts relating to fetal growth, to understand that pregnancy entails the presence of a **separate, unique, and valuable** human being inside the woman's body? or
2. Does the person recognize the humanity of the unborn child, yet give greater importance to the mother's right to choose?

So, seek clarity. Does the person **assume** the unborn child is not human, **argue** that the unborn is not human, or **admit** that the child is human yet may be killed because of woman's bodily rights?

Here is an example of a conversation starter:

“I want to understand you, but it sounds like you might be saying one of **two** different things. Do you mean that the unborn is literally a part of her body, like a functional part or something; **OR** do you mean that because it is inside her body and connected to her body that she has the right to kill it because she can do what she wants with her body?”

In the first case, present the biological facts. The second, known as bodily rights arguments, can further be distinguished as either the **Right to Refuse (R2R)** argument or a **Sovereign Zone Argument (SZA)**. The **R2R** states that even if the unborn is a human being, a woman has the right to refuse to allow the unborn the use of her body. Advice on how to treat this argument will be in the June newsletter.

The **SZA** states that even if the unborn is a human being, a woman should still be able to have an abortion because she has the right to do **anything** she wants with anything inside the sovereign zone of her body.

The SZA argument is much more extreme than the R2R, as the R2R says a woman has the right **not** to be forced to do something, while the SZA says she has the right **to do anything**, as long as it's to something within her sovereign zone.

Disproving the SZA in 5 ways

Five implications of the SZA are given here, implications taken from the blog of the **Equal Rights Institute (ERI)** website:

https://blog.equalrightsinstiute.com/autumn-in-the-sovereign-zone-why-its-my-body-i-can-do-what-i-want-wont-do/?fbclid=IwAR30mXkOq6fky5YLqxtPCOIuBd_UYYoV9MWEQPrkQcY-dU80EbBVsgXDTlQ

These five implications are presented in increasing degrees of absurdities, which will hopefully sway the pro-abortion listener to see the dissonance of defending any of the four original claims.

The implications are:

1. There can be no restrictions on abortion at any stage or for any reasons. So, a woman can abort at 12 weeks or 39 weeks.
2. A pregnant woman can take thalidomide to treat her morning sickness even though it will deform her fetus.
3. A pregnant woman can take thalidomide to intentionally deform her fetus.
4. A woman can have multiple abortions for the sole purpose of using the results for an art project.
5. A pregnant woman can do anything to her unborn child including having it tortured to death.

Experience shows that the SZA defenders bail out early and many by the third implication. Their moral compass adjusts itself.

Vigil 365

One Vigil Ends, Another Starts

A new chapter in the defense of the unborn child in Montreal has begun.

Dubbed **Vigil 365** and launched at the end of the **40-Days for Life** prayer vigil for the end of abortion this past Palm Sunday, the **Quebec Life Coalition**, supported by prayer volunteers, has maintained its prayerful presence in the vicinity of five downtown abortion facilities.

Though many, if not all, surgeries have been put on hold indefinitely and medical supplies have been diverted for other purposes, elective abortions continue unabated, as per the March 24, 2020 decree by Quebec Premier François Legault. The decree states in its appendix the “essential” nature of abortions.

Prayer volunteers have been meeting daily at the corner of St. Catherine and Berri Streets for periods ranging from sixty to ninety minutes.

Their message is found on the signs strung around their necks. It is a message promoting the sanctity of life, the importance of prayer, and the offering of aid to pregnant women.

Weekends too? As the abortion facilities are closed on both Saturdays and Sundays, the question arose whether to continue the vigil during these off days.

Our Lord says “Yes”. While vigilating alone one weekend morning, a prayer volunteer was approached by a young man who shared about a problematic childhood in his family.

Both he and his sister had grown up in a violent, alcoholic household, adversely impacting their lives. In his drunken stupors the man’s father would beat

his mother and then him, permanently scaring him in both body and soul. Tears readily came as he spoke.

He did not talk much about his sister other than saying that she had undergone an abortion.

He shared about his attraction to other men, his decision to remain chaste, and his devotion to the blessed mother, including regularly reciting the rosary.

Curiously, on two separate occasions, he asked me whether I judged him.

This encounter reveals that our presence to defend unborn life entails collateral graces - supporting God’s children in an area of Montreal in dire need of God’s mercy.

Culture of Life is published by
Quebec Life Coalition
C.P. 55053 Comptoir postal Maisonneuve
Montréal QC H1W 0A1

Email: info@cqv.qc.ca
Internet: www.cqv.qc.ca
Toll Free: 1-855-996-2686
Local: (514) 344-2686 Cell: 438-930-8643

**THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING**



**QUEBEC LIFE
COALITION**