



Good Tidings of Great Joy!

Halton Pro-Life sends you our warmest greetings this Christmas Season! The holidays and thoughts of the New Year are often a time of reflection and here at HPL we are blessed to have such faithful members, who give of their time, finances and support. We celebrate this special Christmas season, in part because a young, unwed woman with limited resources set aside her fears and concerns to become a mother. When the Virgin Mary chose life and Joseph humbled himself to accept a child that was not his, they changed the world.

We have the opportunity to help women and men today make that same choice for life. At Halton Pro-life it is our mission to educate, equip and connect with the Halton community on matters of life. We teach and promote the intrinsic value of human life from conception to natural death, we equip our community to expose the truth about abortion and euthanasia and we care for the women and men who choose to accept the challenge of bringing new life by connecting them to the resources they need.

This year, over 320 members of the Halton community participated in Life Chain to spread the message that abortion kills children and hurts women. The Respect Life Banquet was a wonderful success with more than 400 in attendance to hear Abby Johnson's powerful testimony and help raise funds for our work. In the last five months, 40 people have attended our new five week Pro-Life 101 course to improve their skills in pro-life apologetics. The summer proved to be fun and productive as we were able to invest in the life of a student intern and work on new programming. More than 40 people put on their pro-life gear for our Walk for Life event to demonstrate a voice for the unborn in Halton and hand out informative post-cards. It has been a privilege to participate in and contribute to pro-life events throughout the year at local Halton high schools, getting to know these courageous students who stand for life as we dig deeper into life topics at our Club Gatherings has been both inspirational and informative. As we look to 2014, our 40th year of pro-life work in the Halton community, we are excited for the change and growth that is planned. Keep up-to-date with what's happening through our newsletter, emails, Facebook page and website!

As you busy yourselves with preparations and gift buying we encourage you to remember those in the Halton community that may be in need. Consider inviting someone without family to join your Christmas meal, donating toys to your local maternity home and pregnancy centre or blessing a family in need with an anonymous gift at their door. There are so many ways to spread love to our neighbours at this time and throughout the year. We hope you will consider increasing your involvement and support in our pro-life advocacy. Try supporting a pro-life event you haven't attended before like our Walk for Life. Challenge yourself to educate your peers and neighbours on life issues by taking our Pro-Life 101 course. Sign-up as a volunteer to see the ways you can contribute your time and skills. Commit to a monthly financial donation that will enable us to increase our programming. However you contribute, know that you stand united with hundreds of others in the community of all ages and backgrounds, seeking to transform Halton into a culture that respects life. Together we take a stand for women and the unborn with courage and conviction.



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Check us out on
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Remember
Halton Pro-Life
in your will.

Poetry Corner

Did Mary Claim...?

Did Mary claim, "You have no right
To claim my body as your own!"
When Gabriel appeared that night
In that small Galileean town?

Did Mary say, "No I insist,
God has no business in my womb,
First I'd seek an abortionist,
And grant no Saviour place, nor room."

Did Mary think, "It's most unfair,
I have myself to think about,
My life's not meant for me to share,
I rule myself without a doubt."

No, Mary said, "Your will be done.
Yet, it's a mystery to me...
That I should carry God's own Son,
So that He might deliver me?"

She thought not of, "entitlement";
Neither of "human rights"
But heard the message God had sent;
How Mary's heart delights!

How can we serve our Lord on high?
Once born for us to save,
Believe and trust, call on Him nigh,
To us, His all he gave.

Like Mary, celebrate this year,
And worship Christ, God's Son.
Who came to save from sin and fear,
Exalt Him! Everyone!

In Christ, your unborn yet may live,
Change hardened hearts, we pray,
For gift of life, that all may give
Praise, on this Christmas Day.

A. Blokhuis

On Topic

Flags for Life

40 Days for Life Oakville
Community Outreach Project Fall
2013



40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion. The mission of the campaign is to bring together the body of Christ in a spirit of unity during a focused 40 day campaign of prayer and fasting to seek God's favor to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life, thus bringing an end to abortion. It is a community-based campaign that draws attention to the evil of abortion through the use of a three-point program: 1) Prayer and fasting; 2) Peaceful vigil; 3) Community outreach.

In addition to peaceful prayer vigils, 40DFL volunteers take part in community outreach events. This Fall the 40DFL Oakville Team organized a Pro-Life Flag display. Our goal was to educate the public, offer a message of hope and healing, and to promote a culture of life. The Pro-Life Flag Planting in front of St. Dominic's parish was organized to raise awareness of the number of abortions that occur locally. 1400 pink and blue flags were installed, each one a memorial to an innocent child killed by abortion in Halton every year, along with banners with post-abortive help information and Divine Mercy messages.

The Pro-Life Flag Display provided a message of Truth, Hope and Healing. It educated the public about how prevalent abortion is in our community with a banner explaining what the flags represented. A prominent part of the display was a banner that educated the public on the resources available for someone in a crisis pregnancy, as well as help for those suffering from the choice of abortion. The purpose of choosing to have this display in front of a Church was to remind people of the God's saving grace.

This Flag Display was received with mixed reactions from the community. Among the thumbs-up support, we also heard from many angry people. The flag display, as well as presence of 40DFL participants at the vigil site, is pricking the consciences of many and anger is usually the first reaction. There is a great need for healing among post-abortive men and women and, with love and without judgment, we recognize the need to spread the message of Divine Mercy to all. The display also shocked many, partially because they were unaware that so many abortions do take place in their own community. Hopefully, this will awaken people to the Truth and move them to action to help protect innocent lives. We cannot hide the truth about the evil of abortion. It must be brought out into the light, and Jesus is right beside those who need healing, waiting for them to ask for his help and embrace all in His Mercy.

The 40DFL Oakville Team is seeking additional Churches to host a similar display in the future. We welcome your feedback about this community outreach effort, as well as ideas for future community outreach events to spread awareness about the evil of abortion. Also, we invite you to join us for the next 40DFL prayer campaign which will take place during Lent, starting Ash Wednesday, March 5 until Palm Sunday, April 13. In addition, 40DFL campaign participants meet every first Saturday of the month from 10-11am in front of OTMH for a prayer vigil. For more information visit our website:

<http://40daysforlife.com/oakville.html>
or email us at:
40daysforlife.oakville@gmail.com

40 Days for Life Oakville Team

The Student Connection

The Strong & True Minority

Abby Johnson's keynote at the Halton pro-life fundraising banquet on October 4 was an inspirational event for all of us attending from Western University. I joined Western University's pro-life club, Western Lifeline, only a few weeks before, and attending the banquet was an amazing way to be inspired and motivated at the beginning of an academic year as a pro-life advocate. When Abby Johnson related her experience with the reality of Planned Parenthood, I was struck by a concretization of abortion that I had not felt before; the strong sense of unity and strength among those present created a feeling of hope that one day we might realize a society that chooses life over death.

Many people think pro-life activists base their position solely on religious beliefs. But Abby Johnson's story portrayed an image that was so fundamentally evil, it is impossible to believe anyone in possession of reason could not feel appalled by the practice of abortion. As she watched an abortionist dismember a preborn child, Abby Johnson said she wanted to scream for the mother to protect her child. Who would not? It was not anything particular about Abby's background that made her feel pain and horror at the sufferings of that child; rather, it was a natural desire to protect those who are suffering. A reality exists where thousands of innocent human lives are being cruelly ended on a daily basis, and this reality requires more from us than just our prayers. The pro-life movement calls



to all people from all backgrounds, and needs the immediate prayers and actions of a generation firmly rooted in the present and not waiting for the future.

Being pro-life on a university campus means being part of a minority. And while a minority might mean a small number of individuals, this is a group of like-minded people united behind a belief that, despite being unpopular, is both strong and true. Western Lifeline is involved in pro-life activities both on campus and in the community. On campus we have regular meetings as a group, bi-weekly discussions, on how to debate the topic of abortion and we receive various resources through correspondence with the National Campus Life Network (NCLN) and other Canadian pro-life university groups. In the London community we have volunteered to make breakfast at Ronald McDonald House, participated in Lifechain and 40 Days for Life, and we are eager to be a part of any pro-life dialogue with local MPs and MPPs. On behalf of Western Lifeline I would like to thank Halton Pro-life for the amazing chance to be a part of an inspirational night that will have an impact on the future actions of all pro-life advocates here at Western University.

Adam Helmers, WesternLifeline Member

Spreading the Message of Life

Being pro-life is put to the test when you step on the sidewalk of a major intersection in Halton holding a sign that says "Abortion Hurts Women" "Abortion Kills Children" or "Adoption the Loving Option" but I am happy to report that 320 members of the pro-life community did just that as they joined Life Chain this year. More than anything I was overwhelmed by grief as I stood with my sign in Oakville and read prayers silently. When I think of all the children whose lives have been snuffed out, I can't help but shed tears and feel a great pain in my heart. If you have not stepped up to defend the lives of the unborn or the health of women then I encourage you to join us for Life Chain next Fall and other pro-life activities throughout the year.

At the same time I have also observed the sheer joy of parents whose children have been born this year whether planned or unplanned. As one friend said, "I thought I loved my cat but this great capacity for the love of my child that just seems to keep growing as he does is unbelievable!" It is my hope that someday women everywhere will choose life and love for their offspring. Let us always remember that our first task is to love one another and out of that love we will meet the needs of those who struggle in Halton.

Elea Hofman, Executive Director

Membership Renewal

\$20 Adult/Family
\$10 Senior/Student

A reminder to the HPL family that membership renewal is due at the start of the year. Please fill out the included donation card and return it in the self address envelop provided.

Membership offers voting privileges at our AGM in the spring, our quarterly newsletter mail out and solidarity in numbers to represent the Halton community.

Pro-life 101 Course

Be equipped to talk about the pro-life stance with logic, science and confidence. Never stumble through pro-abortion rhetoric again!

FREE! Wednesdays

Jan. 08 - Feb. 05

7:00pm—8:30pm

@ Burlington Christian Fellowship

2054 Mountainside Dr, Burlington

Call to register in advance.



Halton Pro-Life turns 40!

Since its inception, Halton Pro-Life has been committed to education on core life issues in the Halton community. When Canada changed its law on May 14, 1969 to allow abortion in cases where the "life and health" of the mother was endangered our founder, Bette Hamon, knew action needed to be taken. The ill-defined and less restrictive term "health" meant that within the first year following this change, abortion statistics showed a remarkable increase, sparking the emergence of pro-life groups across the country. Bette and her husband, formed Burlington Right to Life in the attic of their home in 1970 and through growth and support, Halton Pro-Life was established and incorporated as a charitable organization in 1974.

Bette's commitment and determination laid the foundation for our mission and vision today. We were deeply grieved by her passing this year and all the more inspired to carry on our mandate.

It has been remarkable to see how various pro-life organizations across Ontario are interwoven and enable supporters to build on their knowledge and opportunities for involvement and advocacy. One member who did our Pro-Life 101 course this summer shared that he put a "we need a law" sign on his lawn. When his neighbours asked him about it

he was so thankful for the course that had taught him how to articulate the pro-life stance better and be prepared for objections. It's been a joy to work with and support 40 Days for Life as the Pro-Life 101 course has also helped equip many of those praying outside the hospital to engage with passersby. As we move into the new year, we are eager to mark our 40th anniversary with more activities, courses and new partnerships!

In 2013 we launched a re-branding process that will come to fruition in this special 40th year. Expect to see a new and inspired look and energetic approach as we remain committed to our founding principles. It is the mandate of Halton Pro-Life to educate, equip and connect. In every program, course and event we run we seek to educate the community on life issues, equip our community to engage these issues publically and connect with individuals and organization who need our support.

We hope you will join us by getting involved in the work Halton Pro-Life is doing to impact our community into one that respects the dignity and value of human life at all stages. Our 40th anniversary is a time for renewed excitement and commitment to the pro-life cause but also a time of celebration for so many years of faithful hard work on behalf of our organization and member community.

To celebrate our pro-life family we will be hosting a 40th anniversary picnic! Every year, Halton-Pro-Life does a Walk for Life and this year we will follow up the walk-a-thon with a picnic including food, games, music, auction, bake sale, bouncy castle and more! Be sure to save the date May 31st to join us in our walk and celebration. Stay connected for more details on how to participate in this event.

Mark Your Calendar!

January

- 01 HPL Memberships Due
- 08 Pro-Life 101 Course
- 28 Anniversary of legalization of abortion in Canada (1969)

February

- 13 Culture of Life Conference

March

- 05 40 Days for Life Vigils

April

- 04 CLC National Conference
- 17 Halton Pro-Life AGM

May

- 08 March for Life (Ottawa)
- 31 Walk-for-Life & 40th Anniversary Picnic

A CALL FOR DONATIONS

Halton Pro-Life is celebrating its 40th anniversary with a big pro-life family **PICNIC** following our yearly **WALK FOR LIFE** but we need **YOUR** help!

When: Saturday May 31st 2014

Where: Burlington Christian Fellowship

Needed:

- Auction items "new items only" Suggestions: gift baskets, gift certificates, knitted goods, electronic devices and accessories
- Bake sale items
- Activity & set-up volunteers and coordinators

Please call or email the office today to sign-up!

905-632-3232 or haltonprolife@rogers.net