

Kelty Barel



The difference between a trip and a journey, is that a trip is planned. Trips are organized with itineraries, dates, and a schedule. A journey is a completely different experience. Becoming involved with the pro-life movement is in no way a trip. You can't plan each thing you'll experience, or every person you'll have the chance to meet. Being pro-life is journey. A journey that takes courage, strength, determination, and most of the time a very thick skin. But it's a journey none the less. Being pro-life comes hand in hand with meeting passionate, kind, people, experiencing an incredible solidarity, and having the power to potentially change someone's life forever. It's one of the most incredible journeys that you can take, and it's a path that I've only just begun to travel on.

Hello, and good evening. My name is Kelty, and tonight I've been blessed with the opportunity to speak to all of you about some of the amazing people I've met on my pro-life journey, and the support that they continue to provide me with.

To be pro-life is to care for life at every stage, from conception until natural death. Because of this profound care for life, I've found that pro-lifers are some of the kindest, most amazing people you could ever meet. Their high regard for life leads them to treating people with respect, care, and love. Personally, I've been lucky enough to meet plenty of these people, and have had many of them support me throughout my journey. People like my grandparents, who were thrilled when I took an interest in the pro-life movement, and have been nothing but supportive. People like my father, who're willing to take the time to talk to people about being pro-life, and doing their part get the message out there. People like Mrs. Muller, the teacher in charge of the culture of life club at my school, who're always excited to get involved and make a difference. People like Ms. Hofman, who take the time to educate others, have a conversation, or even just lend an ear.

However, it's not just the people you meet on your pro-life journey that make an impact, but the organizations as well. Halton Alive has and will continue to be a great resource for me, and many others. I've learned so much about the pro-life movement through them, and have received so many opportunities. As a student in the pro-life battle, it's been invaluable to have a larger support there to help me have my voice heard, and continue learning. When you're in school, it's easy to feel alone or isolated when trying to do something you're passionate about, especially if no one around you feels that same. Just having a representative from Halton Alive come and talk to your school, can give students the window they need to get involved. Just the other day, I was present when two grade 9 students asked the chaplaincy leader at my school about our pro-life club. When we would be meeting, how they could get involved. They asked because Ms. Hofman had come to their grade 9 retreat, and talked to them about the pro-life movement. Their interest had sparked.

To conclude what I have to say, I'd like to talk about 1 more person, and their contribution to my journey. At my school, we have a chaplaincy leader. Her name is Mrs. Harkin. And she was the one who introduced to me the pro-life movement. I was speaking to her in her office, when she mentioned our schools culture of life club. She convinced me to go to a meeting, just try it out, maybe learn something new, you know? Three or so months later I was signing up to go to my first march for life. You will never meet a kinder, more understanding person, than Mrs. Harkin. She always has the student's best interests at heart, and is constantly going above and beyond for us. I'm so thankful for all the opportunities that she's provided me with, the conversations we've had, and the things that she does every day. I wouldn't be here speaking to you today, if not for her. I guess what I want to say is... thanks Ms.

And thank you to all of you, for listening.