

# ST. CATHARINES RIGHT TO LIFE NEWSLETTER



November 2015



*”For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together  
in my mother’s womb.  
I praise you  
because I am fearfully  
and wonderfully made.”*

*Psalm 139:13 & 14*

**This beautiful drawing of an unborn baby is called "You Knit Me Together in My Mother's Womb."  
It was created by Laura Restrepo, a local artist who is studying Fine Arts at York University.**

## Learning Begins in the Womb

The advancement of ultrasound continues to broaden our understanding of the unborn. Karrie Casucci, who works everyday with ultrasound in Niagara Falls, confirms recent reports that unborn babies can hear as early as sixteen weeks after conception. In a Facebook post, Karrie writes:

*On a daily basis, we can confirm that babies respond to voices, special music and even the sound of their own heartbeat! Even as early as 16 weeks in utero! This proves that learning and responses are developing and functioning in the womb. People ask me in almost every ultrasound "Can my baby hear me?!" Well, they most certainly can! Scientific research proves what we see in Peek-a-Boo! I See U! 3D/4D Ultrasound Studio all the time! This is just the sense of hearing!*

*Even at earlier stages, we can see babies already suck their thumb, play with their toes and the umbilical cord! Twins already recognize the presence of the other twin in utero! Beyond their development of senses, we have great evidence of their bodies functioning; like sucking and drinking the amniotic fluid, like peeing it back out into the amniotic fluid, like blood steadily moving through the umbilical cord, like hair growing on top of their heads, like eyes opening and closing, and like eyelashes!*

*These lovely little miracles should never be harmed!*



Inside this Issue	Page
You Knit Me Together in My Mother’s Womb	1
Learning Begins in the Womb	1
President’s Message	2
New Billboard	2
Renewed Thrift Shop	2
Niagara College Students for Life	2
It’s Not that Simple	3
Culture of Life Symposium	3
Culture of Life Champion	3
Right to Life Speaker’s Workshop	4
China’s Two Baby Policy	4
Every Contribution Makes a Difference	4

**Mark the Date!**

**St. Catharines Right to Life Dinner  
Saturday, February 27, 2016**

**Speaker: Brad Mattes**

TV & Radio Commentator,  
President of The International  
Right to Life,  
and of Life Issues Institute



## President's Message



Electors who were hoping for more pro-life representation in Ottawa found election night a disappointing affair. We now have a radically “pro-choice” Prime Minister who closed the Liberal doors to any MP candidates with a pro-life viewpoint.

Where does this leave the pro-life community? We will not quietly stand aside until the next election. More than ever before, we must make our presence known and steadfastly broadcast the important message of the sacredness of human life. Our association is being proactive in initiating our largest ever billboard campaign. Over the next couple of months, twenty billboards across much of Niagara will display convincing and appealing educational life messages. At our recent speakers’ workshop, participants learned how to clearly communicate this message in their everyday conversations. Stay tuned for many more exciting endeavours. Thank you for your support and prayers, and for standing with St. Catharines Right to Life.

*Greg Slingerland*



*Our new billboard in St. Catharines, one of the “20 billboard campaign” life-affirming messages seen throughout the Niagara Region .*



When you shop at **Renewed Thrift and Vintage** at 2225 Hwy #20 in Fonthill this November, you’ll be helping to support

St. Catharines Right to Life, their charity of the month.

They will be donating a portion of their proceeds to help us share the pro-life message in our community!

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**St. Catharines Right to Life is a registered non-profit organization providing educational material on abortion and euthanasia, and promoting respect for human life from conception to natural death. We support only peaceful means to promote our aims.**

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*Jules Brouwer, President of Niagara College Students for Life, with her baby brother at the club fair October 15 in NOTL. Learn more about the pro-life club by visiting their Facebook page and pass the word on to any students you know who attend the College.*

## It's Not That Simple

President of Physicians for Life, Dr. Will Johnston, is convinced that in years to come, observers will look back on the Supreme Court's decision to strike down Canada's law prohibiting assisted suicide and wonder, "What were they thinking?" Dr. Johnston was the guest speaker at a Public Lecture and Book Launch presented by the deVeber Institute and the University of Toronto Students for Life November 1.

In his talk, titled "Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Euthanasia," Dr. Johnston argued that it is a delusion to think that a bright enough line can be drawn between those with identifiable physical ailments, who want to die, and those who are just depressed or psychotic. His fear is that euthanasia advocates will engage in "mission creep" and abuse. He noted a couple of examples, one with direct personal involvement, in which family members had hastened a loved one's demise out of an apparent motive for quick access to an inheritance. He also cited Quebec's recent right-to-die Bill 52 which pro-euthanasia advocates in that province say should include children and dementia patients.

He urged all of us to get involved by making our voices known and by striving to be part of the effort to ensure a 'safe place' in the health system.

*Wayne Shepard*



*President of Physicians for Life Dr. Will Johnston (2nd from right,) with St. Catharines Right to Life board members, Rob van der Zalm, Wayne Shepard and Nancy Winslow. Dr. Johnston spoke at the deVeber Institute's book launch for *It's Not That Simple - Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Today.**

## Culture of Life Symposium



The 140 students in attendance at the Niagara Catholic School Board's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Culture of Life Symposium held November 5 at Mount Carmel in Niagara Falls were welcomed by Bishop Bergie who encouraged them to continue to celebrate and promote life.

Rachel Mathie, a nursing student who has lived in the L'Arche community in Toronto, reminded students of the value of all human life. Nicole Sinke, a crisis pregnancy counsellor at Welland's Elisha House, spoke on sexual integrity, and Alex Schadenberg, Director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, explained the dangers and abuses of assisted suicide as recently allowed by Canada's Supreme Court.



*Speakers: Rachel Mathie, Nicole Sinke and Alex Schadenberg with Chaplain James Carnegie*

## Culture of Life Champion



The Right to Life lost a dear friend with the death of Debra McCaffrey, the Catholic School Board's Chaplaincy Leader, on November 6th.

Debra organized the Board's Culture of Life Symposiums that brought together pro-life leaders from Niagara high schools for the past three years.

She also organized student trips to the March for Life and supported the talks by our recent Annual General Meeting speakers Melissa Ohden, Scott Klusendorf, and Trent Horn at area high schools.

***"God's will - peacefully do at each moment what at that moment ought to be done."***

***St. Katherine Drexel***

## Right to Life Speaker's Workshop

Tackling a subject as broad as "The Value of Life" is no small task, but thanks to an enthusiastic group of speakers and session leaders at the 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Catharines Right to Life Speaker's Workshop October 24, held at St Alfred's parish hall, participants came away from the day inspired and equipped to better make the case for life. Sixty people of all ages and backgrounds gathered at the workshop to learn more about topics that included life in the womb, what the election results will mean for pro-life, how to engage in respectful dialogue about abortion and ways to support women facing unplanned pregnancies.

Registered nurse and clinical nursing instructor Rebecca LaRocca gave a fascinating presentation on pre-born life, explaining why there is no doubt that each new human life begins at the moment of conception.

The "When They Say, You Say" workshop, led by Jason VandenBeukel, Jules Brouwer and Jon Brouwer, provided everyone a chance to think about how

best to respond to pro-choice arguments. "Words do matter. People are hurting. Your attitude must be respectful; never use harsh tones," advised Jules. She added, "Stick with the simple facts and always bring the discussion back to the humanity of the unborn child." Jason emphasized



the need to always be accurate when discussing life issues. "If you aren't sure, don't say it."

Rachel Mathie talked about recognizing the tremendous gift a mother gives to her child and about the value in every human being, no matter their ability. Pregnancy care counsellor Nicole

Sinke offered advice on how to help a woman facing an unplanned pregnancy and noted the incredible support that is available to pregnant women in distress.

During a lunchtime panel discussion, topics ranged from why St. Catharines Right to Life doesn't use graphic images of aborted babies, to how pro-life candidates fared in the federal election.

*Marlene Tersigni*

## Every Contribution Makes a Difference for Life

Seven weekends each year Council 1394 of the Knights of Columbus, a fraternal association devoted to works of charity, sells lapel Roses for Life at seven St. Catharines parishes. The campaign raises about \$2,500 each year. This enables the Knights to make a \$1,000 donation to St. Catharines Right to Life to help send students to the March for Life, and to donate the same amount to the Bishop's Respect Life Committee which publishes a pro-life insert for Church bulletins each year.

The Knights also award Culture of Life fellowships to pro-life student leaders at local Catholic high schools. The Knights' Pro-life Coordinator, William Mathie, acknowledges that what goes into the Lapel Rose basket is often "pretty modest, ranging from a loonie to a very occasional \$20," but he thinks it is important to get so many to make even a very small contribution to the pro-life cause, and to engage so many Knights in this work – at the largest parish, some 20 Knights, in the smallest, at least six. This year the Knights supported the Right to Life Speaker's Workshop.



## China's New Two Child Policy Will Not End Forced Abortion or Gendercide

You may have heard that China is abandoning its decades-long one child policy and moving to a two-child policy for all couples. But this adjustment will not end the human rights abuses caused by the One Child Policy.

Even though it will now allow all couples to have a second child, the Chinese Communist Party has not promised to end forced abortion, forced sterilization, or the sex-selective abortion of baby girls. Women will still have to obtain a government-issued birth permit, for the first and second child, or they may be subject to forced abortion. It will still be illegal for an unmarried woman to have a child. Despite the new child policy, women who get pregnant without permission could still be dragged out of their homes, strapped down to tables, and forced to abort babies that they want.

The one-child policy does not need to be modified. It needs to be abolished.

*Women's Rights Without Frontiers*