

Priests for Life Canada

2011, Issue 6

Working to support, inform, and empower Catholic clergy to build a culture of life

P.O. Box 31, Pembroke, ON K8A 6X1 1.888.300.2007 www.PriestsForLifeCanada.com



Christmas Contradictions

What a contradictory time Christmas is! Regardless of climate, we celebrate a winter birth that is an Eternal Springtime. In the coming of a Child, gifts are brought which warns of a future death. In the small particularity of the birth of a single child two millennia ago, the universal answer is pronounced. In

our time the secular voices that seek to drown out the origin and true nature of Christmas, for all their cacophony, cannot drown out the ringing Word.



This is true for our pro-life fight as well. By any measure, we are signs of contradiction in our time. Against a militant and incessant series of foes, we continue. In a world that does not wish to even consider the stark and brutal realities of abortion, we rise to speak. Against the deadly lies of mercy-killing we insist on speaking truth to power. Whether in small parishes, northern dioceses, country roads, or downtown condos, we continue to work for a new and brighter society and world. We too are small particularities but our geography is not bounded by just human sight. We are called into

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The Board of Priests for Life Canada would like to thank our supporters and benefactors for their generous support over the last year. May the Peace of the Holy Family be in your heart and in your home during this Most Holy Season of Christmas.

*Fr. Tom Lynch
Fr. John Lemire
Fr. John Nemanic
Fr. Joseph Hattie*

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Priests for Life Canada:

"A Trusted Source for Clergy"

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Prayer for Life

Lord God, I thank You today for the gift of my life, and for the lives of all my brothers and sisters. I know there is nothing that destroys more lives than abortion, yet I rejoice that You have conquered death by the Resurrection of Your Son.

I am ready to do my part in ending abortion. Today I commit myself never to be silent, never to be passive, never to be forgetful of the unborn. I commit myself to be active in the Pro-life movement, and never to stop defending life until all my brothers and sisters are protected, and our country once again becomes one which respects life from conception to natural death not just for some, but for all, through Christ our Lord. Amen!

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sharing another view. We are summoned to see the possibilities of a world labouring to be born, of the Civilization of Life and Love supplanting and surmounting the Civilization of Death in which we are imbedded.

Good intentions and undone to-do-lists won't accomplish this but rather through the hard work of prayer, support, and action. The Nativity in Bethlehem was the end result of a long and exhausting journey replete with disappointment, marginalization, and bewilderment. The exultation of the Birth was soon followed by fear, flight, and labourious exile. Our work, too, requires all these elements, and more.

But in the same way that the Holy Family was buoyed up by the Divine Presence, can we not be sustained by that same reality? Yes, the work is hard, but there are those gifts in our life as well. The many financial gifts from supporters such as yourselves, given from your hearts and budgets, help pay for a plane flight of a seminarian to attend a Congress and thereby become fired up with the practical knowledge of what the facts really are about pro-life issues. Forty of them will be brought together in Ancaster, On-

tario, in August of 2012 with the best presenters we can find to help form the next generation of pro-life priests. Your generosity helps us bring priests and deacons together this spring in Ottawa to look deeply and critically at the issues of mercy-killing so that they can speak, preach, and be organized against this scourge. It allows us to send our "Just for Life" program (a pro-life weekend program in a box) to parishes without charge so that even small and struggling parishes can have the most up-to-date material for their parishioners. It enabled us to hire seminarians in the summer to prepare programs and outreach to our priests, deacons, and bishops. The regular teleconferences, the PFLC plane tickets for our board members to speak across the country at clergy gatherings and at seminaries, the increasing use of e-mail information for priests and parishes - this and much more comes from your generosity.

This year has been even more active with strong encouragement as a result of legal and political initiatives. Young courageous university students working in the face of vehement opposition, the wounded souls who need reconciliation and healing, our indefatigable pro-life

leaders who seek direction and clergy support, the use of the "Pro-Life Hour" radio/internet program to work at the principle of unity within the movement - it is because of yourselves that we have been able to give tangible support to them and many others.

Among so many, I need to thank the priest in Saskatchewan who helped pay for a good part of a seminarian's summer wage and the very, very many people who prayed and sent messages of good wishes while I was recovering from vocal cord surgery, as well as the prayer warriors who send up an unceasing barrage of prayer and intercession which is the lifeblood of our work. I need to thank our Episcopal advisors, the executive and board members of PFLC, and Mike Vande Wiel, our Operations Manager, for the untold hours of labour. We need to thank Our Lord Jesus Christ who has tasked all of us with this great work. It has been entrusted to us in the sure promise of His presence and support. What was begun in Bethlehem will be completed in glory. ■

CANADIANS WANT LEGAL PROTECTION BEFORE BIRTH

In a recent telephone poll, conducted by Environics Research for Life Canada (www.lifecanada.org), an educational pro-life group, 2,000 Canadians were asked for their opinions on abortion. Seventy-two percent of Canadians surveyed in a September National Omnibus poll support legal protection for unborn babies: 28% want protection from conception on, 17% from two months on, and 17% from three months on. While another ten percent favour protection from 6 months on. Two in ten (20%) think human life should receive legal protection only at birth. Nine percent offer no opinion on this question. The margin of error is +/- 2.2%.

ADOPTION

If you know of someone facing an unplanned pregnancy and would like information and resources on the subject of adoption, please visit www.AdoptioninCanada.ca or call the confidential helpline: 1-800-395-4357 (toll-free). (Adoption in Canada is a project of Life Canada: www.lifecanada.org).



Listen to the "The Pro-Life Hour" with Fr. Tom Lynch and Fr. John Lemire at: www.PriestsForLifeCanada.com or contact us for a free CD copy.

Recent programs: November, 2011: Diocese of Vancouver - December, 2011: Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

Seminary Visits Update Report

Report from Fr. John Lemire,
Chairman of the Board.

Building on the success of the 2010 Priests for Life Canada Seminarian Congress, Fr. Bradley Markus (board member) and I initiated the first-ever national Priests for Life Canada (PFLC) seminary visitation outreach the week of November 21 to 25, 2011. The first part of the visitation focused on Western Canada.

On November 21st, Fr. Markus and I travelled to Vancouver, BC. The next morning we had a face-to-face meeting with Archbishop Michael Miller, csb, of Vancouver. Archbishop Miller has been a great supporter and leader in building a culture of life. During the meeting, we had an opportunity to share with the archbishop some of the work of PFLC and our upcoming initiatives and projects. The archbishop was very interested in our work and assured us of his prayers and support. Afterwards we met with Michele Smillie and Pavel Reid, from the Archdiocese Respect for Life Office, and had a great discussion about the work of their office.

That afternoon we travelled to Mission, BC (about ninety minutes from Vancouver), to meet with the seminarians and

faculty of Christ the King Seminary. We did an afternoon presentation to their 25 seminarians followed by evening prayer and supper with them. In the evening, we met with the 37 high school students who live at the seminary and shared with them the work of PFLC.

On Wednesday morning we departed Mission, BC, and returned to Vancouver to catch our afternoon flight to Edmonton, AB. We arrived at the newly built St. Joseph's Seminary in late afternoon and had an opportunity to have dinner with Archbishop Richard Smith of Edmonton. Archbishop Smith is also the new President of the Canadian

well as news about our upcoming 2012 summer "Seminarians' Pro-life Congress" as well as our new summer seminary internship program.

Looking back on these days, a lot was accomplished in a short time. Having the opportunity to spend time with the two archbishops, as well as the seminarians and seminary faculty was an invaluable opportunity to advance the pro-life cause and further build a culture of life. None of this would have been possible without the generous financial support of you, our donors! Your financial generosity makes it possible for us to embark on such outreach projects.

In early March Fr. Markus and I will continue our seminarian visitations at seminaries in Toronto and London, Ontario. Please pray for the success of these upcoming visits.

In addition to these visits, PFLC has announced that the 2nd national "Seminarians' Pro-life Congress" will take place August 27 to August 31st in Ancaster, ON. We are also operating a summer intern program for seminarians that will help them better understand life issues and assist in the work and ministry of PFLC. If you would like to assist in the financial costs

of these initiatives, please contact our office at 1-888-300-2007 or make a donation online through our website at:

www.PriestsForLifeCanada.com



Seminarians at Christ the King Seminary,
Mission BC (November, 2012)

Conference of Catholic Bishops. Archbishop Smith was very enthusiastic and supportive of our efforts and was pleased that PFLC was taking this opportunity to work with seminarians.

Fr. Markus and I met on Thursday with the 41 seminarians of St. Joseph's Seminary and shared with them about the mandate of PFLC as



Seminarians' Pro-Life Congress

Mount Mary Immaculate, Ancaster, Ontario

August 27 to August 31, 2012

Congress Fee: \$100 (refundable if unable to attend)

Seminarians will not be denied attendance due to a lack of funds.

Contact Priests for Life Canada to register and for assistance with travel and other costs.



KEYNOTE PRESENTER: DR. JOSÉ PEREIRA

Symposium Fee: \$100.00 (includes meals)

Attention priests and deacons: Priests for Life Canada has funds available to assist with costs for accommodations, travel, etc.

To apply, or for further information: 1.888.300.2007 or mail@priestsforlifecanada.com

What Clergy Can Do

- ⇒ Offer Masses for pro-life intentions.
- ⇒ Establish a pro-life prayer group in your parish.
- ⇒ Offer Pro-life holy hours, Rosaries, Scripture Services, etc.
- ⇒ Preach frequently on abortion. Make use of the monthly E-Notes distributed by Priests for Life Canada.
- ⇒ Include the life issues in the General Intercessions at Mass.
- ⇒ Place pro-life inserts into your parish bulletins regularly.
- ⇒ Present pro-life topics in Bible Study, RCIA, meetings for school parents, marriage preparation, instructions for sponsors, etc.
- ⇒ Invite pro-life speakers to your parish.
- ⇒ Set up a permanent pro-life sign on church property.

Yes

- I would like to make a donation to help Priests for Life Canada in its life-saving work.
- I would like to become a member of Priests for Life Canada (\$25/year).
- Clergy Supporting Member
- I am pleased to make a donation of:
 - \$25 \$50 \$500 Other: \$ _____.
- Please send me an income tax receipt.
- Please send a receipt at the end of the year only.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ Prov. _____ Code: _____
 Tel: _____ E-Mail: _____

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You can make an Online donation to Priests for Life Canada at www.PriestsForLifeCanada.com and receive an immediate income tax receipt.