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London Area
Right to Life Association Inc.

Newsletter



A London Pro-Life Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2013

Volume 47 Number 1

Reminder...

Memberships due for 2013

\$15/person \$30/family \$50/group
Please use enclosed donation form.

Thank You

to the generous donors who
responded to our Christmas Appeal

Upcoming EVENTS

Please mark your calendars

- March 9 REGION #1 MEETING**
S.W. Ontario Pro-life Groups
- Chatham hosting
- April 12-14 PROJECT RACHEL HEALING WEEKEND**
- Call: 1-888-355-1110
- April 18 ANNUAL DINNER/SILENT AUCTION**
- Marconi Club
 - See poster page 3
- May 8-10 MARCH FOR LIFE OTTAWA**
- 3-day Catholic High School Bus
 - Ann: 519-660-2798 ext. 24238
- May 9 MARCH FOR LIFE OTTAWA**
- Leaves midnight the 8th
 - Returns 11:30 p.m. the 9th
 - Cheryl: 519-453-1489
- May 13 LONDON AREA RTL ANNUAL GENERAL MTG.**
- 1193 Oxford St. E. Unit 3
 - See page 4
- MONTHLY HOSPITAL WITNESS**
- Last Thurs. of month at L.H.S.C.
 - 3:30-5 p.m.
 - Commissioners & Wellington
 - John: 519-657-9009
- WEEKLY HOSPITAL WITNESS**
- Fridays at L.H.S.C. 5:15-6:45 p.m.
 - Commissioners & Wellington
 - Dave or Mike: 226-700-5604

A New Year in the Culture War

President's Message by Elaine Arnsby

The New Year has begun and the battle between the Culture of Life and the Culture of Death will inevitably continue to heat up. As reported in our last newsletter, we saw an increase in agitation among the pro-abortion crowd in 2012, and even some resistance and closed doors from those who should be on our side! On the flip side, we saw a baby saved from death (during 40 Days for Life) and unknown numbers of people educated.

In this battle we are in good company. Look, for example, at Linda Gibbons and Mary Wagner who peacefully offer help to abortion-minded women at clinics and are regularly arrested for doing so. The mainstream media has paid little or no attention, and the police treat them as though they are dangerous criminals, swooping in for their arrests in multiple squad cars!

Here is correspondence concerning Linda and Mary that I received recently. Rosemary Connell is leader of Show the Truth Canada and Rev. Tony Van Hee is the pro-life priest who has been fasting and witnessing on Parliament Hill whenever Parliament is in session for the last two decades:

Hi Father,

Linda called tonight... Her trial is Jan. 23. She spent all day [Jan 8th] going to court the other day to just confirm the date.

Mary Wagner's trial is next September for approximately two weeks. Mary's lawyer will be arguing the humanity of the child in the womb... Linda also said the driver of the "paddy wagon" that Mary was in forgot to turn the heat on and that Mary was almost frozen when she got back to Vanier.

Can you ask people you know to pray for both of them. They are really doing "hard time" for the babies.

Dear Friends,

May the Peace of Christ be with you always! As you see, this is a request for prayers for Linda Gibbons and Mary Wagner.

Mary Wagner has already been in jail four months and her trial is only coming up in September. Linda has been in jail a little less than Mary this time, but altogether she has been in jail a little more than 10 years. Both are in jail for peacefully standing up for the humanity of the unborn, who are unable to speak up for themselves.

*With much gratitude, prayers, and God's Blessing,
Fr. Tony Van Hee*

We may not be on the front lines the way Mary and Linda are, but with over three million Canadian babies dead through abortion since 1969, it is imperative that each and every one of us makes a conscious effort to do something to end the killing!

What can we do!

- **Pray:** we know the side of Life will win out in the end.
- **Participate:** for example, in upcoming events – our Annual Dinner/Silent Auction April 18th, Ottawa's March for Life May 9th, our Annual General Meeting May 13th, the Walkathon our main fundraiser in June
- **Get familiar with pro-life issues:** read pro-life news in print and on-line, go to pro-life conferences, sign and circulate pro-life petitions.
- **Talk about the issues:** with our local political leaders, doctors, pharmacists, teachers, our neighbours, and with our family members. Although it is generally considered a taboo subject, you never know when the Holy Spirit might present an opportunity.

One thing is certain; if we are faithful to the Gospel of Life, we can count on future victory in Him who leads us... and we can also count on persecution. However, God willing and under His Lordship, we will continue to fight the battle together – remaining faithful, focused, and active in exposing the lie of abortion.

The Board of London Area Right to Life gives praise and thanksgiving for you, our pro-life family. Peace and joy to you and yours in this New Year 2013.



LARTLA New Exterior Message



From the Office

Many lessons learned...I will sing of the Lord's mercies

by Sr. Bonnie Pember

Thank God for all His many graces in our lives! It is truly a grace to work with everyone at the London Area Right to Life office because they are so very patient with the “new kid on the block”—me. Since our last newsletter, the office has been abuzz with activity. Our pro-life elementary school program started on January 14th. The preparation involved is time consuming but worth every second if someone’s heart is touched by the fact that each of us is “fearfully and wonderfully made” by our loving God.

Our wonderful volunteers helped me to issue tax receipts. Many hands do indeed make light work. The only fly in the ointment was the printer having “hiccup” problems; that is, it needed a new “imaging unit” or “drum” to keep on running smoothly. Of course, you too would be having problems if you were the printer to issue hundreds of tax receipts. Talk about overtime!

I learn something new every day and am trying to always remain open to what the Lord wishes to teach me. My very being was touched to the core by the March for Life in Dublin, Ireland. I am sure Canada’s March for Life will be just as inspirational. I am very humbled to be a small part of this struggle to promote a Culture of Life.



LARTLA NEEDS YOUR HELP

Some of the ways you can assist us are listed here:

- A knowledgeable and enthusiastically pro-life person to update and manage our website
 - Assistance with requesting and obtaining Silent Auction donations
 - Obtaining pledges for the Walkathon and participating in it
 - Helping with School Presentations for Grades 5/6 and possibly 7/8
 - Volunteering for mail-outs
 - Assisting on the morning of the Walkathon (ex: corner captains, blowing up helium balloons, preparing gym for registration and prayer service, joining in the prayer service in the gym and in the mass at St. Mary’s church)
 - Volunteering to fill a time slot at the Western Fair Booth
 - Life Chain corner captains or Life Chain sign drop-offs and pick-ups at designated corners
 - 40 Days for Life to put up signs at 7 a.m. and to take down signs at 7 p.m. and store overnight
- For more information call Bonnie at the office: 519-659-3334

40th ANNIVERSARY OF ‘ROE VS WADE’ and the MARCH FOR LIFE

Taken from articles by John-Henry Westin and Ben Johnson Jan. 25, 2013

Since Roe vs. Wade in 1973, there have been 55,772,015 abortions in America. That is “a death toll that equates with the entire population of England,” said Chris Smith, R-NJ. Every day, that’s 3,820 abortions.

“Know this,” Mr. Smith said, addressing the president, “the pro-life movement is... an extraordinarily powerful, non-violent, faith-filled human rights struggle that is growing in public support, intensity, commitment and hope. And know this Mr. President: The pro-life movement is not only on the side of compassion, justice, and inclusion; we are on the right side of responsible science and of history.”

This year’s March for Life was over half a million strong. The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in DC was packed Thursday night for the opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life – with 13,000 faithful, 5 cardinals, 42 bishops, 395 priests, 80 deacons, 520 seminarians.

Cardinal O’Malley, the chairman of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities warned, “There is no doubt that the next major assault on the Gospel of Life will come from those pushing physician assisted suicide and euthanasia.” He added, “The society that allows parents to kill their children will allow children to kill their parents.”



London Area Right to Life Association
30th Annual Dinner & 12th Silent Auction
Thursday, April 18, 2013

Marconi Club, 120 Clarke Road, London

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for social time and to view & bid on the Silent Auction Items



Jonathon Van Maren

Come and Hear:

Jonathon Van Maren

“Meet Canada's EndtheKilling Youth Movement”

Jonathon Van Maren, of the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform, will speak on saved lives, changed minds, and changed hearts from across Canada. He is a youth leader in a new movement that is confronting the culture on Canadian streets, and widening the hairline cracks in Canada's abortion consensus one conversion at a time.

TICKETS

- **\$25.00 EACH** (*Advanced Sales Only*)
- **by Thursday, April 11, 2013**
- **Buy your table of 8 (\$200)**

Theresa Fenik at 519-432-3166 (theresafenik@yahoo.ca) or **LARTLA Office at 519-659-3334**

Some of the Silent Auction Items



**Drayton Festival
Theatre Tickets**



Executive Chair



**Stainless
Drying Rack**



Kids Ski-Doo

We would be very grateful for donations of NEW ITEMS or SERVICES

Please call Elaine Arnsby at 519-951-7789 or drop off at office Thursday, April 11, 2013

Motion 408

Condemning Sex-Selective Abortion

Motion 408 launched Dec. 5, 2012, by Mark Warawa, Tory MP (Langley), reads: "That the House condemn discrimination against females occurring through sex-selective pregnancy termination." Mr. Warawa expects M-408 to be debated in March with a vote by the end of April or sometime in May.

Federal Politicians & Motion 408

Mr. Harper's press secretary has told LifeSiteNews that the government "is opposed to opening this debate" and "Parliament has voted on this issue. We don't think it should be opened again."

In a memo sent on Dec. 6, 2012, the Opposition parties are "saying that our government is trying to use Private Members' Motions to reopen the abortion debate", and we are "opposed to opening this debate".

"The Opposition leader, Thomas Mulcair, NDP, said his entire caucus will vote against the motion, reiterating the Opposition's view that the Harper government is trying to ban abortion through the backdoor."

Comments by Barbara Kay, *National Post*, Dec. 7, 2012

"Since the dawn of the modern pro-choice movement, liberal activists have done their best to equate abortion-on-demand with women's rights. Make access to abortion easier, the theory goes, and you automatically empower women.

But then ultrasound technology, combined with a preference for male children in patriarchal cultures, produced the specter of gendercide — the systematic practice of using sex-selective abortion to kill off female fetuses. Is no-holds-barred abortion still such a great thing for women if it serves to systematically cull their ranks?

According to a 2012 study published in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, Indian-born women who reside in Canada and already have two children "were significantly more likely than Canadian-born women to have a male infant." Specifically, the male to female sex ratio for third children born to mothers in this statistical grouping was found to be 1.36 – a substantial deviation from the expected baseline of 1.05. Where are all those female fetuses going?... There are many private clinics in big cities such as Toronto that cater specifically to "family balancing" desires.

Feminists decades ago made absolute freedom of choice the litmus test for support of women's rights. Thus, regulation for any reason whatsoever is seen as anathema to the movement. Add to that their anguish over appearing racist by admitting gendercide is culturally motivated, and they uneasily but stubbornly cling to the sanctity of "choice". This is an increasingly untenable stance.

Official condemnation by our government would help to erode the acceptance of this practice, in the same way that official condemnation of smoking through forced packaging information and public-service campaigns halved smoking rates. We would not be making sex-selective abortion illegal, but we would let people know that they are doing something destructive and shameful.

A 2011 Environics poll found that 92% of respondents opposed sex-selective abortion. And a January 2012 Angus Reid poll found about two-thirds of respondents (about half of them women) favoured laws prohibiting the practice.

Silence is indifference. Gendercide is a hateful practice. Let that much at least be said."

"It's a Girl" Campaign

Go on-line to see the **defendgirls.ca** campaign. View the powerful documentary, "It's a Girl"; at **itsagirl.ca**, Spread the word and support Motion 408.

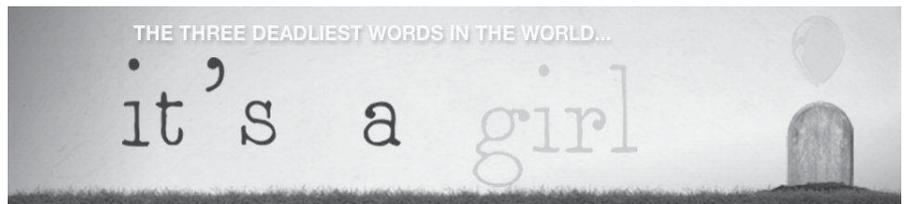
PROTECT GIRLS



STOP GENDERCIDE. SUPPORT M-408.

The anti-discrimination motion against sex selection.

www.markwarawa.com/#protectgirls



Support M-408. Petitions are downloadable at markwarawa.com or supportm408.com.

Pro-Life News Bites

491 CANADIAN BABIES, BORN ALIVE – LEFT TO DIE

Statistics Canada data found in October by pro-life blogger Patricia Maloney in the **federal agency's online database** indicates that, between 2000 and 2009, there were 491 babies in Canada who died after they were born alive following failed abortions. The cause of the born child's death was an abortion. These were not stillbirths. The babies were of 20 weeks gestation and greater.

Section 223(2) of the Criminal Code reads, "A person commits homicide when he causes injury to a child before or during its birth as a result of which the child dies after becoming a human being." That is to say, anyone who interferes with a pregnancy such that the child dies after it is born alive due to that interference, is guilty of homicide.

Tory MPs Maurice Vellacott (Saskatoon-Wanuskewin), Leon Benoit (Vegreville-Wainwright), and Wladyslaw Lizon (Mississauga East-Cooksville) sent a letter on Jan. 23rd to RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson: "These incidents appear to be homicides. Therefore a thorough police investigation is required, and I am formally requesting you to pursue that."

Many reports in the mainstream media have twisted the MPs' letter as a call for late-term abortions to be investigated as homicides.

NDP party's deputy leader Megan Leslie challenged with: "These conservatives are trying to get the RCMP to investigate abortions as murder." ... "Will the Prime Minister make it clear that he and his government understand that abortion is not murder?" The Prime Minister's reply to the NDP question: "All members of this House, whether they agree with it or not, understand that abortion is legal in Canada and this government, myself included, have made it very clear that the government does not intend to change the law in this regard."

The PMO as of this printing has yet to respond to the actual problem at hand which is **the babies died, not during abortion, but after they were born alive and thus recognized as persons under Canadian law.**

A spokesman for the RCMP told LifeSiteNews, however, that the agency will not confirm or deny whether an investigation is or will be underway.

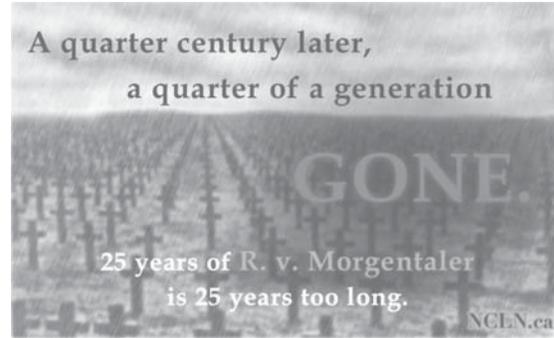
Jim Hughes President of Campaign Life Coalition asked the question, "Could it be that we're witnessing our country's descent into acceptance of infanticide before our very eyes?"

THE CEMETERY OF THE INNOCENT

This January and February, a display of 1,862 crosses was set up in a farmer's field by Abbotsford Right to Life to commemorate the number of children who die in Canada every week as a result of abortion. This display, called The Cemetery of the Innocent, also includes signs bearing messages like "Choosing abortion stops a beating heart," and "Pregnant? Need Help? Call 1-877-88-woman."



A SHAMEFUL ANNIVERSARY INDEED!



January 28th marked a shameful anniversary: 25 years of the R. v. Morgentaler decision that brought wholly unrestricted abortion to Canada, making it possible for

one quarter of a Canadian generation to be exterminated. Nine years after the decision, the number of abortions in Canada increased by a staggering 53.4%! In Canada there are 32 abortions for every 100 live births. There have been 2.6 million abortions since 1988.

- 2011 Environics poll: 72% of Canadians want legal protection, 28% supporting protections from conception.
- 2012 Angus Reid poll: 51% of Canadians want "laws outlining when a woman can have an abortion in Canada."
- 2012 Ipsos Reid poll: 60% of Canadians support the "introduction of a law in Canada that places limits on when a woman can have an abortion during her pregnancy".

A generation has grown up in the shadow of the R. v. Morgentaler decision. 25 years of R. v. Morgentaler is 25 years too long.

DEBATE WITH LONDON ABORTIONIST



Stephanie Gray

Jan. 17, Stephanie Gray, founder of Canadian Centre for Bioethical Reform, debated London Ontario's late-term abortionist and how-to instructor, Dr. Fraser Fellows, in front of a packed auditorium at Brock University. The shock in the room was audible when, after playing footage of a second-trimester abortion, Stephanie asked Dr. Fellows if that was an accurate representation of his work.

He matter-of-factly answered, "Absolutely".

LARGEST PRO-LIFE RALLY IN IRELAND HISTORY

by Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com, Jan. 21 '13

More than 30,000 pro-life people gathered to hold political leaders accountable for pledging to oppose a b o r t i o n . Claims by the government that abortion was needed to treat threatened suicide were demolished at recent hearings on abortion.

Pro-abortion activists worldwide view Ireland as the "jewel in the crown" of the pro-life movement. "We are a beacon for the pro-life movement everywhere. Let's fight to keep that light shining," said Caroline Smith of Pro Life Campaign.



An open letter to President Obama on Inauguration Day

BY FR. FRANK PAVONE, National Director, Priests for Life, Mon Jan 21, 2013

Mr. President:

Many Americans are praying for you as you are inaugurated today. I am among them, as I participate today in the national commemorative service for the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and join his family at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Yet when wild applause erupts today for you here today, I will not be applauding. When standing ovations occur, I will stand to honor my country and the office of its President, but I will not be applauding, because, I do not believe that you should be the current occupant of the White House.

When you were first elected, many rejoiced that yet another barrier had been broken for racial equality in our nation. I rejoiced with them. Yet so many African-Americans could have been -- and can still be -- elected to the Presidency who better represent and advance the principles on which our country was founded.

Instead, you so often violate them. Therefore along with the chorus of praise, I want to write this letter today representing so many of our fellow Americans who raise a chorus of concern, particularly regarding your stand on life, religious freedom, and marriage.

Dr. Alveda King, Martin's niece, is a full-time member of my team at Priests for Life. She travels this nation bearing witness to the fact that the civil rights movement of today is the pro-life movement. We proclaim the principle behind the civil rights movement -- namely, equality for every human life -- and apply it to the children yet in their mothers' womb.

And we protest your apparent unwillingness to recognize their equal dignity. You represent the blind spot that advocates of abortion across America demonstrate, as they cry out about the right to life of children slain in Newtown, Connecticut, but never acknowledge the right to life those same children had when in the womb.

We protest your unrelenting attack on religious freedom and on the institution of marriage. My ministry of Priests for Life was among the first to launch a federal lawsuit against the HHS mandate, and we recently won an initial victory in federal court in New York. We will continue to advance this lawsuit and will settle for nothing less than the complete withdrawal of the mandate across the board and across the nation.

Mr. President, I write today on behalf of countless Americans who love their country, but whose very love of that country causes them distress at so many of your actions and positions. There is a lot of room in our country for legitimate political debate. But our objections go beyond that. This is not just about your policies, but about your principles, so many of which completely contradict those on which our nation was founded.

Indeed, many will be praying for you today, and part of that fervent prayer is for an authentic change of mind and heart on the part of the President of the United States.

Respectfully,
Fr. Frank Pavone



Life Will Triumph • Life Will Triumph • Life Will Triumph • Life Will Triumph

Joe Scheidler, of Chicago's Pro-life Action League, Dec. 2012:

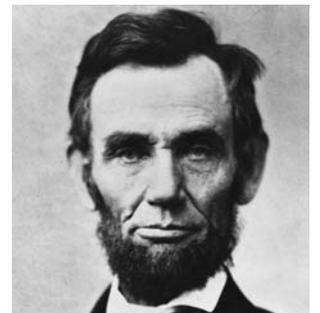
"I have to confess that every four years I find I have fallen into the trap of expecting our political leaders to make my job easier. It is a terrible deception. In my heart I want to live by my (and St. Benedict's) motto: "Oro et Labora – Pray and Work." But along comes an election campaign and I am lulled into thinking that if a pro-life candidate gets elected, I can breathe a little easier.

I say it is a deception, because our work as pro-life activists does not depend on who is in the White House, or the Congress or the State House, or even on the Supreme Court. We are commissioned by God to spread the Gospel, to restore respect for human life, to change the culture and build a Culture of Life.



Abraham Lincoln, July, 1858:

"I have not allowed myself to forget that the abolition of the slave trade in Great Britain was agitated a hundred years before its final success. Remembering these things I cannot but regard it as possible that the higher object of this contest may not be completely attained within the term of my natural life. But I cannot doubt either that it will come in due time. Even in this view, I am proud, in my passing speck of time, to contribute my humble mite to that glorious consummation, which in my poor eyes may not last to see."



EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE

QUEBEC, January 30, 2013 (LifeSiteNews.com) - In response to the push by the Quebec government to legalize euthanasia, the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, in conjunction with HOPE Australia, has launched the "Declaration of Hope." The groups hope the declaration will be a means to build opposition to euthanasia and assisted suicide, and to promote positive responses to the real human dilemmas that lead people to consider euthanasia.

DECLARATION OF HOPE – A Letter to all Canadian Parliamentarians

We believe that legalizing euthanasia and/or assisted suicide is bad public policy and should be rejected by every Canadian legislature.

- To legalize euthanasia and/or assisted suicide would enable one citizen to directly and intentionally cause the death of another citizen or be involved with causing that death.
- Euthanasia and assisted suicide are not socially acceptable responses to terminal or incurable illness or chronic conditions. Will this result in a "duty to die"?
- Euthanasia and assisted suicide pose a threat to the equality of persons. The lives of some in our community will be considered — "not worth living".
- Older Canadians are not a problem to be rid of — they're a generation to be honoured and cared for. We cannot put older Canadians at risk by creating new paths to elder abuse.
- Canada must not place the lives of citizens at risk.
- Legalizing euthanasia and/or assisted suicide is a recipe for abuse. So-called 'safeguards' are an illusion because they are unable to prevent the potential for coercion and abuse.
- All Canadians should have access to quality pain control — no matter where they live. Pain control and palliative medicine should be given a higher priority in medical training so that every Canadian can benefit.
- Being involved in one's health care plan and making informed choices are vitally important to a patient's sense of well being. Euthanasia and assisted suicide could be increasingly adopted as the easier option to the exclusion of genuine patient centered care.



Alex Schadenberg
*Executive Director of
Euthanasia Prevention
Coalition*

We respectfully ask you in every instance, to firmly oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide legislation.

THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN IN LONDON! Dying with Dignity (DWD) gave another presentation in London on Jan. 16th at the Kiwanis Seniors Centre. The talk, "Straight Talk on End-Of-Life Options", was presented by Gemmel Neilson and hosted by Linda Baker, Council for London Seniors. DWD encourages people by their propaganda to act outside Canadian law and yet is a registered charity!

"We were blessed to have met them."

Parents of preemie triplets find meaning in the unthinkable

by Peter Baklinski, 8 January, 2013 (LifeSiteNews.com) ROCKWOOD, Ontario

The doctor performing the ultrasound had a strange look on his face. The newly married couple (May 2012) braced themselves for what they were sure would be terrible news.

"Now, don't scream," he said in measured tones. **"One. Two. Three...Triplets!"** Jason and Marie were ecstatic at the news of triplets. Jason 'high-fived' Marie, who was lying on the observation bed. "We were just really, really excited," Jason told LifeSiteNews in an exclusive interview from their home. The ultrasound revealed that there were two girls and a boy. The proud parents named them Bernadette, Christine, and Adam.

At a subsequent visit, doctors spoke to the parents about "selective reduction," but the couple would hear none of it. Even though Marie was a trained nurse and knew that doctors would ask this question, it stung her to hear someone so unconcernedly offer to "kill one or two of my children." "That was really upsetting to us both since we so eagerly anticipated our children," said Jason.

The couple began to prepare themselves and their house for the new arrivals, expected in February 2013. Three little cribs were purchased and tenderly placed in the upstairs bedroom. Every night before falling asleep beside his wife, Jason would lean over and talk to his unborn children. "Hey Adam, hey Bernadette, hey Christina, I'm looking forward to meeting you. I love you guys!" Before leaving for work he would say to them: "Look after your mommy!"

Continues on next page ►

The UnthinkableContinued from page 7

But Marie's body was beginning to have trouble adapting to the demands of the three thriving lives inside of her. She experienced massive headaches as well as heart palpitations and chest pains if she overexerted herself. She was troubled with severe acid reflux. One day, while in the midst of writing wedding thank-you cards at the kitchen table, she suddenly blacked-out. When she came to, she managed to phone Jason for help.

Despite Marie's health struggles, a November 13 ultrasound revealed that Marie and her babies were doing quite well. At 22 weeks, Marie was measuring more like a pregnant woman at 35 weeks. But the day after the ultrasound, Marie started experiencing "sharp little pains" across her abdomen that became increasingly regular. That evening, the couple decided to head for the hospital to see what was going on.

Arriving at the hospital, the couple was incredulous when doctors told Marie that she was four centimeters dilated and that labour had begun. The young couple clung to the hope that doctors could do something to prevent labour from developing further while still keeping the babies safe. But labour progressed further. Doctors broke the news that the babies were on their way.

At 22 weeks, the tiny triplets didn't have much of a chance. Not only was their gestational development delayed because they were triplets, but their little lungs hadn't developed enough for them to breathe. As a nurse, Marie knew that ventilation efforts on underdeveloped lungs could explode the lungs, causing immediate death. Doctors told the parents that when born, the babies would not benefit from medical intervention.

As Jason stood by his wife's side, witnessing the unthinkable nightmare that was unfolding before his eyes, he suddenly realized that he had been giving all his attention to Marie. He realized that his unborn children were probably just as frightened by what was happening as he and Marie were. The young father leaned over and chokingly comforted his children with the loving words he had spoken so often. "Hey, I love you guys...I'm looking forward to meeting you..."

The parents prepared to greet their children and spend as much time with them as they could. The triplets were born in the early hours of November 15, each weighing between 360 to 450 grams, less than a pound each. "They came out, full of life, and moving around," said Jason. "I kept on hoping that they might be the only triplets born at 22 weeks to ever survive, but they faded quickly."

Despite the deep sorrow of having to let their children go, the parents were nonetheless taken aback by how perfectly formed their little children were, with perfect little noses, tiny toes, dainty fingers and finger nails, and most of all, beautifully lovable faces.

By now, extended family had arrived at the hospital to support Jason and Marie and to help bid farewell to the three children. A nurse took the babies' footprints. The children were fitted with little hats and wrapped in coloured garments.



For Marie, it was an impossible mix of emotions: "We just held the babies. We cried. We looked at them. We studied them. We talked to them. We baptized them. And...we loved them." Bernadette, Adam, and Christine were loved, respected, and cherished for every moment of their short four-hour lives.

Searching for Meaning

Marie's brother built a little wooden casket with three crosses on the top. The children who had grown, lived, and died together, would now be laid in their final resting place together.

At the graveside, Jason explained to the people gathered that his children's lives were precious. He mentioned his daughters' dainty fingernails and the beautiful curve of his boy's tiny chin. He said that even at such a young age, each child already showed distinct personality traits. He conveyed that "each had its own unique unrepeatable life." Jason conveyed just how wonderfully-made are these little human children of God. He was able to see in this serious, sad, yet profound moment of burying his beloved children a pro-life ray of hope that brought tears to everyone's eyes

A Testimony to Life

Like any parents who have had to bury their children, Jason and Marie find themselves asking "why". On blacker days, they find themselves prayerfully wrestling with God, asking him why he allowed this pain, this grief, this suffering, this loss. Marie's worst moment was waking up in the middle of the night directly after her loss. As the preceding nightmarish events crashed heavily upon her, she suddenly realized that she no longer was pregnant. "I really felt the despair when I asked myself how could anything good possibly come out of this," she said. The parents found themselves turning to their faith, seeking answers to difficult questions.

"We don't know why we didn't get to keep them," said Marie, "but for whatever reason, God allowed them to be taken from us. We have faith that they are now in heaven reaching down trying to pull the two of us to heaven to be with them. We believe that we have three little angels up there who are interceding for us, so that we will get there someday too."

Instead of focusing on their loss, the parents decided to focus on their blessings. "If anything, these babies are a testament to life. That's what they have to be. That's what we have to make this," said Marie. Despite their pain and loss, the parents would never wish their children's lives away. They know that pain and loss do not have the final word.

Faith in God and family ties were strengthened. Cold hearts were thawed.

Jason and Marie's "hope and prayer" is that sharing their experience might "encourage" others who face difficult life choices. They showed the world that bringing 22-week babies into the world, even if they are not able to live for more than a few hours, is the "natural, healthy, and loving thing to do".

Jason and Marie said the children will forever remain a treasured memory. They named them, they baptized them, and most importantly, they loved them. "We were blessed to have met them."