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London Area
Right to Life Association Inc.

Newsletter



A London Pro-Life Newsletter

MARCH 2017

Volume 51 Number 1

Upcoming EVENTS

PLEASE MARK YOUR
CALENDARS

March 11

REGION # 1 ANNUAL MEETING
Pro-life groups in SW Ontario
420 Devonshire Ave, Woodstock

March 18

LARTLA'S Member Appreciation
Breakfast & Annual General Mtg.
10:00 a.m.

St. George's Catholic Church
1164 Commissioners Rd. W.

May 4

LARTLA'S ANNUAL GALA
Hellenic Centre, 133 Southdale Rd. W
Speaker: Lorelee Siemens
Tickets sold at office by Bonnie
519-659-3334 (see p. 3)

May 10-12

MARCH FOR LIFE, OTTAWA
CATHOLIC YOUTH BUS
3 Days-Vigil, March & Rose Dinner
Call Anne Clarke: 519-667-4432
Ext. 22059

May 10th

Bus leaves from St. Justin's At 11:45 pm
Returns @ Midnight on May 11th
MARCH FOR LIFE, OTTAWA
(ONE DAY BUS TRIP FROM LONDON)
Call: Adrian @ 519-439-5231

Project Rachel Retreats

1-888-355-1110
Private, confidential & compassionate

LAST THURSDAY OF MONTH

HOSPITAL WITNESS
Victoria Hospital
3:30 pm to 5:00 pm
Call John @ 519-657-9009

President's message

by Michael Hale

Greetings Pro-lifers! Spring is springing and winter is on its way out. Sure there could be a slight relapse, but we can see the shoots of the crocuses coming up. I love springtime. It's always a time of new beginnings.



There is so much I need to cover in this Newsletter so let's get right to it.

First and foremost, LARTLA's Annual General Meeting is coming up. Judy Balasch, from our Board, suggested we take the AGM from boring to exciting. With that in mind, we have inserted a flyer describing the day. We made the day more an event to enjoy and since our Volunteer Appreciation Barbeque was rained out last summer, we're going to provide a nice continental breakfast to get us going. Alex Schadenburg, from Euthanasia Prevention Coalition will come and speak with us about the situation that now exists in Canada. Some of the current Board will give short presentations on the various activities LARTLA undertook last year. And we will have our election of the new Board (but we will keep that part really short).

Our Bylaws require us to have a Board of 11. We have a few key roles that we need to add to the Board. We need a Treasurer. Ken Lyng has done a great job for us these past few years, but he has other mountains to conquer and has departed our Board. We need to develop our Social Media presence. It would be great if we could get a specialist to join us.

When the Board undertook a strategic review last November we identified two key areas where we want to concentrate: Education and Fundraising. It would be wonderful if we could have a qualified teacher join our Board to help us with the education programs we are developing. Also, as I mentioned in my last President's Message (December 2016), LARTLA has suffered a few years of declining revenues and we need someone to join the Board and help us find a solution to set LARTLA up for the next decade.

As we all know, we are restricted in being political due to our charitable tax status. So I'm only going to spend a couple paragraphs in an 8 page Newsletter on politics. Our world is being shaken. The political landscape in the United States had a seismic shift like a Force 7 earthquake on the Richter scale. Unfortunately we're seeing a knee jerk reaction in Canada with the silliness going on in Ottawa and Toronto. Our Federal government is going around saying they are going to back a global fund to pay for abortions in third world countries, countries that have told Canada's politicians they don't want their money. They also want to enact a law that restricts our freedom of speech. A law that is not necessary because the same protection already exists in our constitution and existing laws. We need to do everything we can to ensure our voice is heard. Call, write letters, email your member of both the provincial and federal legislatures. Don't let them enact laws that are purely subjective.

Continues next page

Loving God, I thank you for the gift of life you gave and continue to give to me and to all of us.
Merciful God, I ask your pardon and forgiveness for my own failure and the failure of all people to respect and foster all forms of life in our universe.

Gracious God, I pray that with your grace, I and all people will reverence, protect, and promote all life and that we will be especially sensitive to the life of the unborn, the abused, neglected, disabled, and the elderly. I pray, too, that all who make decisions about life in any form will do so with wisdom, love, and courage.

Living God, I praise and glorify you as Father, Source of all life, as Son, Savior of our lives, and as Spirit, Sanctifier of our lives.

Sister Mary Margaret Johanning, S.S.N.D.

Nihil Obstat: Joseph F. Martino Imprimatur: Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua Archbishop of Philadelphia, June 1994



Alissa Golob started a new group and I love their tag line. I think we must embrace their catch phrase "RIGHT NOW". Don't wait to make your voice heard. Sitting back and letting the other side get their way because we feel disenfranchised or because the world calls us names (untrue names at that) because its easier for them to shout us down than to engage in respectful debate, isn't a good idea. Step up RIGHT NOW. Call and write EVERYONE. Make your voices heard RIGHT NOW. We may loose the battle, but we are in this to win the WAR!!!

Alissa's new organization is the only one in Canada that is solely dedicated to nominating and electing pro-life candidates. Through results-driven and effective strategies, pro-life Canadians can make the difference between a pro-life candidate winning or losing an election. It starts with you and it starts RightNow. Regardless of whether you know anything about politics, you can help the pro-life movement become pro-active and victorious. For more on Alissa's group, check out www.itstartsrighnow.ca and get involved).

The Board has been discussing the world we now live in and the changes that have occurred since LARTLA was started. At our last Board meeting, Dr DeVeber came and told us stories about when LARTLA started. We recognized that what the world looked like back in 1969 is much different than today. LARTLA needs to keep pace with our times to remain effective. One of the things we have discussed is changing our operating name to help us communicate to our current world. We would keep our legal name as London Area Right to Life Association, but we would operate with something that is both shorter and catchier so that it works better with social media. Currently we have a list of four or five names that we like. However we want to enlist you, our Newsletter readers, in coming up with a name. Anyone who submits a name will receive a present and if your submission is eventually chosen, you will win a grand prize. Time is of the essence so please email Bonnie at the office with your suggestion. The only guideline is that I'd like to keep it to two or less words. It might also reference the area we represent, but not necessarily. So, have a go at it and let us know your idea.

You will read in this Newsletter details about our upcoming Gala and our focus on Adoption as the loving solution to abortion. The Pro-Life world is constantly criticized that we are only about ending abortion. The Board at LARTLA knows our Association is committed to all LIFE issues, from conception to a natural death. In that light, we are examining our education programs to address issues beyond just abortion. This is not to say we will put any abortion related education issue on the back burner, but that we will ensure we add to our already committed education programs. Just yesterday our Education Committee met and spent time brainstorming all the various types of education programs we would like to implement. We will continue to work on these and make them available to anyone who wants them. We are no longer "in the classroom", but that doesn't stop any teacher in the school system asking us to come in and give a presentation to their students. So if you are a teacher, please request us to come in. The same goes for Church Youth Groups and any other group (young or old) that would like a presentation on LIFE issues. We are ready to meet you where you are and to provide this crucial information.

Spring is coming. A time of new life growing. Everything just feels so much lighter and fresher. Let's make this year the year we make things happen on the LIFE front.

Michael

Looking Ahead by Bonnie Pember

As a child, I would spend family vacations visiting forts because my Dad loved history and wanted to share that love with us. I wanted to be an archeologist, historian or teacher when I grew up. I taught English and Spanish for 10 years at the secondary school level. My students taught me as I taught them. We learned from each other. Education is important! For me, learning how people lived, thought and interacted with each other in the past gave me insight into how we can bring hope to the future. Some say that history repeats itself. Yet there is the opportunity to improve, I believe.



As part of my pro-life education, I study current issues by reading online newspapers, articles forwarded by others and surfing websites. At the same time, I am privileged to have the past minutes and newsletters of London Area Right to Life Association. As a former archivist, I was fascinated to discover our association's evolution. SO many people have contributed over the years as volunteers, supporters, and members. We are a blessed pro-life family.

Persecution isn't new to us pro-lifers. France just passed a law that banned pro-life websites, punishable by fines and imprisonments. We must stand fast and continue to witness to the sanctity of human life in our world. God bless you all for your courage in being counter-cultural in a world gone topsy-turvy! Now more than ever, educating the public about life issues is paramount. Thank you for helping me and LARTLA in our community outreach at the Western Fair, 40 Days for Life and Life Chain. Together we are moving hearts, one or two at a time. God is our support and He will give us the graces we need.

Bonnie

London Area Right to Life Association



THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2017

HELLENIC CENTRE, LONDON



Guest Speakers: Lorelee, Gail & Lois

- 👣 Our Gala's Theme is "Embracing Adoption with Love"
- 👣 Lorelee Siemens is a passionate pro life speaker and an advocate for adoption
- 👣 A biological mother, an adoptive mother, and a birth child will share their story on the power of adoption

INVITE AND SPONSOR A YOUTH TO HELP US REACH 150 YOUTH ATTENDEES

TICKETS

- \$40.00 per Person • \$25.00 per Student
- ADVANCE SALES ONLY**

Tickets On Sale Until April 28th, 2017

Doors open at 5.30 p.m. • Dinner Served at 6:30 p.m.

For tickets and further inquiries call Bonnie (519) 659-3334

LARTLA Office:

1193 Oxford St. E. London ON, N5Y 3M2 • info@right2life.ca • www.right2life.ca

Our Annual Gala A Night to Embrace Adoption *By Ngan DeVries*



“Adoption is a loving option” is an iconic phrase in the pro-life movement. Even so, the crucial positive impact adoption has on society cannot be overstated. Adoption impacts more than the child and the family; adoption also impacts society because it creates a culture of selflessness. Adoption mirrors our relationship to God the Father.

The reality of having to carry a child for 9 months, feeling every kick and hiccup, feeling every contraction and labour pain, and giving your perfect child to strangers is an experience we will never fully understand unless we have gone through it ourselves. Every time a mother experiences an unplanned pregnancy and chooses to give her child for adoption, she is choosing to surrender herself for the needs of her child and the needs of a family desiring this child. I believe this graceful act of preserving life helps renew our society and brings hope. This mother, this child, and this new family will carry a powerful story with them that will shape the lives of those around them. On the contrary, every time a mother experiences an unplanned pregnancy and chooses to abort her child,

she is choosing to mask a temporary “inconvenience” with a lie. This lie will follow the mother and the people she chooses to come into relationship with all the days of their lives.

Every abortion shifts the culture toward selfishness, destruction, and brokenness.

Every adoption shifts a culture back to the loving message of Christ: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

London Area Right to Life Association is excited to announce that our theme for the Annual Gala will be “Embracing Adoption with Love.” We have booked three incredibly faithful and strong women to speak about how adoption has impacted their lives. Lorelee Siemens, her biological mother, and her adoptive mother will be our speakers for the night of May 4th. Spoiler Alert: she chose adoption!

Firstly, I want to encourage you to invite a youth or young adult to this event. This message of adoption must sink deep into the hearts and minds of our youth because they will be the ones shaping the narrative around the topic of abortion. If you are not able to invite a youth to our Gala, please send a cheque to sponsor a youth (\$25 can sponsor 1 youth). 80 young people were sponsored last year, let’s double that number this year! Please help shift the tides back to the message of Love, Life, and Faith, and grab the youth nearest to you and bring him/her to our Gala!

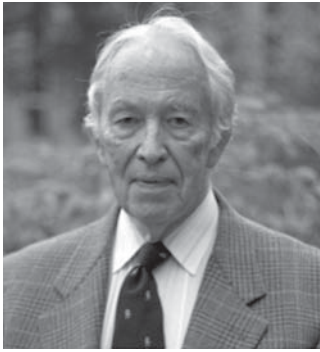
Secondly, the annual Gala is one of our major fundraising events; therefore, I encourage you to donate to our auction. We will be doing our auction differently this year. We will be offering 10 major packages for our silent auction (packages varying from “Baby Basket” to “Family Package” to “Girls’ Day Package” worth \$150+), and we will also have items for a “Penny Raffle” that will allow everyone, young and wise, to take part in. We want our Gala to be the best Gala yet, but we need your help! If you are able to donate gift cards, money, **NEW** items, or services in the follow categories, please contact Bonnie, our Office Coordinator, for further details:

- Movie Passes/Grand Theater Tickets
- Restaurants (Black Trumpet, Restaurant 91, Garlic’s etc)
- Fast Food (Tim’s, Starbucks, Pizza Pizza, DQ etc)
- Retail Stores (Mac Cosmetic, Bath & Body Works, SportChek, Lululemon, etc)
- Palasad Gift Certificates
- Weekend Getaway at a Hotel/Spa
- East Park London Passes
- Fleetway Passes
- Nutrition (Fresh Fruit Basket, Protein Powders, Protein Bars, Grocery gift cards)
- Flowers from Local Florists
- Spa and Salon Certificates
- New Baby Items (Baby Bathtub, Bath Toys, Babies “R” us gift cards, etc.)

Lastly, I encourage you to reflect about your own adoption into the Holy Trinity. Our salvation is a gift that has everlasting impact. May you reach outside of your circle to draw a friend nearer to Christ.

“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Romans 8:15)

“Quality vs. Sanctity of Life”



As most pro-life followers know, we are facing a society including the media and the government and other forces against us. The pro-abortion forces have distorted the language, e.g. euthanasia used to mean a peaceful death, not it means a licence to kill, supposedly with the patient's consent.

Medical Assisted Death means the doctor or nurse kills the patient supposedly with the patient's consent. With older demented patients, their request to end their life may not be consistent or a true statement of what they want.

Now that the Supreme Court of Canada has approved of medical assisted death unanimously, the provinces have been left with setting their own guidelines. Ontario has released copies of Bill C-84 to set these guidelines. We have yet to have a pro-life legal assessment of the bill.

In the next newsletter, I will have an article detailing the current state of medical assisted death in our hospitals which will include unwanted newborns and seniors in hospitals who are not terminal but costing a lot of money and taking up beds, both of which are a great concern to the hospital administrators and the doctors.

L.L. deVeber FRCP (C)
Professor Emeritus Oncology U.W.O.
Founder of London Area Right to Life (Originally “Defense of the Unbor

Dr. deVeber attended February's board meeting and wrote that he was impressed with “the quality and energy of the members, in particular the President, Michael Hale”

“My Journey with London Area Right to Life” by Marian Obeda



I got a call two months after the London Area Right to Life Organization opened their first office on Oxford Street, asking if I would like to serve as a volunteer. Thus began my journey working with life issues. It has been an interesting and learning journey. I have learned a lot, and made many friends along the way.

When the office first opened three board members shared the responsibility of office coordinator and they served until the organization had sufficient funds to hire a part time coordinator. Normally there were 2 people in the office, working in 2 shifts-morning and afternoon. Our responsibilities were to get acquainted with all the pamphlets. Sometimes a student or parent would come into the office for information for a school project and it was important that we know what to recommend. We also assisted in organizing material for upcoming events: the school program, Western Fair, Walkathon, Annual Dinner and mailing the newsletter. To keep up with current issues, we were encouraged to read all information that came into the office and to bring newspaper articles about life issues to the office. These we were to leave on the desk with the other articles and at the end of each week, to photocopy them and file them.

The newsletter mailing was an opportunity for others to volunteer for a short time-a one day project. However it became more complicated when we had a sufficient number of newsletters to apply for the reduced cost of mailing. At that time the envelopes has to be separated by postal code.

After I received the Jim Jepson award, I was invited to become a board member. I knew that the volunteers did not really know the board members and soon learned that the board members did not really know the volunteers. So I suggested a pot luck dinner which I hosted at my church. To help get us acquainted, neither the board members nor the volunteers could sit together-they had to alternate. The dinner worked so well that it was suggested that we have a Christmas party. That was held in the office. It was just “party foods” and more mingling. Thus began the tradition.

There are a number of things that stand out in my memories. A mother reported to me that after her daughter made a presentation to her class, the teacher said that she had changed her mind about abortion.

Two university students came into the office and took all of our pamphlets on fetal development. On Saturday they went to one of the malls and put one on every windshield in the parking lot. After the office had time to replenish their stock, they came in again and did the same at another mall. They came in a third time but a board member had instructed the volunteers not to give them any more pamphlets explaining that it costs too much, that people don't read what is there and just throw them on the ground. Unfortunately I was the volunteer that denied them the pamphlets.

However, I was also rewarded when a woman called a couple of years later to thank us for her baby. At the time she had 2 children, was pregnant with her third when her husband left her and so she had scheduled an abortion. Her mother was going to care for her children while she had her abortion, so she had gone to the mall to get a new toy for each child. She found the pamphlet when she came out, read it and cried. She cancelled her abortion. She said that this child is the sweetest, kindest child and she has us to thank for it. She had kept the pamphlet with our phone number on it.

Volunteering at the Western Fair also had its rewards. The highlight of my time there was when a lady came to tell me that her twins were the same age as the ones of our fetal models. She asked if she could hold them. I was happy to take them out of the holder for her. She cuddled them and asked if she could show them to her husband who was looking at RVs nearby. She gave him one to cuddle, and they talked before they both came over to return them. We all of us had tears in our eyes.

I am thankful for the opportunity that I had to serve as a volunteer and as the coordinator and for all the friends that I have made along the way in doing so. May God bless the work of London Area Right to Life and for all those who work to support life issues.

PRO-LIFE RESOLUTIONS for 2017 by Judy Balasch

There may not be a 40 Days for Life campaign going on right now but I am still receiving e-mails from Shawn Carney, President of 40 Days for Life. These e-mails not only contain lots of information on what is happening in the pro-life movement around the world but also links to register for webinars and to listen to podcasts. After listening to Podcast #53 (January 3) on Pro-Life Resolutions for 2017 I thought I would write a brief summary for this newsletter.

- Engage the political process at all levels-LARTLA is not a political pro-life group but there are some groups that have that as their mandate and individual voices do make a difference.
- Read a Pro-Life Book-If you need help deciding which book(s) to read Podcast #13 The TOP 5 Pro-Life Book List is discussed by members of the 40 Days for Life team. You can also find many good books available at the LARTLA Office. I just finished reading *Barrie: The Memoirs of Dr. LL deVeber*. It was also suggested that if you have read lots of books then give one away to someone else to read.
- Be Generous-Maybe you do not have the time to volunteer but you have financial resources to share. Check what the local pregnancy help centre needs. There are lots of students spending their breaks doing pro-life work. I am sure they would appreciate sponsorship funds. Post abortion healing ministries also need financial support.
- Pray for the End to Abortion everyday-It is easy to forget to pray when an official 40 Days campaign or other pro-life activity is not going on.
- Quit making excuses and just do it-This will look different for every person.
- Invite someone to a Pro-Life Event-I will admit this is a hard one for me but I have put it on my list for 2017.
- Placing Resources-When I heard this one I was happy to know that this is something the LARTLA Board has already been discussing and will hopefully decide on some new locations to place resources in 2017. This is also something that can be done as an individual. Maybe you have some places in mind. There are many wonderful resources available at the LARTLA office.
- Be Bold in Goals-This one does not need an explanation.

That is my summary of the Pro-Life Resolutions for 2017 Podcast. Of course I would not only encourage you to go on the 40 Days for Life website and listen to the whole Podcast but I would also like to add one final resolution. I hope all of you resolve to sign up to receive the 40 Days for Life e-mails at www.40daysforlife.com. When you do then you will be informed of new podcasts like #54 (January 10) Melissa Ohden-meet an abortion survivor. It is another amazing podcast!!!

Judy Balasch, LARTLA Board Member, Chairman of the 40 Days for Life Committee

A quick note-The Spring 40 Days for Life Campaign will be starting March 1 and ending April 9. Ontario cities participating include Guelph, Oakville, and Windsor. Also for those who will be traveling during this time information on participating cities around the world can be found at www.40DaysforLife.com.

What is the March for Life?



This year marks the 20th National March For Life in Ottawa and the 150th anniversary of Canada's confederation. Pro-lifers will gather on Parliament Hill to demand that our laws once again uphold the right to life which is inherent to every human being, as they once did, even 150 years ago. The March for Life is the largest annual demonstration on Parliament Hill, and a sign that ending abortion is the civil rights movement of our day. This year's March will be on May 11th.

The National March For Life is organized by Campaign Life Coalition, the political arm of the pro-life movement. The event is a forum for pro-life Canadians to demand social justice for the more than 100,000 children who are killed in their mother's womb each year across Canada. Abortion is fully funded by taxpayers for any reason or no reason at all, right up to the moment of birth.

The National March For Life began in 1998 with a mere 700 pro-lifers in attendance. At first, there was a bit of support for the March from political, cultural and spiritual leaders, but as the event grew, they started coming. Every year the event has grown dramatically. In 2015, a record-smashing 25,000 were in attendance. It is a very young pro-life crowd, with 80% of the marchers under the age of 30.

Each year, we arrange for numerous pro-life Members of Parliament, Senators, activists and religious leaders to give speeches from the steps of Parliament Hill in defense of the right to life.

Afterwards, the throng of pro-life Canadians begin to march through the streets of Ottawa. They are led by the Ottawa police who keep the route safe and clear.

When the March ends, people re-assemble on the lawn of Parliament Hill and listen to moving post-abortion testimonies by the Silent No More Awareness Campaign followed by a prayer service.

THREE-DAY YOUTH BUS FROM LONDON TO OTTAWA: CALL ANN CLARKE AT 519-667-4432 EXT. 22059

Reflections on attending a pro-life session by Erin Hiemstra



Attending Maria's session about defending the pro-life argument was a very helpful experience for me. I have attended pro-life events my whole life, but I never really knew how I could logically defend my viewpoint against anyone who did not believe that God is the Creator of all life. Although my ultimate goal in having a pro-life conversation with someone is to help them see that there is a God who "knit us together in our mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13), Maria provided some helpful tips for showing a non-religious person why unborn babies are human, and why it clearly follows that they need to be protected.

Maria began with some basic principles about how to have this conversation with a pro-choice advocate. Emphasizing the importance of asking questions and telling stories, she moved through her session by explaining the logical progression of proving that the unborn are human, and therefore deserve the same human rights as any other human being. She also addressed common circumstances that people will use to justify abortion, such as rape and women's rights. Through providing her listeners with a few lessons in embryology, explaining the human rights checklist, offering various analogies for pro-life arguments, and addressing rare medical conditions that jeopardize the life of the mother during pregnancy, Maria logically struck down every argument that I had ever heard in favour of abortion.

As the session drew to a close, Maria showed a heartbreaking video of abortions taking place. Although it was awful to watch, the video drove home the reason why being active in the pro-life movement matters. After the video, Maria quietly reminded us that we need to address our opponents with love and respect because we know the truth, and the truth inspires us to rise above hard circumstances to do the right thing.

Dr. Coelho's 'crazy' battle for conscience rights By Michael Swan, The Catholic Register

It's not surprising patients fall in love with Dr. Ramona Coelho. Not just because she's a young, pretty doctor who smiles easily, laughs frequently and focuses her attention completely on whoever is talking to her.

Her patients in London, Ont., know that she's a doctor who is in it for something more than the status, money or security attached to most medical practices.

"I love my work," Coelho confesses. "I love being a doctor. I love helping people and being with them — trying to find solutions for them."

Her practice is heavily slanted to marginalized patients. Her waiting room is full of refugees, ex-cons, the poor. Many of her patients are on permanent disability.

All that is at risk as the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario mounts an ever more prickly defense of its "Professional Obligations and Human Rights Policy." The policy is currently before the courts. It would force Ontario doctors to refer for abortions and for assisted suicide.

Coelho won't do either and her patients know it. In 10 years of practice, her ethical limits have never been a problem. She's never had an argument with a patient and no patient has complained.

In fact, an extraordinary number of her patients say they love her. Her average rating on ratemds.com is 4.5 out of five.

"Dr. Coelho has been our doctor for several years and we love her!" wrote a patient who rated her five-out-of-five in every category except punctuality (four-out-of-five).

"Dr. Coelho makes you feel so comfortable and it's so nice to have a doctor care about her patients, you do not feel like a number with her," wrote another.

Coelho convenes meetings of the London Catholic Doctor's Guild and has spoken up in defence of conscience rights for doctors on a number of occasions. She knows she's an easy target for anybody who might want to use the CPSO policy to drive Catholic doctors out of the profession.

"Still, on some level, I'm hoping this is just a crazy misunderstanding," Coelho told *The Catholic Register*.

When Coelho graduated from McGill's medical school, doctors at the McGill University Health Network took her on as a resident knowing and respecting her ethical convictions about abortion (euthanasia was not then legal). The professors and doctors worked out a protocol in case Coelho might be asked to refer.

"We had a system so we could accommodate. I didn't have to do anything against my conscience," said Coelho. "It was very respectful."

As a young doctor, Coelho was asked to teach medical students about family medicine and was even encouraged to apply for a faculty position before she and her urologist husband made the move to London.

Somehow that accommodating, respectful and practical spirit began to evaporate after Coelho and her family moved to Ontario. As the College of Physicians and Surgeons began to review its human rights

policy, it became clear that accommodating doctors who object to abortion or won't prescribe chemical birth control was not on the agenda. Even though 90 per cent of people who responded to the college's draft policy online wanted conscience protections for doctors, in 2015 the college voted 21-3 for a policy which placed a "duty to refer" over the conscience rights of doctors.

"What they're saying is that if we don't agree with their ethics we don't belong in family medicine," said Coelho. "What they're trying to do is to create a monoculture of people who all think the same way."

The Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience, representing more than 5,000 doctors and over 100 health-care institutions across Canada, is trying to persuade the Ontario legislature to write conscience protections into a bill currently before Queen's Park that would bring several Ontario laws into line with federal legislation that legalized voluntary euthanasia last year.

Coelho just wants to see a solution, preferably a new human rights policy from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, that respects her constitutional right to freedom of conscience.

"All of a sudden, I don't have the protections, constitutional protection," she said. "It just strikes me as crazy."

Coelho has never stood in the way of her patients accessing services abortion or the pill. There's no shortage of walk-in clinics. People can self-refer for abortion and contraception. It's likely the province will soon have a system in place that will allow patients to self-refer for medical aid in dying. Most other provinces are already setting up some form of patient pathfinder system that would allow patients to choose for themselves whether to access palliative care or a medically induced early exit — all without a doctor's referral.

But it seems the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Ontario simply can't abide doctors with a different moral compass, said Coelho.

"I'm not sure what this caricature is that they have in their heads of us," she said. "I don't know if they think we're shaming patients or... I'm not sure what it is."

The mother of four would rather be meeting with her mom's group in her spare time than trying to lobby politicians and get meetings with her regulatory college, but she knows she's fighting for more than her own practice. She fears the next generation of Catholic medical students will be steered out of family medicine and all its joys and challenges.

"If we change the culture, this will allow for discrimination in getting jobs. This will allow a lot of people — there are tons for doctors who are not comfortable with this — to force them to refer," she said.

She could avoid the problem, but she won't walk away from family medicine.

"It's a very special privilege to have built into your work this kind of beautiful ability to serve daily, over and over again," she said. "As a family doctor, I get to build relationships with these people over years and build a real, genuine affection and respect. I love my job."

"TEAM WORK IS IMPORTANT"

Have you ever wondered about the origins of London Area Right to Life Association? Around the time of the Omnibus Bill (1969) implemented by Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Dr. L.L. deVeber met Jake McKenzie at a dance at St. Michael's Catholic Church. They formed a group which was later entitled "Defense of the Unborn". Other members included Bill Talbot, head of psychiatry and Jack Walters, an Anglican doctor who was the head of obstetrics. The highlight of this venture to raise awareness of the sanctity of life was when they met with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and affirmed that babies should be called babies, not fetuses! They also attended hearings in Ottawa and actually played a recording of a heartbeat of a child in the womb. Pretty amazing and bold!!

As more concerned citizens came forward, the group took on new members and later changed the name to London Area Right to Life Association. Members of various Christian churches worked together to raise awareness that life is sacred from natural conception to natural death. Working out of private homes and storing all of the equipment had become an increasing inconvenience. In 1987 the St. Patrick's (Lucan) Knights of Columbus decided to undertake the task of providing an office for London Area Right to Life Association. The sign for the plaza was donated by then Grand Knight, Joe Garagozzo. The Knights of Columbus Committee consisting of Bill Giesen, Herman Lansink and John Martens began organizing fundraising events. They established a bingo which ran all year round and were successful only with the co-operation and participation of their members.

In addition to the prayerful support given by the St. Patrick's Council, members dipped generously into their pockets and donated money, furniture and purchased a computer for the new office. The first office was located at 1180 Oxford St. East. The St. Patrick's Knights of Columbus in Lucan donated in excess of \$ 20,000 in funds and an irreplaceable amount of their precious time and effort. They are still very active and have over the years provided delicious barbecues for London Area Right to Life's Annual Walkathon. They continue to support London Area Right to Life Association morally and financially in all their endeavours.

~this history was found in the "archives" of London Area Right to Life Association

God bless all the various Christian groups who help us to continue to educate the public about important life issues!

We owe so much to Council 7754 of St. Patrick's, Lucan! God will reward your efforts to protect life at all stages of development!

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