

3-1193 Oxford Street East
London, Ontario N5Y 3M2
Tel.: 519.659.3334
Fax: 519.659.3345
Email: info@right2life.ca
Website: www.right2life.ca

London Area
Right to Life Association Inc.

Newsletter



A London Pro-Life Newsletter

DECEMBER 2012

Volume 46

Number 4

Peace
on Earth



Upcoming EVENTS

Please mark your calendars

Dec.28 MASS FOR the UNBORN

- St. Peter's Basilica
- Rosary at 7:00 p.m.
- Mass at 7:30 p.m.
- Bishop Fabbro - celebrant

Fridays HOSPITAL WITNESS

- LHSC
- Wellington & Commissioners
- 5:15 to 6:45 p.m.
- Call 226-700-5604

MONTHLY HOSPITAL WITNESS

- Last Thursday every month
- 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.
- Victoria Hospital
- Commissioners & Wellington
- Call 519-659-9009

January To April

PRO-LIFE SCHOOL PROGRAM

- 50 Gr. 5/6 Presentations
- 7/8 under revision until 2014
- To help call Sharon 472-2038

Transforming the Culture – One heart at a time

President's Message by Elaine Arnsby

The storm clouds are gathering with more and more persecution of Christians in what were once Christian countries. Here in Canada, Christian virtues are considered 'old school' or even hateful. In Ontario we have been threatened that we must no longer teach that abortion is wrong, that to do so is 'misogynistic'. Our school boards are being pushed to teach earlier and earlier sex education with children being taught how to have "safe sex". Some school boards are blocking parents from knowing what their children are learning so that anti-Christian ideologies can be taught without interference. Scores of young adults have been deluded into thinking that the first trimester child in the womb is really not formed yet – just a blob of tissue, part of the mother – so it's o.k. to have an abortion "because it's not a baby yet". With so much going on, we might easily become discouraged and just want to quit trying.

But, if we give God permission every day to use us according to His good will and purpose, we can become empowered to witness and pray for change – one heart at a time. Opportunities can open up wherever we find ourselves...

Some of the vigilers at 40 Days for Life witnessed change – glimmers of hope, slight shifts in attitude. Here is one such story of hope...



During this 40 Days, a young woman was protesting at the site. She was not disruptive except for a sign she held that read, "Honk if you're Pro-Choice". On the first day of her protest, one of the women vigilers commented to her that she had a beautiful face and that she must be so cold and told her that she would pray for her.

On the second day, another woman vigiler found the young protester was walking behind her (a form of intimidation sometimes employed by protesters). By inviting the young protester to walk with her rather than behind her, our vigiler was able to share her experience with her own unplanned pregnancy, in which she chose adoption. During their conversation, the young woman, only seventeen years old, revealed that she had had an abortion. She said her mom is pro-life but doesn't know about the abortion. She said she was there "to prove a point". Later, when the vigiler got up to leave, the young woman hurried over to her and said, "Thank you for not yelling at me..." To which our vigiler responded jokingly, but kindly, "Thanks for not hitting me!"



The young woman did not return to the hospital site after that.

I believe that, because she was treated with exceptional kindness by the two vigilers, the seed of genuine love and forgiveness was planted in her. Please pray for her healing that she can someday turn to the Lord in trust and repentance to find, not condemnation but, forgiveness.

With this "glimmer of hope" may we move forward on our pro-life journey, confident in the power of prayer... and kindness as the Lord leads.

Every year at this time we have a special appeal for your financial help. Just as we can't do 40 Days for Life or any of the other events without your participation, neither can we carry on without your financial support. We hope you will give generously. So thank you ahead of time and may God's abundant blessings be poured out upon you and yours this Christmas and in the New Year.

Please see on page 3 the story of a baby saved at 40 Days! God is Good!!



Teen Challenge Vigilers at 40 Days

LARTLA Recent Outreach

● 40 DAYS For LIFE 2012

Many members of London and surrounding communities joined in this awesome and inspiring prayer vigil at the Victoria Hospital site. Prayer groups, youth groups, students, nurses, clergy, Bishop Fabbro, seminarians, families and numerous individuals of all faiths and walks of life participated this year. A few of the tangent results are mentioned in this newsletter. See you next year! Keep praying!!



Kick-Off



Seminarians At Site



Vigilers At Site



Wrap-Up

● PRESENTATION TO GRADE 11

AT SARNIA PRO-LIFE RETREAT

For the second time, Phil and Elaine Arnsby were invited to make a 60-minute presentation to 30 students at the Sarnia Pro-life Retreat. Our information table held various pamphlets and 12 wk. soft fetal models. Topics included: Abortion, infanticide, Euthanasia, sexually transmitted diseases, adoption and the consequences of not living a chaste life style.



Elaine presents pro-life message

● LIFE CHAIN 2012

We were very pleased with the over 550 who took the time to witness in our community on the last Sunday of September. The Chain starts at the UWO gates and extends 32 blocks south to Victoria Hospital (where most abortions take place in London). Many thanks to all those who helped and particularly to our main organizer, Theresa Fenik.



● PRESENTATION TO GRADE 11

PARENTING CLASS

A Mother Teresa teacher called on us in November to do a pro-life presentation in her Grade 11 Parenting Class. Bonnie Pember, our new office worker, created a power-point presentation for Elaine. With Bonnie as technical help, Elaine presented the pro-life message to 25 students. When, at the end, the teacher asked if anyone learned anything new, a number of students put up their hands. One young lady shared that she had always been pro-life except in the case of rape, but now she realized that abortion is wrong all the time.

● DOUBLE BOOTH AT WESTERN FAIR 2012

This was our 40th year! This event allows us to present our sanctity of life message for 10 days to thousands. Our new location worked out well and the endorsements written in our Comments Book were sent on to the Fair administration. Thanks to the many who helped at the booth, Sherry Doiron, and LARTLA's past and present presidents who made this event possible.



● LARTLA SUPPORTS PRO-LIFE ON CAMPUS

In October, CCBP's Alanna Gomez did a two hour pro-life apologetics training for about 30 students on the Western campus. The following day, she and nine students braved the elements and witnessed to the public with Choice Chain, engaging passersby to discuss abortion. Alanna is hoping to return again for more training and support for the students.



On November 13th, Western Lifeline hosted Stephen Woodworth, MP, who put forward Motion 312 to study when life begins. Mr. Woodworth explained how important it is to examine first the humanity and personhood of the child in the womb as a base before looking at the issue of abortion. LARTLA helped with financial support and practical advice with both events.

Alanna Gomez



Christmas Appeal

Dear Pro-life Friends,

On October 18th, a young woman parked her car in a mall parking lot nearby and walked over to our 40 Days for Life vigil site. This is her amazing story...

“I have been driving by this corner every day and each time I passed by, the words... ‘Don’t kill’ ... entered my mind and my heart. I’m pregnant and have been considering an abortion and so I started avoiding this corner but the words... ‘Don’t kill’ ...would not go away. So I am here to let you know that, because of what you’re doing, I no longer plan to have an abortion. Thank you. You’re doing the right thing.” The vigiler thanked her for sharing her story and told her he would pray for her. God is good!

Some of the changes and plans for LARTLA are as follows:

After much prayer and discernment, we have increased the office coordinator’s hours to help carry out our education outreach and to assist with many of the tasks that Phil and I presently manage. Besides the expense of the Kick-off, 40 Days and Wrap-up, Phil developed 2 new signs for the hospital site. We purchased air time on Faith FM for 40 Days for Life prayers three times a day throughout the 40 days. We also hope to do some one minute pro-life ads on Faith FM – “brought to you by London Area Right to Life”. We purchased equipment to facilitate our power point presentations. In addition we have hired a professional organization to assist us in preparing a 40 Days for Life DVD to promote the event next year. We also hope to upgrade our website and increase its effectiveness.

At LARTLA we realize that at this time of year there are many charitable requests coming your way. We feel that educating the public in the ongoing battle to protect the most defenseless is at or near the top of the priority list.

Our goal is to raise \$10,000 and we humbly ask that you prayerfully give what you are able.

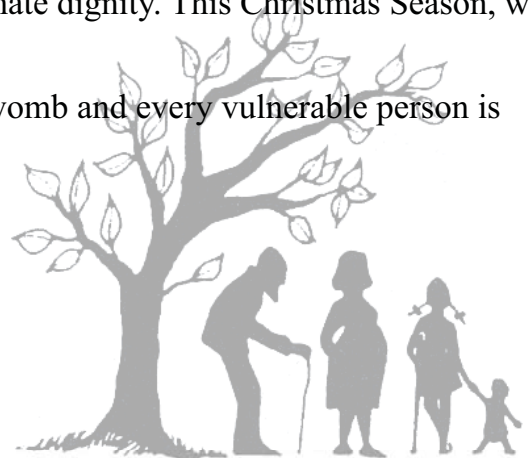


At Christmas, we celebrate the fact that Jesus chose to begin His life on earth as a pre-born child in the womb of His mother. Pre-born children have been lifted up by Jesus’ selfless act and declared to have innate dignity. This Christmas Season, we thank Him for the beautiful gift of life.

We continue to work towards the day when every child in the womb and every vulnerable person is revered and protected simply because he or she is human.

Merry Christmas to you and your families!

Elaine



From the Office 40 Days of God's Glory! *By Laurie Marks Vincent*

It was an honour to see the 40 Days for Life Campaign unfold and watch God do amazing things. If you were at our 40 Days Wrap Up Rally on November 3rd, then you would have heard testimonies of people who had been hurt by abortion and have found healing.

During the 40 Days for Life Campaign, even while many of you were praying diligently at the vigil site, God was bringing people to the office as well. There is one that specifically comes to mind. Towards the end of the 40 days, a young lady who was very upset came to seek help. She had a 15 month old daughter who had been taken from her, and placed in Foster Care. She missed her baby so much. However, she was also remembering the abortion she had many years ago.

She said that she felt pressured by the nurses and doctors to have the abortion and if the hospital had just given her 24 hours to think about it, she wouldn't have done such a terrible thing. She regrets her lifestyle and the choice that she made. Now she was asking how she could get some counselling. She wanted to show the authorities how much she wanted to get back on track and take care of herself and her baby girl. I referred her to a few agencies and gave her one of the little fetal models to hold as though it was her own baby. I then encouraged her to let out her feelings and tell her baby that she was sorry, and say anything that she wanted to share with the baby that she had aborted. The last thing that I told her was that I am absolutely certain that only God can take away her pain. I explained that if she asks him for forgiveness and receives his love, then he will help her to heal completely. I clearly let her know that we were on her side and that she could return to the office at any time that she wanted to talk. Please pray for this young lady. I pray that one day she will come back to the office with good news, and with her daughter in her arms again.

At the 40 Days Wrap Up Rally, I enjoyed being able to share and sing as we worshipped together and finally put some faces to the names that I heard so many times. Great job Pro-Life Family!



CHANGES in The OFFICE!

NOTE: As of November 23rd, Laurie Vincent moved on to devote her full time and attention to her music ministry. We at LARTLA wish her all the best in her new endeavours.



Welcome Sister Bonnie!

Sister Bonnie Pember is our newest staff member. Bonnie is a Discalced Carmelite nun currently on an extended leave of absence. Previous to becoming a religious, she taught in the Ontario secondary school system for ten years. Bonnie's hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bonnie is very capable and centred on her faith and pro-life work and eager to serve LARTLA. We are blessed to have Bonnie in our office.

The Return Of The Abortion Debate – And Its Pious Rhetoric

By George Jonas for National Post Nov. 7, 2012

I see we're debating abortion again. This is where I came in 30-some years ago. Out come old arguments from the mothballs, along with old proponents and opponents. Only this Monday I read somebody saying that, well, you can outlaw abortion, but women will just keep doing it in back alleys.

Hmm. Should we legalize holdups, too? People keep robbing banks anyway.

Well, robbing banks is wrong.

Ah, and killing unborn babies isn't.

We don't kill unborn babies. Women terminate pregnancies.

Arguing without a shared premise is like playing tennis without a net. We've reached an impasse 30-some years ago, but pro-lifers are getting restless, and one judicial appointment could change things. This impelled my old pal and debating partner, the civil libertarian Alan Borovoy, to ride again, presumably to stem the tide of fetal menace threatening to engulf us all ("Why personhood is beside the point," Oct. 29).

Indeed, Borovoy argues that "even if we assumed that personhood begins at conception, why should that 'person' have sanctuary in the body of someone who doesn't want it there?"

Well, ahem, because she put it there in the first place, Alan, wouldn't you say? But Borovoy raises the point only to make clear he doesn't want to hear about it: "The abortion debate should focus less on the mysteries of embryonic life and more on the limits of governmental power."



Continued on the next page ▶

Well, yes, shifting gears is wise because embryonic life isn't all that mysterious. What comes out of the womb in nine months, sans interference, is a baby, not a tissue sample. One could respectfully argue, though, as Borovoy does, that whatever it is, it's the mother who should decide its fate, not the government.

Societies that restrict abortion don't interfere with what a woman does with her own body. They interfere with what she proposes to do with someone else's body. Few societies expect a woman to keep her baby if it's inconvenient to her, but they do expect her not to kill it. Or used to.

Life is an autonomous process and it begins when it begins. Talking about a fetus as something that isn't yet alive is inane. If it weren't alive, mother wouldn't have to hire Dr. Morgentaler and colleagues to kill it. A fetus proves that it's alive by emerging from the womb as a human being unless the abortionist vacuums it out first.

Abortion is killing, but this doesn't dispose of the matter. All societies, religious societies included, authorize individuals, sometimes classes of individuals, to kill for certain reasons. Judges, parents, police officers, ship's captains, inquisitors, soldiers, executioners and others have been entitled to terminate human lives, provided they did so for compelling reasons and under lawful circumstance.

In our times feminists contend that social equality is a compelling reason. They interpret it as women having burdens imposed on them that aren't also imposed on men. Since nature imposes pregnancy only on women, in order to even the scales, women should be entitled to an absolute license to terminate their pregnancies on demand.

This is the essence of the feminist argument, though it's seldom put so bluntly. The matriarch needs popular support to achieve its ambition, and while members of the Me Generation are ready to pull the plug on anybody for selfish reasons, few face the logic of their position. They can't quite bring themselves to grant women a licence to kill, like 007. This is why the debate is filled with pious rhetoric about women controlling their own bodies, or lives aborted not being "life". Ironically, the pro-choice crowd usually oppose capital punishment – except for the crime of inconveniencing a woman.

Inconveniencing men is okay. Fathers can't opt out of child-support if the mother decides to keep the baby, no matter how "inconvenient" fatherhood may be for them. Nor could a father save his child's life even by assuming sole responsibility for its maintenance.

Men and women are supposed to be equal. What's sauce for the gander is sauce for the goose. Yet fatherhood is compelled by law, while motherhood is a matter of choice. How do lawmakers get around this hurdle? In the same way they get around any question for which there's no answer in logic or equity. They ignore it.

Pro-Life News

Motion 312 to study when human life begins was voted down 203-91.



163 Conservative MPs,
87 MPs in support - 53%

100 NDP MPs,
100% no support

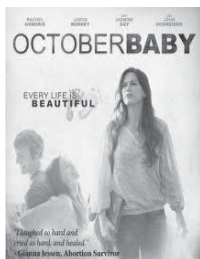
35 Liberal MPs,
4 MPs in support-11.4%

Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood's two super PACs collectively spent over \$15 million dollars on this year's election. If they receive tax payer funds, why are they allowed to run ads in favor of a candidate? That ought to be against the law!

Pro-Life Movies

The pro-life movie, "October Baby", based on a true story, is available in our office library.



"It's a Girl", the movie against sex selective abortion, can be viewed at: <http://www.itsagirlmovie.com/>

LARTLA'S NEW PRO-LIFE SIGNS

Motion 408 against sex-selective abortion,

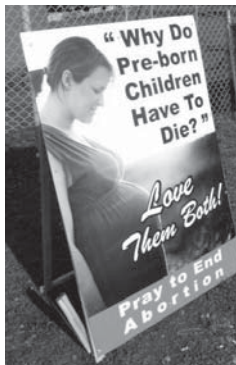
proposed by Mark Warawa MP, reads: "That the House condemn discrimination against females occurring through sex-selective pregnancy termination."



The Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada have vehemently opposed sex-selection pregnancy termination.

A 2011 Environics poll, commissioned by LifeCanada, found that 92% of Canadians wanted sex-selective abortions banned.

The new motion following defeat of Motion 312 (the same day) is keeping abortion in the spotlight.



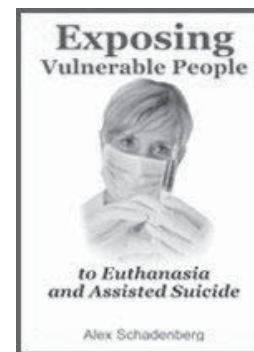
Ballot Question 2 (assisted suicide) in Massachusetts

was defeated on November 6 by a vote of 51.1% to 48.9%. This is a huge victory considering the fact that the polling in June 2012 indicated that 68% of the people in Massachusetts supported assisted suicide and only 19% opposed it.



Alex Schadenberg

"Exposing Vulnerable People to Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide"



The new booklet by Alex Schadenberg, is now available in our office library. Copies can be purchased from Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, 405 Grey St, London.

Phone: 519.439.3348
Email: info@epcc.ca

Abortion Increases Women's Mortality Rates

By Myles Collier, Christian Post Contributor, November 9, 2012

The **study** was published in the European Journal of Public Health and looked at the maternal death rates of women in Denmark, over a 25 year period, who had undergone an abortion or experienced a miscarriage during pregnancy.

The study showed that a single induced abortion increased the chance of maternal death by 45% when compared to women who had never had an abortion, 114% rate among women who had two abortions and 192% among women with three or more abortions.

- Women who had experienced miscarriages, ectopic pregnancies or other natural losses showed an increase in the rates of death.
- Women who did not have a history of loss during pregnancy were the least likely to die, while women who had never conceived had the highest mortality rate.
- The finding that each additional abortion or other pregnancy loss contributed to a rising death rate is an indication that the observed effects are more likely to be causal than incidental.

This was the first study to specifically consider how abortion or miscarriage affects mortality rates.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals

- as reported by LifeSiteNews, Oct. 18, 2012

The Governor General of Canada awarded 60,000 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals to Canadians for significant contributions and achievements, in honor of the 60th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. MP Maurice Vellacott nominated pro-life heroines Linda Gibbons and Mary Wagner.

In the certificate accompanying each medal, MP Vellacott wrote:



Mary Wagner: Your faithful battle for justice for pre-born children, with your willingness to suffer hardship and personal deprivation, is a source of strength and inspiration for many. May God richly bless your sacrifice for these most innocent victims.

Linda Gibbons: Your faithful undying battle for justice for pre-born children, at great personal sacrifice, is a witness to all and a source of strength for many. May God richly bless your undying service for these innocent victims and may your legacy never be forgotten. "Peaceful civil disobedience is an appropriate method when trying to protect defenseless, voiceless human beings in the womb from butchery and death," stated Mr. Vellacott



Letter to Bob Rae & The Diamond Jubilee Medal Awards

Saturday, November 10, 2012 12:01:35 AM,

I am appalled by your remarks to the Canadian Press regarding Maurice Vellacott and the Diamond Jubilee Medal Award Recipients. You said, "By encouraging others, this could clearly be interpreted as inciting others to break the law, which in itself is a criminal offence."

If memory serves me correctly it was the irresponsible Bob Rae government that caused this illegal temporary injunction in the first place and as a result of your disregard for women, thousands have now suffered the trauma of abortion without being fully informed of the consequences. I held a young girl in my arms yesterday who underwent an abortion 14 months ago at the Bloor clinic where Mary Wagner has been arrested. She told me they told her it was a short procedure to remove the "contents of the uterus" and she would be fine. Her marks have dropped, she has lived with guilt and remorse for over a year and she said she couldn't look at her boyfriend anymore because he reminded her of that day. Where is the counselling for this child who misses her child? Where are the resources for thousands like her? By the way Mr Rae, her child's name is Kaysen. My dead child's name is Noelle Marie. I was told to shut up when I started screaming for my child after my abortion because I was upsetting other people in the recovery room. I know better today that my child was not a blob of tissue and a mass of cells.

Thank God for people like Maurice Vellacott who validate thousands of women like myself and the young girl I held yesterday by standing up for the rights of women to be fully informed before an abortion.

Oh and on another note we were able to help a young lady who was 5 minutes away from a Morgentaler abortion last March. Her baby will be born this December. You know what she said she needed most Mr. Rae? She said she needed support. Obviously that's not something she'll ever see from you. I accuse you Mr. Rae of civil disobedience and neglect for not supporting pregnant women in their hour of need.

Thank you Lord for the courageous efforts of politicians like Maurice Vellacott. I will never regret the birth of my sons however I will always regret my abortion. A whole generation is missing in our family today.

Debbie Fisher
Brampton, Ontario

Debbie Fisher is a member of Silent No More Awareness Canada.



ORGAN DONORS BEWARE

Ottawa, Ontario, Sept. 4, LifeSiteNews

As Ontario's organ donation agency aggressively campaigns to grow a list of registered organ donors, Jacqueline Shaw, a legal scholar, has slammed the updated national guidelines for establishing the moment of death, arguing that the guidelines were deliberately loosened to "increase the proportion of donors eligible for organ harvesting." In Canada the whole brain criteria for death has been practiced since 1968, but the new "brainstem" criteria enables doctors to declare a patient brain dead "potentially weeks, or more, sooner than under a whole-brain criterion", observes Shaw.

New York, October 1, 2012, LifeSiteNews

At least one in five patients declared "brain dead" and approved as "organ donors" by one organ donation organization, are in fact still alive and are being killed by the removal of vital organs, a lawsuit filed last week in Manhattan alleges. Patrick McMahon, a nurse practitioner and Air Force combat veteran, launched the suit in New York alleging that a major donation group is using a quota system for obtaining viable organs. He says it is applying pressure on families and doctors to declare patients dead who are in fact still alive and could recover. McMahon was an employee of the Organ Donor Network but was fired shortly after bringing his concerns to the attention of the CEO. The lawsuit quotes the CEO and president, Helen Irving, as saying "This is how things are done."



Aarhus, Denmark Nov. 15, 2012, Steve Weatherbe – written from Victoria, B. C.



Carina Melchior is a 20 year old Danish woman who was in a car crash last year that put her in a coma; the doctors persuaded her parents to donate her organs and shut off her life support. But a few days after having been taken off her respirator, while hospital attendants were waiting for her body to shut down, Carina began to move her

legs and open her eyes. She is now awake and expressing confidence in her ability to recover, get her own apartment, continue work as a graphic designer and resume her pastime of horse jumping.

Britain, April 25, 2012, Daily Mail Newspaper

A 21 year old British man owes his life to an insistent father who would not allow his son's organs to be removed from his body after a serious car accident. Although a team of four physicians insisted that his son was "brain dead", Thorpe's father enlisted the help of a general practitioner and a neurologist, who demonstrated that his son still had brain wave activity. The doctors brought him out of the coma and five weeks later Thorpe left hospital, having almost completely recovered.



In 2011, the Quebec hospital, Sainte Croix de Drummondville,

The hospital sought permission to extract the eyes of a patient who had choked on hospital food, claiming she was "brain dead." After the family demanded proof from physicians of her alleged condition, she regained consciousness, and recovered most of her faculties.

Dallas, Texas, Oct 5, 2012, Rachel Bohannon

On August 6, Zack McDonald, a 12 year old boy was shot in the head when he got caught in the crossfire of a drug deal gone bad. He was rushed to emergency surgery in Abilene, placed in a drug induced coma, and then transferred to Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth on a ventilator. Cook children's staff claimed that Zack's prognosis was poor and they pressured Zack's parents to sign an organ donation consent form.



The hospital's ethics committee decided to terminate the patient's care after 10 days because, in their opinion, further care for Zack would be futile. Zack's parents pleaded for the hospital to give him time to recover. Due to procedural mistakes, the direction to terminate care was not carried out and three days later Zack was able to breathe on his own. Yet, on the same day, Zack's doctor secretly withdrew Zack's food and water, then slipped a "Do Not Resuscitate" order into his chart without his parent's consent. When Zack's mother Jessica confronted the doctor, he reluctantly reinstated the food and water and removed the DNR order, but claimed that Zack was in a "persistent vegetative state". He made it clear that he no longer would treat Zack and advised Jessica to find another place to take her son.

With the help of Texas Right to Life, Zack was moved to the Children's Medical Center in Dallas where doctors slowly weaned Zack off the sedatives to bring him out of his drug-induced coma. Now Zack is fully conscious, talking and receiving physical therapy



Dr. Paul Byrne

Dr. Paul Byrne, an experienced neonatologist, clinical professor of pediatrics at the University of Toledo, U.S.A. and president of Life Guardian Foundation told LifeSiteNews that "all of the participants in organ transplantation know that the donors are not truly dead."

Dr. John Shea, M.D. FRCP, who has written extensively about the highly controversial theory of brain death said, "The fact is that people have to be alive when their organs are harvested because their organs are harmed when death occurs."

Families must be very vigilant to protect their loved ones.

The Mother of 400!

– Information taken from Windsor Star articles sent by London resident, Bob Rice, her son, received with thanks and with deep admiration for his mother's selfless life by Elaine Arnsby.

Grace LOVED babies!

Besides having her own eight children, Grace Rice fostered nearly 400 babies over a span of more than three decades – right up to the year before her death at 83. Grace had a baby in the house on a regular basis since 1931! “I’m baby crazy,” she once said in a Windsor Star interview.

Grace married Mike Rice in Windsor in 1930, where they met after immigrating to Canada. Grace was already a children’s nanny, with 12 years’ experience.

The first of their family of five girls and three boys was born in 1931. Their last daughter, born in 1946, sadly died of double pneumonia in 1947. Grace shared, “I think that’s the hardest thing I ever had to accept.” But, God had a new plan for her – later in the same year, she saw a picture in The Windsor Star of three homeless babies. She applied to CAS and received a baby girl. It was the start of a foster mother career which became an obsession. She decided she would continue taking in foster children from the Essex County Roman Catholic Children’s Aid Society “as long as the Lord says yes,” she declared.

Most of the mothers were not married. Their babies spent from six weeks to several months at the Rice home. Many times the mothers kept contact with their babies and were able to take their little ones back once they got on their feet.

Despite legalities that kept her from keeping in touch with nearly all the children who had been in her care over the years, Grace still managed to attend the weddings of five of her temporary wards who were eventually returned to their families. Her son, Bob, recalls that on Mother’s Day the letter carrier was always loaded down with cards for his mom.

“On two occasions in the past I’ve had the society take one baby and give me another,” said Grace. But the continuous stream of children slowed in the second half of Grace’s career. The waits between babies grew longer, from about three days to about 10 days. The longest wait was seven weeks. Society had changed. Illegitimate children were not as common because of the Pill [and because of the legalization of abortion – *editor’s note*]

Grace noted that more couples preferred small families or no children at all, but she felt strongly that there could not be a healthy marriage while deliberately deciding against new life. “Children complete the family”, she said, “There’s nothing more wonderful in the world than a newborn baby.”

Once, after suffering a heart attack, instead of giving up the baby she was taking care of, she looked after it in her hospital bed. Both her doctor and her devoted husband, Mike, agreed it would have been more damaging to Grace to have the baby taken away.

Most of the children Grace cared for were healthy, but not all. One of her little charges was blind. He had been placed in an oxygen tent after he was born and too much oxygen in the air burned out his eyes. Another exception to the healthy ones was Marty. He was among the first five babies the Rices looked after and, because of physical problems, he stayed for nine months. He was adopted by Grace and Mike.

“They’re all different. Some are really sweet and some are born crabby – at least one or two,” Grace quipped. But whatever their health or circumstances, all of the babies received generous portions of love and care from Grace before being whisked away to permanent homes.

The recipient of several awards for her selfless care of children, Grace said, “Just the chance to care for the children has been my reward.” Of her husband Grace declared, “He’s the best burper in the world.” – and that’s a high compliment from someone who should know!



Grace and Mike Rice

Vietnamese man adopts over 50 unwanted children. June 11, 2012 LifeSiteNews



In Vietnam, women often choose abortion because they are often faced with crippling poverty. Eight years ago, Tong Phuoc Phuc promised God that if his wife survived a difficult labour giving birth to their son, he would find a way to help others. He first began saving money from his wages as a construction contractor to buy a plot of land to bury the unwanted children aborted in hospitals and clinics and giving them a proper burial. Some 7,000 tiny plots now dot the shady hillside.

Post-abortive women began to hear about Phuc’s actions, and came to his little cemetery to pray. When women considering abortions also came to him, he opened his doors and they began moving into his house. Soon after, seven other new or expectant mothers moved into the 904 square foot house. They spent their days washing, feeding, burping changing and playing with the babies...It’s a full-time operation that involves Phuc’s entire family. Phuc’s goal is to reunite the babies with

their mothers, or raise them as his own children. He has managed to reunite twenty-seven children with their mothers.

Please pray that those young women who find themselves in a crisis pregnancy will find the help they need and that adoption (and foster care, a possible step toward the goal of adoption) will be seen as a loving choice.