



Respect Life Dinner November, 2016

BY VICKY DYKSTRA, EDITOR OF *LIFESPAN*



Vicky Dykstra

Thanks for a fruitful and well-attended Respect Life Dinner.

What a joy it was to be at Michelangelo's Banquet Centre on Wednesday, November 2nd for our annual Respect Life Dinner! The dining hall was filled and buzzing with anticipation and joy. The ambience was celebrative. Kudos and a huge thank you to all participants: MC Pastor Rita Klein-Geltink, speaker Warren Macdonald, pianist Marcia Heeg, ventriloquist Jonelle Reitsma, and the staff at Michelangelo's for providing a delicious hot dinner. The board of directors and staff at HRTL thank you for your support and participation. See you again next year!!



Christmas 2016

NEWSLETTER

Lifespan

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209 MacNab St. N,
Hamilton, ON L8R 2M5
905-528-3065
info@hamiltonrighttolife.org

hamiltonrighttolife.org

Guest editorial

If you think the pro-life movement is going away, think again! Recently, my wife and I went to a pro-life dinner in Hamilton and more than 250 people attended. A male speaker bravely shared the impact abortion had on him and his wife and how men are affected by abortion too.

And now the good news: Dinner guests were asked to consider a donation to assist in launching a media campaign to further educate the community about the sacredness of human life. Envelopes were placed on the table and collected 10 minutes later. My wife and I and the other couples at our table all contributed, as did many of those at the other tables. I leaned over and whispered to my wife that maybe \$4,000 or \$5,000 would be raised, or roughly \$40-50 a couple. To everyone's amazement, more than \$16,000 - poured in!

Whether the pro-choice world likes it or not, the pro-life movement is not going away. It remains active in Hamilton, Burlington, Toronto and around the world because the stakes are high. With more than 4 million

abortions in Canada since the 1970s, and 50 million in America, we need to come to our senses and stop this slaughter.

► **Life is sacred; it is created by God and needs to be protected. It is heartening to see that so many people care deeply about life issues.**

Until abortion and doctor-assisted suicide and euthanasia are things of the past, we are all vulnerable. In Belgium and elsewhere in Europe, this is out of control and patients are often not even consulted but merely killed. The whole mindset is frightening. Who would want to be a doctor or nurse placed in a position of being ordered to participate in the termination of someone's life?

History will show the tragedy of it all. And our own faithfulness to the pro-life cause will also be part of our own history, when we stand before God and become accountable for our own lives. I'm Frank Florio, and that's my take on things.

#End the Killing

President's Remarks

BY PEG MCCARTHY

GLAD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY TO ALL in this Season of the celebration of the birth of the Saviour, Baby Jesus – the Incarnation of God, which changed the world AND HUMAN HISTORY. The birth of any baby really does change the world – for the parents and grandparents, for the siblings, and for the extended family – all of whom would attest that the birth of that little baby was a miracle of new love in the home. Christmas is that same kind of miracle on a much larger scale. This is the perfect season for us here at Hamilton Right to Life in our quest to change the hearts of all people to see the beauty, the love, and the fantastic potential in each human life, no matter how small.

Our Annual Dinner on November 2nd, 2016 was one of our most successful, thanks to our Events Committee – Marge Postuma, Vicky Dykstra, and Sandra Dykstra. Close to 300 people attended at Michelangelo's Banquet Centre in Hamilton for a beautiful dinner, followed by entertainment from a concert pianist and a ventriloquist. A raffle was held for several beautiful donated floral arrangements and beautiful gift baskets prepared by HRTL Board members and other contributors.

Board Member Cor Boekee gave an "Exhortation to Donate" to Hamilton Right to Life, and the dinner guests responded so generously. Over \$16,000.00 was raised, to go directly to fund pro-life educational initiatives, such as billboards in the Hamilton Area promoting love and care for unborn human life. HRTL had one billboard in the Hamilton area last year with the beautiful picture of a young mother holding her very own smiling baby under the words "You will

never regret loving this much!" How true! With donations from our generous dinner guests, we can now fund many more billboards in 2017. We at the Board thank you all so very very much. If you have made a pledge at the dinner or still want to donate before year end to get a donation receipt for 2016 please make sure your donations are sent in and dated at the latest for December 31, 2016.

This year's Annual Dinner Guest Speaker was Warren MacDonald who spoke movingly of his experience as a father who still feels the ongoing emotional trauma of an abortion in his family many years ago, the regret of which has not lessened as the years have passed. He and his wife went on to have other children. Yet for him, the passing years have meant suffering for his failing as a father to protect that little one so long ago. He thinks often about how old his lost child would be, how his other growing children will never know this sibling, and how he will never see her grow to adulthood. His words were a reminder to us all of the great and unnecessary suffering caused by abortion.

Warren MacDonald



Just as parents Mary and Joseph welcomed tiny baby Jesus into their humble Bethlehem shelter, we must also prepare a place in our hearts for the "Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace" all wrapped up in a tiny bundle called "Immanuel" which means "God with us". Merry Christmas to all, and may God Bless Us Every One!

Stop Censorship Tour



▶ Please join us as we learn more about why we cannot get access to abortion statistics and what is being done to change this!

FEATURING

Mike Schouten

Director of WeNeedALaw.ca

John Sikkema

Lawyer at ARPA Canada

Coffee and Refreshments will be served.

Date: Wednesday, January 11

Time: 7:30 – 9:30pm

Location: St. Augustine's Parish
58 Sydenham St.
Dundas, ON

Hamilton Right To Life's 8th Annual Prayer And Candlelight Vigil

Please join us for our annual Ecumenical Prayer and Candlelight Vigil to be held Friday January 27 at 7:00pm. We will have a time of prayer at Canadian Martyrs Parish, Main Street West, and then a time of candle light vigil at McMaster University Hospital. Refreshments will follow. January 28th marks that horrendous day 29 years ago when the Supreme Court of Canada took away the pre-born child's right to live. For more information, call the HRTL office at 905-528-3065.



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