

President's Remarks

BY DR. RENATO BRUN DEL RE



Dr. Renato Brun Del Re

Happy New Year to each of you, our valued friends and supporters! May peace abide continuously in your hearts and homes this new year of 2016.

When we look back over the past year, we recognize that the good wishes we so easily extend to each other at the year's beginning must be found within. Both here and abroad the past year has been one of change and upheaval. Nation rose against nation and people against people. Epic violence and confrontation were reported in the news daily on political, social, financial, economic, and environmental fronts.

- ▶ The peace and joy we seek and cheerfully wish each other must be cultivated in our own minds and hearts.

How can we achieve this peace in our dissonant world that flouts order, peace, and justice? This has been the dilemma for people of faith through the ages. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German dissenter and man of faith during the Second World War offers his counsel from prison:

- ▶ "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

These words ring as true today as they did in 1945 when they were spoken from the lips of Bonhoeffer in his prison cell in Nazi Germany. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.

I urge you my fellow pro-lifers speak and act this year. Make your views about the sanctity of life known in whatever circle you live and in whatever way works for you, but do something. Doing nothing condones the status quo. Build peace in your heart by acting on what you know is good and just, and righteous. I quote Dietrich Bonhoeffer once more:

- ▶ "We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice; we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself."

May God bless our words and actions in the year 2016 and may we be found faithful in the choices we make; may peace reign in our hearts.



Upcoming Spring Events

▶ BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Our annual Baby Bottle Campaign "Change for Life" is once again being held from Mothers' Day to Fathers' Day May 15, 2016 – June 19, 2016. If you or your church have not been involved in the past and would like to become involved this year please call our office for more details and we will gladly help you to get involved. More details to follow in our spring newsletter.

▶ 19TH NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE

The 19th National March for Life is being held this year on Thursday May 12th in Ottawa. Once again Hamilton Right to Life will be chartering a bus for one day. Last year 25000 marched against abortion on Parliament Hill. This is an event that everyone must come to at least once. You will be back! I urge you to think about joining us and helping show those on Parliament Hill that we put our words into actions as pro-lifers. More details to follow in our spring newsletter.

▶ A.G.M. WITH GUEST SPEAKER

Our 2nd annual A.G.M. with guest speaker will be held again in the spring. More details will follow in our spring newsletter.



Vicky Dykstra

Respect Life Dinner 2015 a Great Success!

BY VICKY DYKSTRA



Every fall Hamilton Right to Life presents a Respect Life Dinner both to raise awareness of the aspects of culture that warrant our concern and action and also to raise funds to support our cause. Last November's Dinner was superb, starting with excellent food from the kitchens of Michelangelo Banquet Centre to the exquisite music played by a young string group called *Musica*. We welcomed many new people at this dinner and we hope they will become regular supporters of the pro-life cause in future. It was especially heartening to see many students at our dinner. You are the reason we do what we do. We urge you young people to continue to support the pro-life actions in your community!

The Respect Life Dinner Committee worked hard to make this evening enjoyable and meaningful. We were privileged to receive many donations for the raffle and we appreciate all who contributed these special gifts and those who bought tickets to acquire them. Kudos to the lucky winners! By means of the raffle we were able to raise \$1200.00. The grand total for the evening was \$4455.00. Without you it could not have been realized. Many thanks!

We also wish to thank our guest speaker, Alex Schadenberg, for his timely remarks concerning the advance of the problem of euthanasia in our country. Alex is the Founder and Executive Director of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, whose head office is in London Ontario and the author of *Exposing Vulnerable People to Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide*.

Alex has been working in this capacity for several years, and is widely known for his position against any kind of assisted suicide by any means such as counselling, abetting, or acting to aid someone to kill him or herself. The Coalition website states that Alex and the members of the coalition believe that euthanasia and assisted suicide should continue to be treated as homicide, irrespective of whether the person killed has consented to be killed. This issue comes close to home with the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada to abolish prohibition against so-called "mercy-killing."

We are thankful for the loyal support we receive from our corporate sponsors and wish to acknowledge the particular support of Oneida Movers, Trillium Auto, Demik Construction, and Pro Builders. We encourage our readers and supporters to make use of the services these businesses provide. We are also grateful for the significant donations we received from individuals in our support community. Without such gifts we could not continue to operate.

Our gratitude is also extended to Pastor Rita Klein-Geltink who so ably presided over the dinner as MC. Thank you Pastor Rita!

As always we closed the evening with the singing of the poignant words of Isaiah 49.

I will never forget you my people,
I have carved you on the palm of My hand,
I will never forget you,
I will not leave you orphaned,
I will never forget my own...

Does a mother forget her baby,
Or a woman the child within her womb,
Yet even if these forget,
Yes even if these forget,
I will never forget my own.

Please join us again next year. Watch for the announcements regarding this important event.



hamiltonrighttolife.org

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Mission Statement

Hamilton Right to Life (HRTL) is a not-for-profit organization committed to the principle that God is the author of life, and that each human life has intrinsic value and should be revered and protected from conception to natural death. The HRTL mission is to educate and promote these positions while encouraging people to recognize and affirm the sanctity of human life.

► Life without abortion.



"There Goes My Life"

BY KENNY CHESNEY

All he could think about was I'm too young for this.
Got my whole life ahead.
Hell I'm just a kid myself.
How'm I gonna raise one.
All he could see were his dreams goin' up in smoke.
So much for ditchin' this town and hangin' out on the coast.
Oh well, those plans are long gone.

[Chorus:]
And he said,
There goes my life.
There goes my future, my everything.
Might as well kiss it all good-bye.
There goes my life.....

A couple years of up all night and
a few thousand diapers later.
That mistake he thought he made
covers up the refrigerator.
Oh yeah.....he loves that little girl.
Momma's waiting to tuck her in,
As she fumbles up those stairs.
She smiles back at him dragging that teddy bear.
Sleep tight, blue eyes and bouncin' curls.

[Chorus:]
He smiles.....
There goes my life.
There goes my future, my everything.
I love you, daddy good-night.
There goes my life.

She had that Honda loaded down.
With Abercrombie clothes and
15 pairs of shoes and his American Express.
He checked the oil and slammed the hood,
said you're good to go.
She hugged them both and headed off to the West Coast.

[Chorus:]
And he cried,
There goes my life.
There goes my future, my everything.
I love you.
Baby good-bye.

There goes my life. There goes my life.
Baby good-bye.

Ecumenical Candle Light and Prayer Vigil



Hamilton Right to Life Presents
It's 7th Annual Ecumenical
Candle Light and Prayer Vigil
to Commemorate The
28th Anniversary of
No Abortion Law in Canada
Thursday January 28, 2016 at 7pm
Canadian Martyrs Parish
Main Street West, Hamilton

The Ecumenical Candle Light and Prayer Vigil, to commemorate the January 28, 1988 striking down of any abortion law in Canada, will be held Thursday January 28, 2016 at 7pm at Canadian Martyrs Parish across from McMaster Hospital. This commemoration will begin with a prayer service and end with a candle light vigil outside of McMaster Hospital. Please join us as we pay homage to the pre-born who have perished through abortion and pray for a change of hearts and minds of those who think abortion to be an answer to a crisis pregnancy. Hot chocolate, coffee and goodies will be served in the parish hall afterwards. Please call our office at 905-528-3065 for any further details. We look forward to seeing you there.

2015 Donation Receipts

Hamilton Right to Life has been so blessed in 2015 with your donations and prayers. Thank you so very much for your continued support for those who have no voice. We ask that you continue to prayerfully consider how you can help us again in 2016.

► If you gave a donation over the past year you will find your receipt enclosed with your newsletter.

Please call our office at 905-528-3065 if you have any questions.



Thanks, Bruce! Volunteering with Benefits



Bruce Dykstra

Our faithful volunteer and past board member Bruce Dykstra has been instrumental over the past several years in helping to count the coin received from donors in the Baby Bottle Drives. As a retired banker, Bruce is in his element when counting money. The Royal Bank of Canada was Bruce's employer for 35 years. One of the ways RBC shows its appreciation for its retirees is to donate to a charitable cause dear to the retiree's heart. Bruce applied for and received a cheque payable to Hamilton Right to Life from the Royal Bank of Canada.

Thanks Bruce, for your unflinching zeal and love for Hamilton Right to Life and your cheque from RBC in the amount of \$500.00!



Trust me, it's all Personal!

BY FRANK FLORIO



Frank Florio

In the Academy Award-winning 1972 movie *The Godfather*, a crime family kills people and says, "It's not personal, it's business." Our world does the same. A big corporation decides to pull up stakes to make more money elsewhere, and ruins the lives of thousands of employees and their families. They move their factories to poor nations, cheat their new employees out of decent wages and say, "It's business, not personal."

Politicians play this card all the time. They say, "Well, personally I'm against abortion, but I don't think I have the right to tell others what to do."

► And now, for 28 years, Canada has had no abortion law and 4-million pre-born babies have been killed.

It's open-season on life in the womb. The same politicians who won't speak against abortion, tell us to pay our taxes, which are often wasted; in Ontario, our taxes are used to pay for abortions! And you know what? It's personal! It's personal to the pre-born babies who are killed. It's personal to the mothers whose risk of cancer and mental distress soar after an abortion.

Whatever else something is, it should always be personal. When each of us stands before God for judgement, it won't help to say that our sins weren't personal, just business.

► God will tell us it was all personal, because He's a personal God.

He's the God of the C.E.O. and He's the God of the bank president. He's also the God of the little child who dies of starvation, the one killed in the womb, the one who dies from an easy-to-cure disease while people in limos drove by him or her in the street. He's the God of the disabled and the despised.

For Mother Teresa, it was always personal. For Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Maximilian Kolbe, when they spoke out against the Nazis, it was always personal. For the saintly, everything is personal because it starts and ends with God. In our parish church, there is a large mural, originally produced by the famous Irish artist Richard King. It depicts creation and, on either side of it, there are imposing, tall angels. One is the angel of Mercy; the other is the Angel of Justice.

Regardless of our station in life, we should think about which angel we want for our friend, which one can best represent God's interest when, at the end, God opens our personal Book of Life.

► While we still can, it's best to choose mercy, best to choose a life that reaches out to God's children - the pre-born, the destitute, the otherwise troubled - because the judgement side may be too horrible to contemplate.

Be a Life Saver: Start a Pro-Life Club at Your High School!

BY CLARISSA CANARIA OF NATIONAL
CAMPUS LIFE NETWORK



Clarissa Canaria and Anastasia Pears

**NATIONAL CAMPUS LIFE NETWORK
VISITS HAMILTON RIGHT TO LIFE**

High school students and teachers, the pro-life message is desperately needed at your school. With 15% of the reported abortions in Ontario happening to women under 19 (CIHI, 2011), you have the great opportunity to support your peers and save lives through starting a pro-life club!

We'll provide you with a club manual with tips and tools on growing your team and running effective events. We can also arrange to give you in-person or online training!

We've seen high school students across the country change hearts and minds on the issue of abortion at their schools. Some of our favourite ways to do this include:

- encouraging peers to question abortion through Q & A (ncln.ca/qaproject)
- handing out Life Saver candies with a fact on fetal development
- inviting a pro-life speaker for a school assembly
- attending the March for Life in Ottawa in May

We look forward to helping you grow as a pro-life leader - and a human rights advocate!