

## President's Message

April 2022

**"The longest journey you'll ever make is from your head to your heart."** To me, this means discerning something is true with your mind and then knowing that truth in your heart.

**I have always been pro-life.** I don't remember ever thinking that abortion was okay, no matter what the situation might be. This understanding came from my mind. It hadn't touched my heart yet. It was truth without love. Yet, I will never forget the day that my heart caught up with what my mind knew to be true: **that all life is sacred from conception to natural end.**

Flashback to the Summer of 2008. I was a new volunteer at Birthright, a pro-life pregnancy centre that offers support to mothers facing an unplanned pregnancy.



I had my first call from a girl considering abortion. I won't go into the details, but I can say that I got through the call and thought that it went okay. It wasn't until a few days later that it hit me... I was singing at a wedding when I looked out and noticed a grandmother holding her infant grandchild who had no socks or shoes on ... and I saw the **tiny feet.** That is when I thought of the unborn baby and **the realization that all unborn babies are precious in the sight of God!** My heart finally caught up with what I knew in my head! We need to understand and speak up for those who have no voice - unborn babies, the sick, the elderly and everyone in between.

As part of our mission to educate, we are creating new opportunities starting with offering an online platform **"FORMED"**. Please see the enclosed postcard and our website (<https://hamiltonrighttolife.org/>) for more details. Also, on our website we have included a link to **FayteneTV**, a Christian television network, offering similar content. We invite you to access these two informative websites to learn more about pro-life messaging. **Our objective is to allow you to go deeper in your understanding of Life, recognizing that life is a sacred gift.**



*There is no foot too small that it cannot leave an imprint on this world.*

**Thank you** for your past and continued support and involvement. **"The longest journey you'll ever make is from your head to your heart."** I hope you will join us in this journey to promote the sanctity of life in our community.

God bless you all!



Dora Giammaria  
President



*There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.*

*- Albert Einstein (1879-1955)*



## Upcoming Events:

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### National March for Life

*Thursday, May 12th, Ottawa*

Canada's National March for Life is one of hundreds of marches held all over the globe, standing in solidarity with society's most vulnerable, with one voice, one message - "You Are Not Alone". Join us as we travel to Ottawa to participate in this monumental 25th Annual event that will show our support for the preborn and to those who may seek medical aid in dying. Bus transportation has been arranged, leaving from the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, 714 King St. W., Hamilton. A freewill offering will be gratefully accepted, to help defray the costs. Please check our website or call the HRTL Office for details.

### Annual General Meeting (AGM)

*Monday, June 27th @ 6:30pm, HRTL Office*

Please join us for this time of reflection. We will give an update on our activities during 2021-22. We plan to meet in-person at the HRTL office. This is open to all Members and Supporters. Please confirm your attendance by calling or emailing the HRTL Office.



### Golf Tournament Fundraiser

*Saturday, August 27th, 1:30pm Shotgun Start, Mount Hope*

Please join us for our Golf Tournament Fundraiser, at Southern Pines Golf & Country Club. \$120/person includes: 18 holes of golf with cart & dinner. Guests may attend the dinner only, for \$50. Contact Jim Monkelbaan, Board Member and Chair of the Planning Committee, at the HRTL office for registrations, corporate sponsorships and more info.



### Ancaster Fair – HRTL Display Booth

*Thursday to Sunday, September 22-25, Ancaster*

A Major Community Outreach Event for HRTL! We will be able to share our display with many attendees, promoting the sanctity of life to those who may not be aware of this. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Please consider joining us - volunteer to man the booth for a two-hour time slot. All volunteers will be given a complimentary pass into the fair. Your participation is greatly appreciated. Please call or email HRTL for details.

### Life Chain

*Sunday, October 2nd, 2:30 – 3:30 pm, Hamilton*

Please join us in a peaceful stand against abortion. Signs will be provided. Please email or call the office to confirm your participation, and which one of the four (4) locations you will be attending.

- Main St. W. & Emerson, Hamilton (McMaster Children`s Hospital)
- Upper James St. & Mohawk Rd., Hamilton (Canadian Tire Plaza)
- Hwy 20 & Hwy 8, Stoney Creek (Eastgate Square)
- Hwy 8 & Grays Rd, Stoney Creek (Stoney Creek Shopping Plaza)



### Respect Life Fundraising Dinner

*Wednesday, November 9th, Michelangelo Banquet Centre, 1555 Upper Ottawa St., Hamilton*

Please join us for an enjoyable and enlightening evening of food, music, informative talks and raffles. It will be wonderful to be together again to share fellowship and camaraderie with others. Doors open @ 5:30pm; Dinner starts @ 6:30pm. For more information please check our website or contact our office.

## Recent Events:

### Ecumenical Candle Light & Prayer Vigil

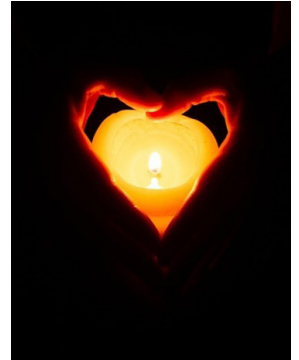
*Thursday, January 27th, Virtual*

Commemorating the 34th Anniversary of the 1988 “No Abortion Law” in Canada, Hamilton Right to Life hosted its 13th Annual Prayer Vigil, presented virtually. Please check our website for a short video of this event.



There are an estimated 1.5 billion abortions worldwide since 1980, over 4 million in Canada.

“Official” numbers say that 4,335,065 babies have been lost by abortion in Canada over the last 50 years (1969-2019).



*Did not He who made me in the womb  
make him? And did not one fashion us in  
the womb? Job 31: 15*

### 40 Days For Life

*Wednesday, March 2nd – Sunday, April 10th, 7am to 7pm daily, Hamilton, during Lent,  
(the time leading up to Easter)*

HRTL participated in this first-time event, an international initiative organized by 40 Days for Life. We joined a peaceful Prayer Vigil facing McMaster Children’s Hospital. Our purpose was to share a message of love to the community, to those who work for abortion, and to those who may be seeking an abortion; showing them that there are other options to an unplanned pregnancy.

Thank you to all our volunteers who signed up for a one-hour time slot, many of you enlisting for multiple times. You braved all sorts of weather. We look forward to partnering with 40 Days for Life as an annual event in the City of Hamilton.



“No show” abortion rates climb as high as 75% when people stand and pray outside clinics.



## Announcements:

### HRTL Website – Informative Videos available:

Thanks to an anonymous donor HRTL is pleased to announce that we are able to provide our supporters with a free one-year subscription to **Formed**, an online platform where you can watch many pro-life videos. **Please see the enclosed postcard** for more details.

We have also included on our website a link to **FayteneTV**, a Christian television network, offering similar content. Please go to our website and click on the links. ENJOY!

## Recent Developments:

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### In Canada:

MAID law undermines mental health care – The Hamilton Spectator, Mar 17/22, comments by Daniel Zekveld, Policy Analyst, and “Care not Kill” Campaign to repeal the expansion of MAID to those with mental illness.

A person struggling with mental illness said “I don’t need someone to tell me how to die. I need someone to tell me to stay.” Existing safeguards around medical assistance in dying (MAID) are insufficient to protect the vulnerable, even as Canada seeks to expand it further. Canada’s euthanasia law already has some of the least safeguards in the world. On March 17, 2023 (less than one year away), unless the law is changed before then, MAID will be readily available to Canadians who suffer from mental illness. Nearly all Canadians agree that Canada needs better mental-health supports. Offering MAID as a cure for mental illness reduces any incentive to improve mental-health supports and treatments. We must give hope and alleviate the stigma around mental illness. Rather than offering people a way to die, we must provide the supports they need to live. Canada should focus on increasing and improving access to mental-health supports. We must not devalue the lives of those with mental illness. We must strive to halt the further expansion of MAID.

### In The World:

Columbia’s Constitutional Court ruled that women can attain an abortion until the 24th week of their pregnancy without any permits from lawyers or doctors, removing almost insurmountable hurdles for getting the procedure legally. - The Hamilton Spectator, Feb 24/22

## Further Thoughts:

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### Who Inspires You?

Recently in listening to a Google Talk entitled “*Abortion from Controversy to Civility*” by Pro-Life Author, Stephanie Gray, a common theme was gleaned:

WHO INSPIRES YOU? There are **three common qualities** in those who have endured sufferings, challenges, or difficulties, and in all of them, it is their response that has inspired others:

- they put others ahead of themselves (selflessness)
- they have perspective (sense of meaning)
- they do the right thing, even when it's hard (integrity)

**Do you wish to be an inspiration to those around you, including to our future generations?**

With these **three common qualities** you can be a LIFE influencer and ambassador! – Encouraging others to value every precious life – preborn, physically & mentally challenged, frail and elderly.

Consider reading three books written by Stephanie Gray, a true LIFE ambassador being an inspiration to others:

- *Conceived by Science: Thinking Carefully & Compassionately About Infertility & IVF* (2021)
- *Love Unleashes Life: Abortion and the Art of Communicating Truth* (2015)
- *Start with What: 10 Principles for Thinking about Assisted Suicide* (2022)

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