

President's Message

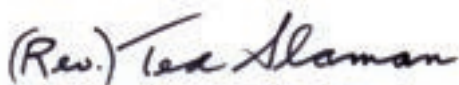
Fall 2022

Time has come for a change of Members on the Board of Directors. We thank Mary Togeretz, Lynne Scime and Cor Boekee for their six years of service each, and we welcome new or renewing Members Harvey Bailey, Peter Boushy, Kim Drotar and yours truly. I have grown a little older, so I was not keen to take on the responsibility of being President, but that was the Board's choice, so here I am for one or two more years in the position. Thank you, Lord, that with the wonderful support of the rest of the Board and our Staff member Janet Mulder McKenzie, I'll serve in that capacity.

With the undoing of Roe v. Wade in the USA, there was quite a bit of backlash from the "pro-choice" people here in Canada. The Canadian media do a great job presenting their side, but barely pay attention to the pro-life position. Most of our politicians, like Prime Minister Trudeau, are pretending that there is a right to the choice of abortion in Canada. If, God forbid, they do write such a "right" into our Charter of Rights, it might become a "right" according to law, but never by God's law. You and I know that before God, and by all human logic, there can never be a right to kill another innocent human being.

Our job, as individuals and as HRTL, is to promote the dignity of all human life, from conception to natural death. We are PRO-LIFE. We are pained for those who suffer with hunger, poverty, disease, lack of health care, lack of freedom, joblessness, addictions, abuse, discrimination, racism, violence, war and all forms of injustice. Since it is too great a job for one organization to tackle all human dignity issues, HRTL focuses on the beginning and the end of life (against abortion, euthanasia and medical assistance in dying (MAID)). Yet, we are pro-life in all aspects, and in every circumstance or level of human development. No doubt all of you personally are greatly concerned for people near and far suffering these human needs. You hold that the "pro-life" cause is a "seamless garment" of concern for everyone at all stages and conditions of human life, not just the anti-abortion cause. Many of you contribute time and talent in this regard. Many contribute your financial treasures to one or another cause. Good for you, and Thank You!

We are grateful, as well, when you join HRTL in speaking "pro-life" regarding the beginning and ending stages of life. Please speak up against abortion. Speak up against euthanasia and MAID. Speak up about the dignity of all human life. And, please make your contribution to help us/HRTL in our efforts to promote that message around Hamilton through billboards, newspaper, radio and on-line ads.



(Fr.) Ted Slaman, President



Upcoming Events:

Ancaster Fair: September 22nd-25th; Display Booth

After many years of participating in this community event, sadly, this year the Fair organizers, without discussing their concerns, made the unwarranted decision to deny HRTL display space. We will be investigating other venues for the future to continue our public outreach of sharing the message of hope and love for life. If you have any suggestions, please call our office to discuss further.

40 Days for Life: Wed, September 28th – Sun, November 6th; daily 7am – 7pm

Hamilton Right to Life and 40 Days for Life are partnering to bring you an International Prayer Vigil, here in Hamilton for the 2nd time! Join millions of people around the world for 40 days of prayer! Commit to helping to end the injustice of abortion. Come and pray for one (1) hour on the public sidewalk outside McMaster Children's Hospital, 1200 Main St. W., Hamilton, during the 40 day period.

To sign up for vigil hours, please check website www.40DaysForLife.com/en/Hamilton

Pro-Life Apologetic Training, Thurs, **September 15th** @ 6:30pm at Campaign Life Coalition, 157 Catherine St. N., 2nd Floor, Hamilton. Please sign up at www.40DaysForLife.com

Masses: For all faiths these Masses are a beautiful way to come together to give thanks to the Lord for bringing 40 Days into our lives, to keep praying and fasting for the unborn lives that we wish to protect and for the healing that is needed for the mothers and the fathers that feel despair. Please plan to attend.

Tues, **September 27th** & Sat, **November 5th** @ 12:30pm at Canadian Martyrs Catholic Church, 1349 Main St. W., Hamilton

Wed, **October 12th** @ 7:00pm at Holy Rosary Church, 287 Plains Rd. E., Burlington

Life Chain: Sun, October 2nd, 2:30 – 3:30 pm, Hamilton

Please join us in our stand against abortion! Signs will be provided. Please email or call the office to confirm your participation and which location you will be attending.

Locations:

- McMaster University Medical Centre (MUMC), on public sidewalk in front of hospital @ the corner of Main St. W. & Broadway Ave., Hamilton
- Upper James & Mohawk Rd, Hamilton
- Hwy 20 & Hwy 8, Stoney Creek, parking at Eastgate Square
- Hwy 8 & Grays Rd., Stoney Creek, parking at Stoney Creek Shopping Plaza



Respect Life Fundraising Dinner:

Wed, November 9th, 5:30pm Doors Open, 6:30pm Dinner

Michelangelo Banquet Centre, 1555 Upper Ottawa St., Hamilton

Please plan to attend an enjoyable and enlightening evening of food, music, and raffles. Guest Speaker: Teresa Hartnett, Director, Family Ministry, Diocese of Hamilton. Tickets: \$50 per person; Tables of 8 or 10. Come share in fellowship and camaraderie in the glow of Life. For more information: please check our website or contact our office.

Past Events:

National March for Life: Ottawa, May 12th, 2022. Theme “You are not alone.”

HRTL was pleased to be able to once again organize a bus trip to Ottawa to join other pro-lifers in a March to stand up for Life. We had 45 individuals attend, including young families, single men and women, nuns, and married couples. Age range of bus attendees was 9 years to 86 years young, with a lot of people in their 20's and 30's. God Bless you for your enthusiasm and attendance.

*“I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.”
–Deuteronomy 13:19*



AFLO Association for Life Ontario, AGM & Conference: June 18th

Board & Staff attended this educational opportunity, learning from guest speakers. We brought back many important statistics and actions concerning:

- Abortion Pill Reversal Campaign
- Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporation Act and how it impacts HRTL
- Protecting people from euthanasia; “Replace the culture of death with a culture of care”



Annual General Mtg (AGM): June 27th

On June 27th we hosted our AGM reviewing our financial position and voted in our new Board of Directors for 2022-23:

President: Rev (Fr.) Ted Slaman
Vice President: Dora Giammaria
Treasurer: Jim Monkelbaan
Secretary: Dan Shaw
Directors: Harvey Bailey Kim Drotar
 Jerry Bekendam Lisa Groen
 Peter Bouchy
Staff: Janet Mulder McKenzie,
 Office Manager



Pictured left to right: Harvey, Fr. Ted, Dora, Mary (Togeretz), Janet, Lisa, Kim, Dan (Not in photo: Jim, Jerry, Peter)

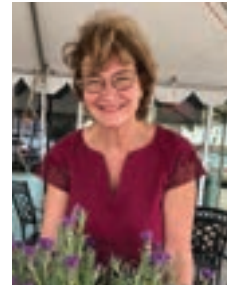
Golf Tournament: POSTPONED to next year Sat, August 26th, 2023

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Board of Directors made the decision to postpone this event to 2023. Please mark your calendar for next year's Golf Tournament on Sat, August 26th, 2023, at Southern Pines Golf & Country Club, Mount Hope.

Announcements:

Retirement of Verna McQueen, Office Manager

Verna has been with HRTL since January 2019, and decided to retire in May, after 3 years of faithful service, to spend more time with her family. We will miss Verna greatly, and wish her many blessings as she starts this new chapter in her life journey. We know HRTL will be in capable hands as Janet Mulder McKenzie, who has been with us for 2+ yrs, takes on the role and duties of Office Manager. The Board of Directors is considering the future, next steps, and possibly hiring another part-time person to focus on special event planning and our social media presence.



Recent Developments:

New Ad on CHCH-TV, Morning Live

HRTL is on TV!! As part of our new advertising initiatives to promote the sanctity of all life, we procured advertising time on our local Hamilton TV station, CHCH, during the “Morning Live” show. The Ad Campaign ran for four (4) weeks starting June 6th. This is an example of your donations at work, creating awareness in our communities.



MAID Panel Report

The Expert Panel on MAID released its final report (May/22) concerning Parliament’s Bill C-7 which expanded access to MAID to people who are not dying, and whose sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness. Ultimately no further protection was recommended for vulnerable Canadians, such as providing proper treatment and suicide prevention incentives. Parliament has until March 2023 to protect and support those with mental illness and stop the further expansion of MAID. We all need to be aware and encourage you to voice your concern.



Cited by: Daniel Zekveld, Policy Analyst, The Association for Reformed Political Action Canada, The Hamilton Spectator, June 9/22

MAID – Choosing a life with disability or death

In March 2021 the Canadian federal government made it legal for Canadians living with a disability to apply for medical assistance in dying, regardless of whether natural death is inevitable. One year later, many people living with a disability in Canada are considering this route. Not because they want to die, but because their income is too low to survive on. Let’s ensure that Canadians with disabilities living in poverty are not forced to choose between paying the bills and applying for the right to die. (The Spectator, June 15/22 - Rabia Khedr, Disability without Poverty; Nick Saul, Community Food Centres Canada)



In the USA – Overturning of Roe v. Wade – a HUGE step for Pro-Life

Friday, June 24th, 2022 – Precedent Setting Development!

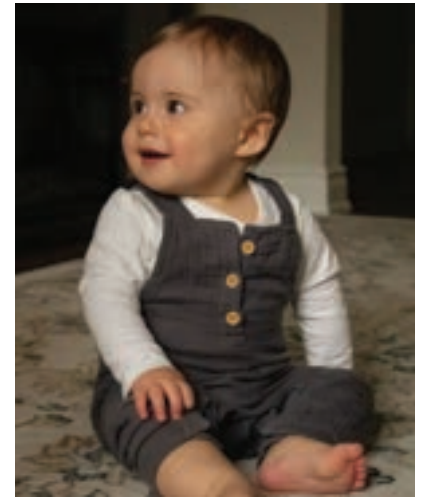
In 1973 The Supreme Court in the USA legalized abortion nationwide. A few months ago, on June 24th, 49 years later, Pro-Life groups celebrated as the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and sent decision-making on abortion back to the individual states.

Roe permitted abortion through all nine months of pregnancy. This change in law begins a new phase for the pro-life movement. We need to defend the unborn. Please see below for some comments from American Pro-Life organizations:

“I’m especially gratified at the role that activist organizations like the Pro-Life Action League have played in keeping this issue before the public... We have not allowed the American people to forget about abortion as much as the other side has tried to foist their propaganda on us and normalize and destigmatize abortion. They’ve never succeeded because we’ve been out there showing the reality of abortion, talking about the impact of abortion on our families, on mothers, and inviting them to care about the fate of unborn children.” ...Eric Scheidler, executive director of the Pro-life Action League

“Women are panicking because they’ve been told that their success lies in having access to abortion, so there is so much work to do, as far as trying to reach out and really help women in need and trying to find areas where we might find common ground.” ...Maria McFadden Maffuci, editor in chief of The Human Life Review

“To protect babies to the greatest extent of the law and equally to protect their mothers; as we’ve always said, they’re co-victims... We’ve got a lot of evangelicals who have really stepped up. It’s created a better understanding among the denominations about how the centrality of Christ is what our faith is all about. We do have some differences on dogma, but we’re all united on trying to defend life... There were an estimated 63-and-a-half million dead babies, the size of all the population in Italy, due to abortion since the Roe decision, and we should be mourning those children, and out of respect for other children who are at risk, leaving no stone unturned in protecting life.”... Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., a pro-life stalwart and Catholic lawmaker since 1981



“I almost did it (abort)...Look at us now.”

HRTL Responds to Roe v Wade, with an Opinion Piece for The Hamilton Spectator

Fr. Ted Slaman, President, wrote an enlightened response to an opinion piece written in the June 29th Hamilton Spectator. The article below was sent to be published in the online edition, yet after more than a month, as far as we know, it has not been published.

OPINION PIECE - The Choice to Give Life

Some pro-choice people call pro-life people “women haters” and imply that they are irrational (see Heather Mallick’s opinion piece on June 29 in the online Spec.). The truth about us is far different. We love the woman and all human beings, including those still in the womb. We are rational and caring in our thinking and acting.



We recognize the undeniable truth that the embryo or fetus in the womb is not a blob of tissue, but an intricate human being, from the moment of conception on, with her/his own unique DNA. She/he is not a potential human being, but a human being with potential (just as all who are born continue to have potential for further development). Abortion destroys that unique life. This is why we want to protect the one in the womb while caring deeply for the concerns of the mother.

Fortunately, as Mallick admits, Canada does not have the legal right to abortion enshrined in the Charter of Rights, even if Prime Minister Trudeau and other politicians pretend there is such a right. Canada’s Supreme Court, in overthrowing the then-current law related to abortion in 1988, allowed parliament to legislate a new law. This never happened.

Really, how could there be such a right to abort, since abortion destroys the life of a unique, innocent human being in the early stages of development. Is there really any difference between the killing of a pre-born and the killing of a child after birth, other than her/his stage of development?

Pro-choice people are focused on the needs and wants of the woman, but with little regard for the good of the other human being involved. For pro-choice people, when a mother is happy to be pregnant, this is a wanted child, and therefore has great value. If the child is not wanted, she/he has no value, and is to be gotten rid of. Pro-lifers, on the other hand, hold that the right to life is not dependent on another person’s needs or wants, but on the intrinsic nature of the human being. From the moment of conception there exists a unique human being with inalienable rights, even though ignored by the pro-choicers; that right exists whether a law recognizes it or not.

Pro-life supporters recognize that pregnancy for some is very difficult. Therefore, because we love them, we offer the mothers much-needed support through crisis pregnancy centres. There are various life-giving options she can choose instead of the death-dealing choice of abortion. We offer those options. We offer emotional, personal and financial support. We have centres where a woman can live during and after pregnancy (with her child) in a supportive home environment. We offer adoption services as well. With the right support, women are strong, and do make the right life-giving decision.

We also give support to women who have had abortions and are having a hard time dealing with that reality. I have personally dealt with women who have had an abortion, and years later were still hurting from the emotional effects of the abortion they now deeply regret. Many women who have chosen abortion have done so reluctantly, thinking that this was the only choice for them, and not realizing that this decision could affect them negatively for the rest of their lives.

Yes, the pro-life movement also has a branch that works for legislation that will recognize the intrinsic right to life of the pre-born child. We need a law against killing them. And we have a branch, such as Hamilton Right to Life, promoting education about life, and a culture that will respect all human life at all its stages.

T. Slaman, President, Hamilton Right To Life