



Carpe Diem

F O R L I F E

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Confessions

From a March For Life “Newbie”

By Robin Sencenbach

Around this time last year our office was bursting with activity—we were preparing for Sanctity of Life Sunday, the Advent season, and, the most notable and visible of all of our events, the March for Life in Washington DC.

Emails were flooding in, the phone was ringing—all with questions. What do I need to bring? Where should I stay? What should I do next? I am sure I answered their questions, but I had nearly as many questions as they did. I had never gone to the March for Life before! The church I attended growing up used to take a few buses to Washington every year for the March, but I was never able to go. I remember thinking to myself at the time that surely one of these years I would make the trip.

I never imagined I would end up going with a life-affirming ministry I worked for or that it would be my job to help organize a group going to the March! But I have always found that, along with unimaginable mercy and love, God has a remarkable sense of humor. So, despite my concerns and worries, George and I drove from Pittsburgh to Washington DC.

It did not seem like a particularly promising event. The day before the March the snow started to fall. And fall. And fall. Arrival times were delayed. Flights were canceled. And our nation's capital was thickly shrouded with a beautiful, if rather frustrating, layer of snow.

The morning of January 22, 2014 was clear and cold. Very cold. The high was 14 degrees. A number of bishops planning to attend, as well as a number of women and men with Silent No More Awareness Campaign who were to give testimony at the Supreme Court, were absent, as their flights had been canceled due to the inclement conditions. Still, the roads were clear and there was no snow in the weather forecast for the rest of the day.

The morning started with the 20th annual National Memorial for the Preborn and their Mothers and Fathers at the Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall at 8:30 AM. The service offered an opportunity to clergy and laity of all denominations and creeds to gather together and pray for an end to abortion. It was a reverent and beautiful moment, as church leaders, including our Anglican bishops and laity, gathered together, united for the sake of Life.

*“We march because
we have **hope**.”*

Next, we headed to the Rally at the Mall. This was a much less quiet event than the National Memorial but no less reverent! Christian singer/songwriter Matt Maher performed on a stage set up near the Statue Garden. This was followed by a series of speakers, including Dr. James Dobson, Founder of Focus on the Family, Rep. Chris Smith from NJ, and Silent No More Regional Coordinator for Connecticut, Nicole Peck. Nicole was the ideal choice for speaking at the rally, as the March for Life theme for 2014 was adoption. After her abortion as a teenager, Nicole was left depressed and unable to conceive a child. “Infertility was my cross,” Nicole said at the Rally, “But by God’s grace, my wonderful husband and I were blessed to adopt two baby boys. Their mothers are my heroes—they gave their children LIFE and gave me a family!” Her story was a wonderful example of God’s ability to redeem the broken and of the joy in choosing Life!

During the Rally, the street was filling with people. Despite the cold and poor conditions the day before, the sheer number of people attending was remarkable. Even more remarkable was who was attending. Kids.



Oh, so many kids. Young kids, junior high kids, high school kids, college kids. Bus loads of kids from everywhere, from Pennsylvania to Minnesota! They carried signs that said that they were the “Pro-Life generation” and that “I survived Roe v. Wade but Roe. v. Wade will not survive me.” Their courage and enthusiasm was delightfully contagious as, despite the many layers of hats, gloves, and coats, I began to see those gathered as less of a cold, huddled mass of people and more of a parade of the faithful going on a pilgrimage. The youth’s attendance and witness at the March gave the March meaning—that they, the next generation, would speak out against an evil legalized decades before they were born and would see the end of it, God willing.



I spent most of my time with the Silent No More group. But Anglicans for Life also had a presence. Carrying our new bright green signs that read, “Anglicans Celebrate, Protect, Honor, Life,” 11 Bishops were able to attend and march along with a number of faithful Anglican clergy and laity. Also, the Director of Anglicans for Life Canada, the Rev. Vicky Hedelius, was able to venture down from Ontario to join us. She helped lead the troops with our large Anglicans for Life banner, and even found some stray life-affirming Canadians outside the Canadian Embassy on Constitution Avenue during the March!

By now the energy was electric, and it was time to go. We were given our marching orders, Georgette leading the troops with the help of a megaphone. We walked with the Silent No More group for the March, which had the honor of being in the front of the line!

The march itself was not very long and felt even shorter with the energy and good-will from those around me. Yes, there were some scoffers and some carrying rude signs. There even were some tears from some of the Silent No More women and men, who were strongly effected by carrying their “I Regret My Abortion” or “I Regret Lost Fatherhood” signs. But we had a blessedly peaceful walk to the Supreme Court. While we walked I heard people praying and even some hymns being sung.

The Silent No More team set up on the steps of the Supreme Court to share their testimonies on why they could no longer be silent about their abortions.

In her story, after having five abortions, Mary Ann said that, “I pretended to be happy in front of my kids, all the while having anxiety attacks and nightmares. It was a spiritual hell.” Virginia-based Regional Coordinator Leslie Blackwell said that she tried to bury the emotional pain and memories from her abortions deep in her soul. “I did my best to strain forward in motherhood, marriage, career, and community involvement,” she said, “But my heart wouldn’t settle. Those abortions haunted me and living a lie was killing me!” I had read most of their stories in preparation for the March. But their grief and loss still broke my heart. It’s one thing to read their stories and an entirely different thing to hear it from their own lips. Gladly, the Silent No More speakers also shared their stories of how they found help and healing from their abortions.

By 4:30 the testimonies were over and, partially frozen, tired, but victorious, we took a taxi back to the hotel. The March for Life 2014, an event we had spent months preparing for, was over, and I was no longer a March for Life “newbie.”

Anglicans for Life, as well as Silent No More, is now hard at work making plans for March for Life 2015. The phones are ringing and the emails are coming, just as last year. But this year I feel like I know the answers now. And I know the answer to the most important question—why do we do this? Why should we March?

We march because the church cannot passively allow the legalized murder of children made in God’s image. We march because if our faithful witness spares the life of one child or leads one woman or man broken by abortion to healing, then it is worth it. And we march because we have hope. Hope that my future children or grandchildren would not know what an abortion clinic is. Hope that hearts would be changed and lives saved. And hope in our heavenly Father, who has ordained and created all Life, the best hope of all. So what are you waiting for? Join with us—it’s your turn to be a March for Life “newbie” this year!



No Man is an Island

Healing the Shock Waves of Abortion

British poet and Anglican cleric John Donne once wrote that “No man is an island.” The phrase has sadly become so common that it is nearly meaningless now. I wish the rest of his statement was more popular. “No man is an island... Any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind.” This is not just some wishy-washy statement about multiculturalism. Because we are all human, we are impacted by the death of another. Because we are all human, we cannot pretend to remain indifferent to the loss of life, because we are all fellow creatures made in the image of God.

How different and false, then, is the impersonal culture we live in today, which sees abortion as a “private personal decision” and would not dream of imposing on someone’s “choice.” But we have seen first-hand that abortion is never an isolated event. The child is killed—but a mother is devastated, a father is broken, and a family is fractured. Abortion may still be a legal choice in the United States and around the world, but there is nothing “private” and “personal” about it. It shatters everything it touches.

That is why the Silent No More Awareness Campaign is launching a new initiative in 2015 called “Healing the Shockwaves of Abortion.” Through the many Silent No More testimonies, we have learned how women and men have been hurt by abortions, but what about siblings or grandparents of aborted children? What about communities at high-risk for abortion, such as the Hispanic and Black communities? What about abortion providers and the pro-life community? What about the Church? Each month Silent No More will focus on a specific group that has been directly impacted by abortion loss and will provide helpful information and resources, as well as referrals for abortion-recovery programs.

We encourage you to be praying about the Shockwaves initiative in 2015 and to think of ways to be involved in this campaign, whether it is through sharing personal testimony or providing information to others. To find out more about getting involved, please visit www.SilentNoMore.com and click on the Shockwaves Logo.

Abortion impacts everyone, in ways that many of us have never imagined. But, thank God, so does healing. So, thinking of all the women, men, and families who will hopefully find peace and healing through the Shockwaves initiative, I will boldly rewrite Donne’s words. “No man is an island... Any man’s healing uplifts me, because I am involved in mankind.”



ShockWaves Testimony by Cheryl, from PA

I had my first two abortions at age 20. I was a college student with a promising future. As a little girl, I had seen my older brother “forced” into marriage when his girlfriend became pregnant, and I vowed that I would never do “that” to a guy. These first two abortions were four months apart with two different fathers. The first abortion was a nightmare. I remember jerking up and down on the table while the doctor yelled at me to keep still. After both abortions I felt immediate relief. I went about my studies as if nothing had happened.

I eventually married the father of my second aborted child. We had two children together, a boy and a girl. One long-term impact of my abortions was my inability to raise my children properly. Both my children grew up with severe psychological and emotional problems. I know my deep-seated guilt impaired my ability to parent. My husband’s as well.

At age 40 I had a third abortion. At this time our son was 15 and was already getting into trouble with the law; our daughter was 11 and in special classes for children with emotional problems. I was not thrilled with becoming pregnant but wanted to continue the pregnancy. At 12 weeks I had an ultrasound and was told that “Your baby has a strong heartbeat.” My husband called his mother to tell her the good news. She was adamant that I get an abortion, given the “problem children” we had. My husband and I gave in to her demands. At 14 weeks we legally killed our unborn child.

Alcohol abuse, nightmares, and suicidal thoughts have plagued me ever since. I finally attended a Rachel’s Vineyard retreat 12 years after the third abortion. This brought me a tremendous amount of grace and healing.

Four years ago our son died of an accidental drug overdose at age 33. Just today our daughter, who currently is 33, phoned to tell her dad and me that she had her tubes tied today. The pain and tragic legacies of these three abortions is why I am silent no more.

AFL Canada

An Update from AFLC Director Vicky Hedelius

Greetings all! Anglicans for Life Canada (AFLC) was given the fantastic opportunity to attend the Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC) Synod on November 4th-7th, 2014.

As well as having a table of information available, I also led two well-attended seminars, and we distributed a number of information packets. We also had several people express interest in starting Life Chapters across the country and a number of invitations for AFLC to speak in their parishes.

We're delighted that ANiC has responded to the message of Life. Bishop Don Harvey, in his closing speech at his retirement dinner, stated that he had three wishes to pass on -- and one of which was that ANiC would bear witness to the Sanctity of Life and endorse AFLC. Bishop Charlie Masters, the new Diocesan Bishop, in his Charge to Synod, also expressed this hope.

In addition, during the business portion of their Synod, Delegates unanimously passed two motions upholding active Life Affirming Ministry at both the Parish and Diocesan levels.

We praise God for His Blessings! Please continue to pray For AFLC, that we may be able to continue to touch hearts and change minds across our Country to the Glory of God!



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It's quick and easy! To get started, go to

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1431886>.





Stay Connected

Anglicans Abroad Around the World for Life!

By: Robin Sencenbach

In 1873, Jules Verne wrote one of his most beloved novels, "Around the World in 80 Days," which set the English gentlemen Phileas Fogg and his servant on a globe-trekking adventure, with 20,000 pounds on the line. That spirit of adventure and yearning to travel still inspires readers today. In fact, two of our own Anglicans, Ward and Judy LeHardy from St. Stephen's Anglican Church in Heathsville, VA plan on also circumnavigating the globe in less than 80 days—but for a far better incentive than 20,000 pounds.

Ward and Judy plan to leave on their globe-trekking trip in February, following the March for Life 2015 in Washington DC, and they want to use their trip to spread the word about the sacredness of life for the unborn, the elderly, and infirm. Their trip will be endorsed by Anglicans for Life, and we will be equipping them with resources to share with those they meet and promoting their blog on social media, so you will be able to keep up with them!

This is not their first go at this kind of trip, either. Twenty years ago, after Ward retired from his military career as a Brigadier General, they circumnavigated the globe in a 39-foot sailboat, a trip that lasted five years. This time, they will be working on a tight budget and tighter time frame. They also plan on hitchhiking on military airplanes, tankers, and cruise ships for the bulk of the journey.



In Verne's novel, the narrator asked a skeptical but obvious question about Fogg's voyage: "What had he really gained by all this trouble? What had he brought back from this long and weary journey?" One could ask the same question of Ward and Judy—what would incite a pair of grandparents and recent great-grandparents to make such a long and arduous journey? The answer is not what they plan to bring back, but what they plan to share with those they meet in their travels—that God values and honors life, and so, as people made in His image, should we.

Please pray for Ward and Judy—that their travels would be safe, that they would have many opportunities to speak to others about the sanctity of life, and that God would be glorified by their witness.

To follow their preparations for the trip, check out their blog at:
<http://www.northumberlandhistoricalpress.com/LeHardy.php>.



NATIONAL MEMORIAL FOR THE PRE-BORN AND THEIR MOTHERS AND FATHERS

NATIONALPRAYERSERVICE.COM



Join Pro-life Leaders from across the Nation for the
Interdenominational 21st Annual National Memorial
for the Pre-Born and Their Mothers and Fathers
The Morning of the March for Life
Thursday, January 22, 2015

DAR Constitution Hall
1776 D Street, NW (18th and D St)
Washington, DC 20006
Doors open - 7:00AM

Service begins 8:30AM and concludes at 10:30AM

Each year, Anglican Bishops, Pastors, and Clergy from different denominations participate in this event and choir members raise their voices filling the hall with spirit-filled songs and hymns.

The event is FREE - no tickets are required. Large Groups welcome!

AFL In Action

This fall, AFL went on the road to Australia and was present at the Synods for the Diocese of Quincy, the Anglican Diocese of the South, and the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic!



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1. Meet Brother Ned Gerber! The wonderful guy who opened the door for Anglicans For Life to travel 'down under!'
2. Georgette speaking at Christ Church Cathedral, Nelson, NZ
3. Christ Church Cathedral, Nelson, NZ. Georgette with Bp. Richard Ellena of the Anglican Nelson Dio and Bp. Justin Duckworth, Bp of the Anglican Dio of Wellington, NZ. Yes, he has dreadlocks!
4. The Rev. Lewis Payne with Dcn. Dan Kincaid at Dio of Quincy Synod.
5. Up the stairs to Christ Church Cathedral in the center of the town of Nelson, NZ. Absolutely one of the most beautiful places Anglicans for Life has ever been!
6. People browsing AFL's exhibit table at Synod.
7. Deacon Dan and his wife, Miki welcomed people to pick up AFL literature.

Why is Life Important to You?

By Georgette Forney

Defending the sacredness of life is not easy. In fact, most pro-lifers have had some type of personal experience with life and death that touched them to the core and inspires them to step outside their comfort zone to actively protect and respect life.

One such hero is The Right Reverend Donald Harvey.

As we marched together at the March for Life in Ottawa in May, I asked him why life was important to him and his answer brought me to tears.

As a newly ordained priest in the late 1960's, then Father Don was struggling to reconcile what his position as a priest should be related to abortion, until one evening, when a mother and daughter came to visit him.

The daughter was pregnant and earlier in the day they had visited a doctor who gave her a prescription to get an abortion, as is the custom in Canada. They wanted his counsel as to whether abortion was the right choice.

When Bp. Don related the story, he shared how fearful he was about advising this mother and daughter, as he considered the possible complications that he may be blamed or feel responsible for. But he decided, regardless of the outcome, he could not affirm the choice to abort the baby.

Months later Bp. Don had the blessing of baptizing the baby girl born to this young mother, who said to him, "If it wasn't for you, the baby would have been flushed down the sink."

Baptizing the baby settled the issue of where he should stand as a priest regarding the sanctity of life. Bp. Don said, "The call to protect life became very real after that experience."

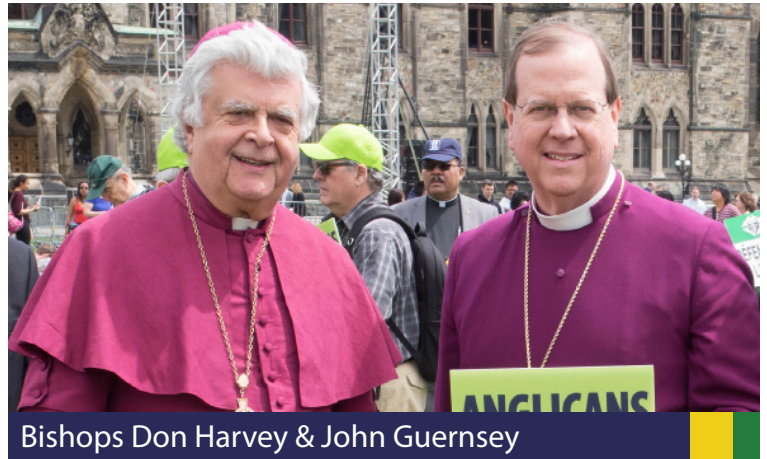
Bp. Don went on to help strengthen the newly formed Right to Life movement in Newfoundland and served as the only Anglican witness at many meetings. He was the first non-Roman Catholic member to serve as Vice President of that group.

Bp. Don officially 'retired' as the founding diocesan bishop and moderator of the Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC). In his closing speech at his retirement dinner, he said that he had three wishes to pass on... and the first is that ANiC be active in the Sanctity of Life and Anglicans for Life Canada.

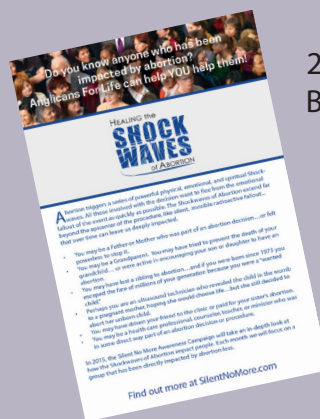
Bishop Don Harvey is currently serving as the Senior Chaplain for the College of Bishops. He and Trudy, his gentle-spirited wife, recently celebrated 50 years of marriage!

Many of you who stand for life may never have identified the event or experience that inspires you to value life. I encourage you to think about why life is important to you, then share your inspiration with someone. It may help them realize life is important to them too.

We also invite you to share your inspiration with AFL, either on our Facebook page or by email. Inspiring and encouraging one another is a great way to glorify and honor God, the giver of life.



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Ten Signs Of A Life-Affirming Church:

1 *Preaches sermons that promote the truth that God is the creator, redeemer and sustainer of all life.* You can find sermon ideas, life-affirming Bible verses, a library of our monthly Lectionary Life App and other clergy resources on our website.

2 *Teaches adult Sunday school programs that promote God's view of life.* AFL's PROJECT LIFE adult education curriculum covers all the life issues and explains the biblical basis for a commitment to life. AFL's EMBRACE THE JOURNEY curriculum addresses end-of-life issues and choices.

3 *Displays life-affirming educational literature such as AFL's Carpe Diem newsletter.*

4 *Holds informational meetings & Sunday school classes on current life issues.* AFL can provide up-to-date information and research studies on subjects such as stem cell research, euthanasia, physician-assisted suicide, abstinence and adoption.

5 *Provides community outreach to girls and women facing unplanned pregnancies.* AFL has resources and educational materials for use in your outreach.

6 *Promotes abstinence and chastity education for youth.* AFL can provide recommended curriculums.

7 *Reaches out to those hurting after abortion.* AFL has pastoral and counseling resources, and information about local healing programs.

8 *Has a web site with a link to Anglicans for Life's web site.* From AFL's website, parishioners can access many life-affirming resources and ministry ideas.

9 *Encourages members of the parish to become AFL Life Leaders or start AFL Chapters.* These parishes regularly receive AFL publications for distribution and promote various life-affirming activities.

10 *Donates to AFL!*



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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Join Us in Marching for Life!

Anglicans for Life and the ACNA Bishops will be marching in Washington DC and San Francisco CA in January. Will you?

March for Life – Washington DC – Thursday January 22nd, 2015
12th St., National Mall, Washington, D.C.

Rally: 12:00 noon

March 1:00 p.m.

Silent No More testimonies at the steps of the Supreme Court after the March

Walk for Life – San Francisco, CA – Saturday January 24th, 2015
Civic Center Plaza

Silent No More Awareness Campaign testimonies – 10:30 AM to 12:15 PM

Rally: 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Walk: 1:30 p.m.

To join us, email Georgette@AnglicansForLife.org or call 412-749-0455