

carpe diem

for Life!

May 2014
Vol. 2 No. 2

The Great Debate

by Georgette Forney

Editor's Note: In March I received an invitation to participate in a debate being hosted by The Berkeley Forum, at the University of California, Berkeley, on abortion and reproductive rights. I accepted the invitation and was told Joseph Speidel of the Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health at UCSF, Nancy Northup of the Center for Reproductive Rights, and Donna Harrison of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists were also invited. I began preparing my opening/closing statements based on their guidelines. However, less than a week before the debate was to take place on April 29th, I received an email advising me the debate was being canceled due to budget restrictions. So, instead of sharing my opening/closing statements at the debate, I am sharing them here! The debate proposition was: Should Abortion Be Legal?

THE BERKELEY FORUM

My Opening Statement:

As I pondered the debate topic "Should Abortion Be Legal?" I recognized that this question could be addressed in two ways. First, we could consider this from the perspective of defending the current status of abortion in the United States. Or one could set aside the 'constitutional' rights ideology and instead consider the evidence. What impact has this 40-year experiment called abortion actually had on women, men, unborn babies and society?

How would a country that is considering legalized baby killing, which is what abortion is, decide?

Typically, when you contemplate legalizing something, you weigh the facts and review the evidence to help determine whether the proposed legislation would be mostly harmful or beneficial.

Ironically, in both Roe and Doe, very little evidence was actually presented during oral arguments. Sadly, articles and reports that were submitted as evidence lacked scientific scrutiny and were at best, professional opinions.*

After 40+ years of abortion in the United States, we have a great deal of evidence that should be carefully considered by any country or community that asks "Should Abortion Be Legal?"

I am the only person in this debate who has personally experienced abortion, and every day I interact with women and men who call me to discuss their life after abortion. As the co-founder of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, I receive contacts by phone, email, Facebook,

Twitter, at the grocery store, and even the US Mail!

We talk about abortion not as a theory, nor in the context of a legal or political debate, but as the reality we live with every day. We describe the nightmares that plague us for years, we discuss the hurt we still feel towards parents or lovers who said abortion would be no big deal, and then abandoned us when it kept us from getting out of bed for months afterwards. Here are some excerpts from our conversations....

"I was told over and over again that this was a simple procedure and it would be over in just a few minutes. Thirty-eight years later, I still think about it." Rebecca, MI

"Abortion is not a quick fix. It left me with a lifetime of consequences, a lifetime of depression and anxiety. I had to tell my children that the mother they knew, the mother who cared for them and loved them, was the same mother that ended the life of their sister." Irene, CA

"I wish I hadn't bought into the lie that a so-called simple procedure would make my problem go away. It took what was a challenge and turned it into a tragedy." Carol Marie, NV

"I long for what could have been and wish I would have been strong enough to have made the choice to choose life... The trauma is overwhelming." Monica, AZ

"I was dying inside and didn't know why. It never occurred to me that the abortions were causing this pain and suffering. It was legal. It was for my health. Wasn't it? Well, my overall health did not improve from the abortions. Quite the contrary...I felt helpless, hopeless, and full of despair." Karen, CA



"I am a woman who exercised my 'right to choose' and regrets it every day. I should have a 12-year-old boy or girl, but, instead, I have 12 years of pain and regret. That is what I got from my abortion—the all-encompassing pain of the knowledge that I ended the life my child." Pamela, TX

Everyday women and men send us their stories to post on the Silent No More Awareness Campaign website – AbortionTestimonies.com.

Here is one we recently received:

"I had an abortion because I felt it was the only way my life could return to 'normal.'"

I had recently broken up with my boyfriend of three years, and I was devastated. I didn't know what my future looked like and I was scared. I

See "Debate," on p. 4 →

Not An Easy Read

FIVE DAYS AT MEMORIAL is the account of what happened to nine fragile patients at the Memorial Medical Center Hospital Complex in New Orleans during, and in the days following, Hurricane Katrina in August and September of 2005. It was an exhausting, troubling experience just reading this book; one cannot really imagine what it would have been like to live through the event or die during it. From the history of hospital failure during disasters, the subsequent approaches to solving the challenges those disasters and failures revealed and the lack of commitment to implementing solutions; to the intimate revelations of the love, hopes, and dreams of the victims and their families, the reader is taken into a harrowing experience. Weaving together the facts revealed from hospital documents, coroners' reports, flight schedules and many other sources, author Sheri Fink, reconstructs the events that led to the deliberate killing of nine completely dependent, helpless patients. In the course of things, Fink explores the questions of how end-of-life care is determined, how other hospitals handled the same circumstances, and what it means to have one's life in the hands of someone whose priorities may be unformed to begin with and warped by fatigue and panic.

During and just after Katrina, these questions ceased to be academic. They bore directly on the futures of these patients and their loved ones. Fink is somehow able to sort out confusing timelines, accounts and information from sources that were, in some cases, very emotional and, in others, motivated by self-interest and self-preservation. She has done an impossible amount of work on behalf of us, the public, who need to read this book and be made aware of what happened in New Orleans and could potentially happen anywhere.

The muddy waters weren't just the result of failing levees. They arose from the medical world's sense of their own separateness from the rest of us. Clearly, when the independent and expert reports are in, Dr. Anna Pou and the two nurses who helped her, did deliberately kill those patients. It is disingenuous to claim that they didn't. To deny that and hide behind the legal barricade as they did denies society one of the most important open debates it can and must have.

Clearly justice was not served and the cases should have been tried in open court, but the attitude of those responsible for prosecuting the

case was not about bringing truth to light and seeing justice done, but about riding the biggest emotional wave to shore. **FIVE DAYS AT MEMORIAL** is not really a disaster account, a legal puzzle or a medical mystery, but an account of people with the means and position to take lives of their completely vulnerable victims. It is an absolutely harrowing tale that even at over 400 pages is utterly compelling and impossible to turn away from.

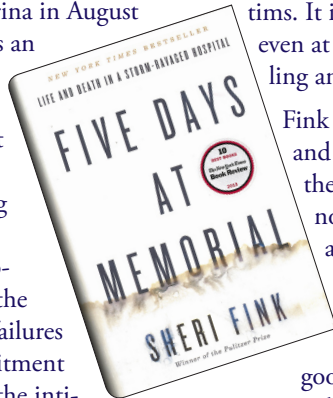
Fink includes every possible perspective and doesn't shy away from or flinch at the hardest of challenges. There are no easy answers, and trying to look ahead at what we learned from this or how to prevent its happening again seems beyond human capabilities. Planning ahead is good and helped spare the lives of patients at the public hospital across the city experiencing the same situation of failed power, chaos, nearby violence, and slow evacuation, but pre-planning doesn't replace independent bioethical statements on our absolute moral values.

In examining the many questions that must be considered when attempting to establish disaster protocols, the reader just ends up feeling overwhelmed by them all, and that's probably as it should be. Maybe, in the final analysis, it is a matter of attitude. As Dr. Horace Baltz observed upon hearing Dr. Pou's remarks from the press conference after the Grand Jury decided not to prosecute the case, "Pou had genuflected to thank God that she wasn't going to prison? He longed to hear that she had taken to her knees to do something different: beg forgiveness for having violated the commandment 'Thou shalt not kill.'" Perhaps what is needed above all is the humility to ask God to have mercy on one's soul when making such gargantuan decisions about the life or death of another human being.

Is this a good book? Considering, not the content or subject matter, but its structure, style, etc.? It is an exceptional book. Sheri Fink takes on an enormously difficult event, loaded with impossible dilemmas and a vast array of resources and crafts it all into a thorough, readable, clear, balanced, and beautifully written tribute to the ones whose ability to tell their side of it all was terminated for them, both by Dr. Anna Pou and by the justice system that should have served them and their families. This is an important book, as it is likely the only way we will learn what really happened.

Review by Melissa Cochran

Five Days at Memorial
by Sheri Fink, Crown Publishers, 2013
ISBN 978-0-307-71896-9



NEWS BRIEF

anglicans for life
A GLOBAL MINISTRY AFFIRMING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

Are you looking for LIFE news? Look no further than Anglicans for Life's monthly NewsBrief!

People looking for news about abortion and end-of-life issues are either frustrated by the mainstream media's lack of coverage or by the sheer volume of articles of varying quality available online. AFL's NewsBrief seeks to solve both these problems. We search for and select the best articles available on topics including abortion, end-of-life issues, and bioethics. Our hope is that these articles will inform and inspire you to defend and honor Life!

Here are some titles from previous issues:

- *Belgium Approves Measure Allowing Doctors to Euthanize Children*
- *3D Printing Lets Blind Parents Hold Model of their Unborn Child*
- *Assisted Suicide Clinic Kills Elderly Woman Who Couldn't Handle Modern Society*



Sign Up Today for AFL's Electronic NewsBrief!
Info@AnglicansforLife.org

Do Something for Life - Pray Daily

PRAYER FOR LIFE

Lord God, thank You for creating human life in Your image.
Thank You for my life and the lives of those I love.
Thank You for teaching us through Scripture the value You place on life.
Help me to uphold the sanctity of life in my church and community.
Give me the strength to stand up to those forces that seek to destroy the lives of those most vulnerable, the unborn, the infirm and the elderly.
Today I commit myself never to be silent, never to be passive, never to be forgetful of respecting life.
I commit myself to protecting and defending the sacredness of life according to Your will, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A Note from Georgette

Welcome to the Spring issue of Carpe Diem!

After the endless bitter-cold winter, we are overjoyed to see flowers blooming. At the recent March for Life in Canada, the sun shined so brightly, people actually got sun-burned!

I hope you enjoy the pictures from that historic day on page 6 and check out Bishop Charlie Masters's wonderful opening prayer that he prayed to kick-off the Ottawa Rally in front of the Parliament.

While we were disappointed the Debate was canceled, I hope you will find my statements featured here useful to refocus typical abortion debates, away from the political and legal perspective and onto the women. Remember, we have dismantled the argument that it's not a baby with ultrasound technology! Now we need to debunk the argument that women need the right to abortion. I pray that my article gives you a fresh perspective to share. Please, feel free to call and order additional copies!

You can also sign-up for the new electronic version of the NewsBrief that can be emailed

to you monthly. It features pro-life news that you do not find in mainstream media. This is another resource you can share with friends and family – just forward the email and ask them what they think of the news.

Equipping you to make a difference for **life** in your church and community is what AFL seeks to do. We recognize how important life is to you and that in the midst of a busy day, forwarding an email may be the only activity you can do to affirm life.

There is one other thing you can do for life... please consider making a donation to Anglicans for Life. Not only will your gift help us uphold the sanctity of life throughout the Anglican Communion, it will also help us equip and educate a group of interns working with us this summer. Anglicans for Life is raising up the next generation of pro-lifers in the Church.

Look for a full report on our summer interns in our next issue of Carpe Diem – until then... seize the day for life!

Georgette & Gladys Edwards standing for life at Church of the Resurrection, Chattanooga, TN



For His glory,

Georgette Forney

President, Anglicans for Life
Co-Founder, Silent No More Awareness Campaign

What Can YOU Do to Affirm Life?

Here are more resources for your church from Anglicans for Life!

For more information on these resources, visit AnglicansforLife.org or call 412-749-0455

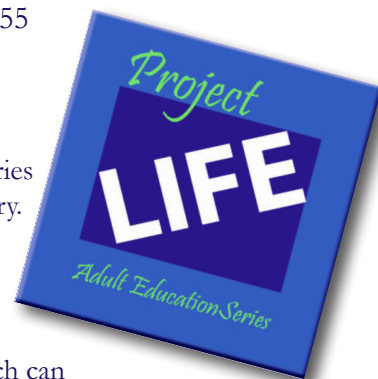
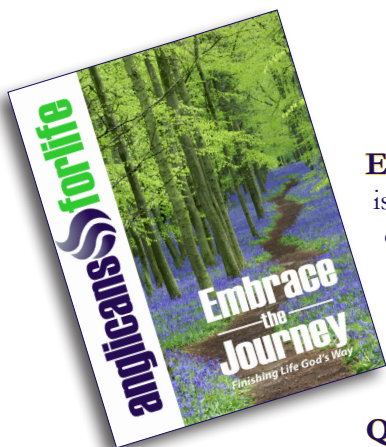
Adult Ed Curriculum

Project Life - An 8-week DVD Series that address all the life issues, and presents ideas for ministry.

Embrace the Journey - An 8-week DVD Series that takes the issues of aging and dying and provides a teaching on the variety of issues that surround the needs of the elderly. We look at planning for aging as well as what family members and the church can do to help.

Life-Affirming Conference

Quasar Conference - Anglicans for Life's 3-hour Quasar Conference energizes God's people to affirm life and shine the light of God's love on the Culture of death! Details about Abortion and Euthanasia are shared along with ways to positively impact your church and community for life.



started drinking a lot after the break-up and met a guy at a bar. We went home together that night and had sex. We ended up seeing each other a few times after that. About 5 weeks after having sex with him the first time, I found out I was pregnant. I had officially hit rock bottom. I told him that I was pregnant and he said he did not care what choice I made, but he could not be involved at all, as he apparently had a girlfriend. My mother tried to convince me to flee the city where I lived and worked, and go to their beach house in another state. Basically her solution was for me to run away and hide, so as to not embarrass myself or our family. Initially I thought I would keep the child, but after hearing my child's father didn't want to have any part in it and my mom was more interested in me hiding this, I changed my mind. My parents were absolutely beside themselves when I told them of my decision. They are strictly pro-life.

My child's father did take me to the clinic for the procedure and pay for half of it. During the procedure I was in tears. Complete and utter tears. I remember lying on the exam table and sobbing. The doctor didn't seem to care. He made no remarks at all. Some woman sat next to me and held my hand while he removed the life of my child from my body. After it was complete, I was immediately moved to an area with recliners and many other women and given snacks. I was still hysterical. No one cared.

Finally I was released and my child's father took me to a friend's house, where I spent the next few days. I was still living with my parents at the time, and they didn't want to see me during this process. That was the last time I saw him. That hurt me for years to come. It wasn't until 2013 when I was able to reconnect with him and was also able to forgive him. I was able to realize that this not only affected me, but it also had a dramatic impact on him as well.

Immediately following my abortion I felt intense regret and was completely depressed. I called my gynecologist and asked him for a referral to a counselor. I started seeing her immediately. For nearly a year, I would visit her 2 days a week. She clearly came from the school that this wasn't a horrible thing that I did, and I should just move on. That stuck with me for years to come.

As time went on after the abortion I felt and experienced strong feelings of guilt and pain. I hid my feelings because there were only a few friends who knew about my experience and they had virtually moved on. My parents could not be of any support due to their strong opinions.

It was not until I found a women's group at a local organization and was able to deal with the pain. These amazing women saved me! Finally, I could talk to people who went through the same thing. This also helped me draw closer to God. I realized that He still loves me and provides grace. During this time, I prayed and prayed that I could someday tell my husband, who had no knowledge of this. As a result of this group, my faith in God, my church pastor and constant prayers, I finally told him. He has been extremely supportive and also provides me with grace.

After so much pain and suffering, I finally found peace and comfort through my faith in God and having a husband who accepts me for me. I would certainly not wish this experience upon anyone. I hope that my story can help someone else make a different choice—one that is filled with love and compassion, not sorrow, guilt, shame, and selfishness. This is why I am silent no more!"

Why do we share something that is so personal and painful?

Because we realize there are women, like the one above, who feel this

way, but are locked in silence. We fear people's judgment, we hurt but think we are the only one struggling after abortion.

It isn't easy to share our abortion stories. Who wants to stand up and say "I had an abortion" or "I murdered my baby"?

Our stories do not fit neatly into the pro-abortion narrative that baby killing is a blessing to women. I am deeply troubled by how easily those who seek to protect the right to abortion, dismiss our stories and ignore our voices. If they want to break the stigma of abortion and help people understand the reality behind the right to abortion, shouldn't those who have personally experienced it be heard?

The Silent No More Awareness Campaign has 12 years of evidence – over 2100 stories online for the purpose of helping people understand what legalized abortion does to the people it purports to help.

Recently, a graduate student from The University of South Alabama used the Grounded Theory Method (GTM) of research developed by sociologists Barney Glaser and Anselm Strauss to analyze the Silent No More (SNM) stories without the confines of specific research hypothesis. Rather, GTM seeks to identify themes and recurrent patterns arising from the data. The researcher selected 50 SNM testimonies and found 3 common themes.

The first theme that emerged from SNM stories relates to expectations of "ideal motherhood." SNM women do not embody such expectations. The testimonies recount messages of others telling women they were not "ready" for motherhood. "You are not the right kind of mother" is the label used when the mother and/or others express her failure to embody a state of socially acceptable pregnancy.

SNM narratives contain certain commonalities regarding what pregnancy and motherhood should be like. Women and others in their stories express that pregnancy is desired only under certain situations. "Good" or "Right" motherhood and pregnancy occurs when it is planned, preferably within marriage. Amanda feared her family's judgment, "I was so scared my family would hate me if they knew I was pregnant again and not married." Furthermore, acceptable pregnancy depends upon the involvement of the father and his desire for the child. Finances, education, and predictions of "healthy" or "normal" children impacted their need for

an abortion. Ideal pregnancies produce "perfect" babies. SNM women voice expectations about pregnancy and motherhood that indicate these women feel intense pressure to embody cultural mandates of motherhood, standards that few women in America are able to meet.

Isolation emerged as the second theme in the SNM stories. The women experience pregnancy and abortion alone. SNM stories recount pregnancy, outside of ideal circumstances, and abortion, in general, as shameful situations; therefore, they are not openly discussed or acknowledged. They recount making decisions with little or no support. Women frequently express bearing sole responsibility for abortion decisions and project themselves in the testimonies as the sole provider and caregiver for the child, should they choose to parent. Social stigmas cause many women to remain silent about their pregnancy or divulge only to a few. Many times, women who chose to tell others about their pregnancies feel pressure to abort. Madonna initially finds happiness in the news that she was pregnant by her fiancé:

"I was happy to be pregnant and so was he, initially. But my doctor was pushing me to have an abortion. I was shocked that my own doctor would suggest that! I vowed never to return to that doctor. Then came the phone call. My boyfriend said he had talked our situation over with his friends and the best thing for us to do was abort the child.

My biggest mistake was that I kept silent and did not tell anyone that I was



pregnant except for my doctor and my boyfriend. These were the very ones who encouraged me to get the abortion. I'm sure that if I had told a few more individuals, there would have been at least one or two who would have supported my having the baby. But I felt I couldn't tell anyone. I had an abortion because I felt helpless and hopeless. I felt backed into a corner with nowhere to turn."

Linda said, "It was then a part of me died. As we left the hospital that day my mother told me that we didn't ever need to discuss this again and "Let's forget it ever happened." Inside I was screaming out for help."

Women express grief, regret, and self-blame in their stories. The weight of the blame for the decision to abort is generally directed at themselves. The narratives recount years of self-loathing and self-destructive behaviors for decisions to abort. The women in the stories carry extreme regret and most see themselves as the sole bearer of guilt for their decision. Curri states, "I hated myself for what I did."

Furthermore, in retrospect some women frame abortion as "killing" and themselves as "murderers" in need of forgiveness. Beatrice said, "It affected me because not only was I a tramp, but now I was a murderer also. I hated myself even more." SNM women voice pregnancy and abortion as experiences involving loneliness, regret, shame, and guilt.

A paradox emerged as the third theme woven throughout the SNM stories: the women simultaneously experienced life as adult and child. Although most were young women (some even under 18 years old), they were told to handle pregnancy as an adult—meaning have an abortion. Many stories include situations of young women who were told in most areas of life that they were children; still in school or college or in submissive positions in parent-child relationships. However, when making pregnancy or abortion-related decisions, every influence persuades them to handle the situation as adults. SNM stories show that these women are spoken to and treated, not as individuals, but as "people" who should conform to a "role" defined by society. SNM testimonies highlight social pressure for pregnant women to behave in certain ways. Women feel trapped within the bounds of unrealistic expectations. They are treated and thus behave as though they are both adults and children, although the messages remain indistinct. The women's actions indicate they make decisions to the best of their ability based on these imperatives, depending on their personal interpretations and individual life situations.

The women who have experienced abortion and are supposed to be the beneficiaries of the right to abortion; instead, they give testimony to the complications and pressures that force abortion on them not as a choice but as an expectation to conform.

It is time we stop hiding behind slogans and the rhetoric of abortion, and start looking at the evidence of what abortion actually does for and to women. Any country or community that cares about its women will focus on helping women embrace pregnancy and motherhood, however it comes to them. Placing value and importance on the great calling of motherhood seems to be a healthier approach than legalizing a mother's right to kill.

My Closing Statement:

I have been working for the last 16 years to help people see the gift and blessing that life is – sadly, much of my appreciation for life has come through much experience with death, especially of unborn children who didn't have the opportunity to fulfill their purpose in life.

I have spent countless hours trying to understand the issue of abortion. Here's the sad reality of what I have concluded:

Abortion is a business. A very lucrative business. As an example of what

one abortion business makes, consider that according to their annual report in 2010, 51% of Planned Parenthood's billion dollar income was made providing abortions – which they say accounts for only 3% of their services.

Abortion proponents are depicted as caring about women but defend and protect shoddy healthcare to women delivered by abortionists. In doing research for this, I found that in the last 28 months, there have

been 31 known medical emergencies reported by sidewalk counselors outside of abortion clinics. Through 911 recordings we know these emergencies include abortion patients having seizures, allergic reactions to anesthesia, and hemorrhaging. In addition, 17 clinics and/or abortionists were cited for clinic violations, unprofessional conduct, and criminal charges during that same 28-month period of time.

Texas Ambulatory Surgical Center in Houston, TX, has not been inspected since 2010, despite supposed investigations last year into allegations that Dr. Karpen killed babies born alive during

failed illegal late-term abortions. A deficiency report released by Texas Department of State Health Services reflected appalling conditions during an inspection on Nov. 5, 2012, including:

- Dr. Karpen's registered nurse had no valid CPR certification.
- There was dust build-up in "treatment rooms," on monitoring and emergency equipment, and over a sink in the hallway.
- Two red biohazard boxes stored in a "dirty" utility closet were uncovered and "1/2 full of bloody supplies."
- A mop was sitting in a bucket of "brown colored water."
- Bottles of anti-infective agents were stored on the floor in one "treatment room."
- The clinic had no infection control policies.

At a clinic in Virginia in August of last year, these issues were present:

- Bloody, reused Vacutainer® holders
- Dried blood on leg support of procedure table
- Bloody door and wall outside procedure room
- Cloth leg covers reused for multiple patients
- Dirty recovery recliners
- Improperly washed linens that could spread infection
- Contamination of pathology containers with blood from physician's gloves
- Undated, open vials of medication
- No emergency "incident tray" in one procedure room
- Expired supplies, including an emergency IV line that expired in 2003
- Failure to maintain equipment
- No process for STD screening and reporting
- No policy for reporting patient deaths

But, worst of all, we are aware of 4 women who have died from legal abortion in the last 28 months.

In the early '70s, before abortion was legalized, women went and protested in front of the US Supreme Court, saying they would be silent no more because their sisters were dying from **illegal** abortions.

Now, 40+ years later, we stand in front of the Supreme Court and share our stories as a way to be silent no more because our sisters are dying and being injured in disgusting facilities from **legal** abortion.

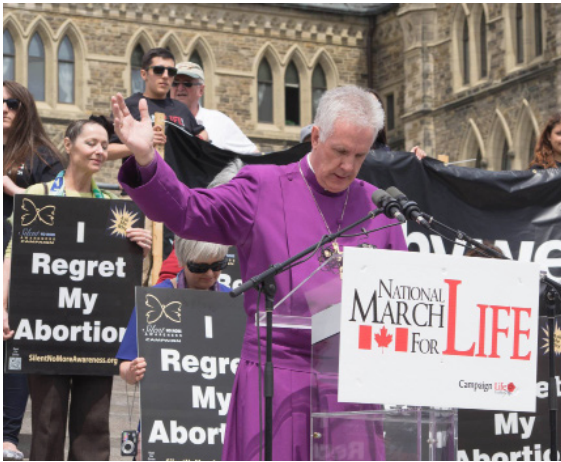
The reality is that, legal or illegal, abortion harms women and kills our children. Abortion doesn't empower women—it's time to look at the evidence and see the truth for what it is. Listen to our stories and explain to me what Roe has done for us.



March for Life in Canada!

May 9, 2014
Ottawa, Quebec, Canada

Below: Bishop Don Harvey, Jack Lumanog, Bishop John Guernsey, Bishop Charlie Masters (Anglican Network in Canada/ACNA), Paul Donison, Georgette Forney, and Vicky Hedelius joined our Halton Region Life Chapter at the National March for Life.



At Parliament Hill, The Rt. Rev. Charlie Masters opened with his March for Life Prayer:

O God, we give you thanks for this day You have made.
For this good place and for this great nation of Canada,
we thank you for all who gathered together today to pray
and to March for Life

Jesus, You yourself said: "The thief comes only to steal, kill
and destroy, but I have come that You may have life and
have it more abundantly."

We praise You that You love life

That You alone are the author of life

And that You see death as the enemy and by Your dying
and rising from the dead You conquered death,

As we March today for Life, You who are able to do ex-
ceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or imagine -
change our hearts- change the heart of this nation- replace
our hearts of stone with a heart of flesh which only Your
Holy Spirit can give.

Give courage to all mothers and fathers that they may
bring all children conceived to birth and the life You have
planned for them.

Give support through all communities and churches that
parents may know the help they need at their time of
need.

Give courage to all health care workers and legislators and
all of us that we may love life, promote life, and honour it.

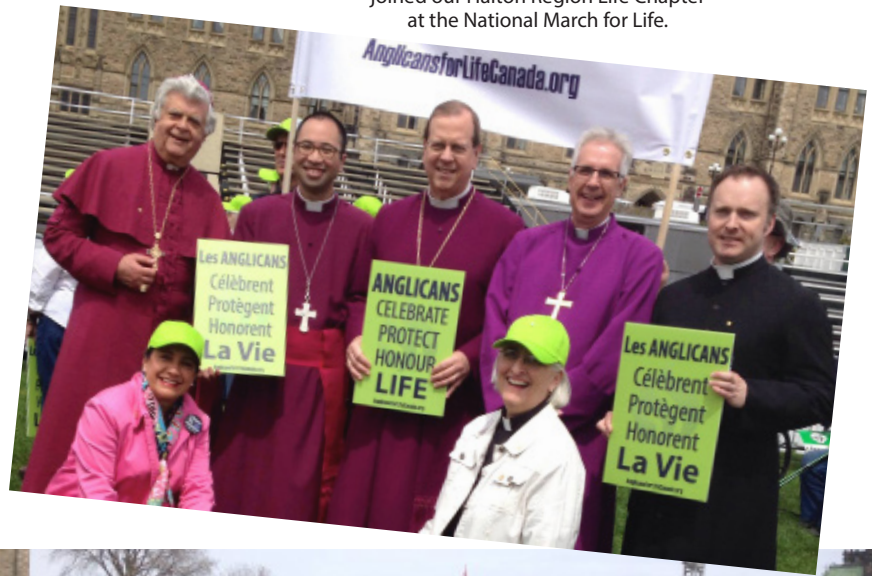
And knowing that we all have failed to protect the un-
born, the elderly, and the vulnerable and where some of us
has participated in abortions in the past -give us grace to
seek and find that wonderful forgiveness which You, Lord
Jesus, bought by Your own blood on the Cross.

All we like sheep has gone astray, and The Lord has laid on
him the iniquity of us all. Alleluia!

Do a miracle in us that we may know the abundant life
You came to bring and cause us to be those who know
You, have experienced your life and your love, and share
You and your abundant life with our nation to the glory of
Your great Name.

For we ask it in the name of the Father and of the Son and
of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



Photos by: David Jenkins

AnglicansforLifeCanada.org

Life Leaders Update

Epiphany Anglican Church, Eustis, Florida Walk for Life →

On March 29 2014, Life Leader Barbara Lovelace and a number of parishioners from Epiphany supported a Walk for Life fundraiser for their local pregnancy care center, Life's Choices of Lake County. Among the walkers were two young children. We at AFL are inspired by seeing children attending pro-life marches!

Epiphany walked in memory of Gene Shields, a beloved and faithful member, who died in February. Although earlier in his life he had considered himself "pro-choice," Gene became a strong advocate for the sanctity of life and greatly enjoyed participating in AFL's *Project Life*. Six-year-old walker Emma was one of Gene's best friends.

Christ the King Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Christ the King recently joined our AFL ministry team, with Anna Beth Strong as Leader. The Church, along with a community Catholic church partner, hosted a baby shower event on Mother's Day weekend to benefit the MaRiH Center, a local emergency pregnancy service.

Both churches collected monetary donations as well as new and used maternity and baby items during worship services, and about two dozen attendees enjoyed refreshments and fellowship at the shower. MaRiH Center volunteers shared about the history, mission, and day-to-day work they do for women and families in the Alexandria community, and attendees were eager to hear about the needs of the Center and to learn more about how churches can minister to women in difficult pregnancy situations.



Christ the King Church Baby Shower

Want to be a Life Leader in YOUR church?

Contact AFL today—

Info@AnglicansforLife.org



Holy Trinity Parish, San Diego, California

I made a New Year's resolution that this year I would do three things for Life. The first was to attend the San Diego Walk for Life on January 18. This was really a recon mission for me personally since I am still basically just getting started as an AFL Life Liaison for my parish. I met many wonderful, wonderful people at the Walk doing amazing things for the cause of Life.

Next year, I'll plan ahead and get a poster made (at least one!) and try to rally some companions to make an AFL presence known. For now, I can attach photos that give you some idea of what a great event it was.

My second activity is one I am really excited about! I have the go-ahead from our priest, Fr. Lawrence Bausch and will be facilitating the *Embrace the Journey* course with our assistant priest, Fr. Caleb Hummel, this spring! Well, I am very excited about this course and how much good help it will give to those who take it. I haven't decided what my third activity will be. Best regards and may the Lord continue to richly bless you and all that you do.

—Melissa Cochran, Life Leader

Anglican for Life Canada Establishes its First Chapter!

While gathering in Ottawa for the National March for Life Events, Georgette presented the first Life Chapter of AFLC with their Chapter Certificate. The Halton Region, Ontario group began meeting in April to study *Project Life*. Upon completion of the course, the group unanimously voted to form this Chapter in order to actively engage with their wider communities in Life Issues Ministry.



Halton Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Mark McDermott, Georgette & Rev. Vicky Hedelius, AFLC Director

Abortion Impact ‘Typically Ignored’

A new report by the Institute of Marriage and Family Canada highlights “typically ignored” research showing that abortion has negative effects on women and their families.

Interconnected: How abortion impacts mothers, families and our society focuses on the harms that have been revealed by academic studies and meta-analyses—harms to mental health, relationships, sexuality, and society. The report challenges the myth that abortion has no negative ramifications. It also aims to challenge the pervasive idea that abortion is strictly about the one woman who has one.

The Pope and The Right to Life

Pope Francis said recently, “Abortion compounds the grief of many women who now carry with them deep physical and spiritual wounds after succumbing to the pressures of a secular culture which devalues God’s gift of sexuality and the right to life of the unborn.”

The Pope made the remarks while speaking to a group of bishops from South Africa, Botswana, and Swaziland.

Staggering Numbers of Women Hospitalized After Abortion

Planned Parenthood admitted that at least 210 women annually are hospitalized following abortions in Texas. The admission was included in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals decision upholding Texas’s law requiring abortionists to have local hospital admitting privileges.

Using other data in the court’s opinion, Operation Rescue calculates that around 1,000 women a year in Texas must be treated at hospitals following abortion.

Governor Signs Anti-Abortion Bill

Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin signed into law a bill that will ensure that a woman will receive information on perinatal hospice services if her unborn child has been diagnosed with a condition “incompatible with life.” The bill amends Oklahoma’s existing informed consent for abortion law. Every state should adopt this bill.



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See page 6 for more info...



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