

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!



Peter Baltutis, and daughter Hannah, at the summit of Table Mountain



**FOR SUPPORTING CALGARY PRO-LIFE
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND MORE!**

**THE 40TH ANNUAL HIKE FOR LIFE
THE VIRTUAL EVENT
OF 2020 WAS A
SUCCESS!**



POSITIVELY PRO-LIFE

OCTOBER 2020

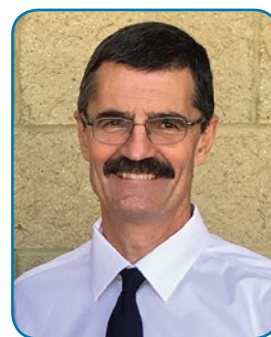
President's Message

Three months ago I was involved in a near fatal motor vehicle accident. Being in the smaller vehicle, I was violently spun off the road and head-first into the ditch by a much larger vehicle. It was God's will that I alternated between consciousness and unconsciousness for the next ~9 days until I began the journey back to health and hopefully a full recovery. Why was I given the chance to have glimpses of my ordeal as I struggled to survive such a serious accident? I hope sharing my perspective of these events is one reason.

I did not see the truck coming as it hit me from the side and propelled me to a stand-still in the ditch. I did see the actions of many pro-life people over the next ~9 days and the ~3 months since. People involved in the accident immediately called 911. First responders all arrived within 40 minutes of the accident and did an admirable job of attending to my needs. Being conscious, I was aware that I had a broken left leg and broken upper right arm. Being in shock, I respect that

the emergency personnel had to take precautions that my self-diagnosis of my injuries might be in error and other matters like sore ribs and difficulty breathing might be signs of more serious internal injuries. Looking back, I must admire that trained professionals who really care about life were readily available to spring into action that day on my behalf and also on your behalf if you need them.

This accident scene involved at least one of each of the following first responder vehicles: fire truck, police car, ambulance, family members, and STARS helicopter. Jointly they assessed my condition and then coordinated matters to correctly decide that I be given the 12 minute helicopter ride to Foothills hospital in Calgary while trained medical professionals were attending to my injuries. Upon arrival at Foothills, other doctors, nurses, and technicians took over to perform necessary diagnostic testing to ensure that I was able to endure the 4+ hours of surgery that was required to operate on my broken leg and arm.



Paul O'Leary

The next ~8 days of hospitalization was not pleasant as I was a trauma patient being fed intravenously and treated for the dreaded C-deficile intestinal infection that is often contracted by trauma patients. Again I marvel at the health care I received as many pro-life professionals were there for me and they will be there for you if you need them.

On day 9, I awoke to a group of health professionals who were talking about my condition and I declared that I was starving and would like something to eat if possible. This was music to the ears of the nurse who responded .../2

that I could eat whatever I wanted. I asked for a bag of salt and vinegar chips my son had brought and indulged in this medicinal meal that I jokingly declare saved my life as I have been quickly recovering ever since.

After extolling the efforts of our medical professionals, I must also extol the virtues of many other pro-life people who supported my recovery by their prayers. People of faith, including me, will say that God's holy angels were looking out for me that beautiful day. The car picture shows the violence of the collision and leaves us to ponder the state of a person inside. I am truly humbled by the many people who have told me they were praying for me.

I consider humility to be a synonym for the word faith and so my faith was being strengthened by the response of those who were praying. Being a Catholic, I was given last rites (sacrament of the sick) before going in for



surgery. Masses were being offered for me by many caring friends and clergy. The Blessed Mother Mary was invoked by many who share a devo-

tion to her rosary as I do. If you were to experience a near fatal accident as I did, I hope that I could be part of a faith-filled community that would come to your aid.

Being given a chance to journey on in life, I have a greater awareness of my limitations as a human being. I am more aware of my need for God and others in my future decisions. I have been blessed to live to share this with you. Hopefully this sharing will help you to ponder your future decisions and invite our great God into your life. How blessed we are when we see ourselves as the pro-life people we truly are!!!

Paul O'Leary, President

The Hike for Life Supports Life Education in Schools... Now what?

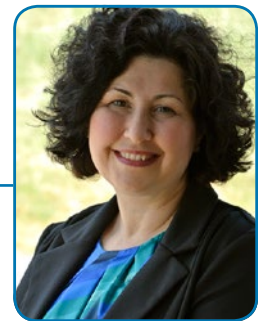
Monique Achtman, Educational Resource Consultant

Covid-19 has affected the operation of schools at this time. After contacting the Calgary Catholic and Christ the Redeemer school boards, it has been confirmed that no outside speakers (except Alberta Health Services) are to be invited to the schools until the New Year 2021. Consequently booked presentations in September and October have been postponed.

We are creating posters and banners that can be used at future educational pro-life events, as well as in churches and schools, to continue exposure to how we 'live pro-life' in our day-to-day lives. Our messages aim to say, "We are pro-life when we: accept and respect the gift of all human life from conception until natural death; feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; clothe the naked; shelter the homeless; visit and care for the sick, vulnerable, and elderly; visit the imprisoned; and bury the dead."

The virtual pastoral lay associations bi-annual meeting with Fr. Adrian Martens and Fr. Wilbert Chin Jon, VG on September 26 via the online Zoom platform included inspiring presentations about how to continue ministry during the pandemic. They shared principles and examples of ministry to all people. We heard, "Mercy has to be the main identifier of a Christian; and if we are not for others, we are not for God; our ministry is in the world." We learned that devotion sustains our faith until we can celebrate together again; Christian action includes charitable acts. Many are suffering, and when we are suffering, we must remember that others are as well. We can be present. We must do something, and prayer is huge! It was an excellent presentation.

Thomas Bouchard from the Calgary Catholic Medical Assn. explained that we are at a time during the pandemic



when people are asking, "What proof do we have that wearing a mask works to prevent covid-19?" Dr. Bouchard said that people always want proofs and results. But this is secondary, as our primary question must be: "How can I be of service to my neighbour, how can I be prudent and charitable to others?" When charity and prudence are first, the practical proofs and results follow.

Until schools allow us to be invited to give presentations in classroom again, we continue to maintain running of the office by updating our records and reports for the upcoming AGM.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for the educational pro-life presentations in southern Alberta.

Virtual Hike for Life 2020

by Monique Achtman, Educational Resource Consultant



Our 40th Annual Hike for Life, the primary fundraiser for Calgary Pro-Life Assn., was to be held at Prince's Island Park, Calgary. Due to Covid-19, this event was replaced with our Virtual Hike for Life – in your community. Thank you for making it a success. We did not reach our goal of \$50,000 but we did encourage our friends, family, supporters and donors to participate in any way they could to join us for the Hike for Life. Your effort, prayers and received pledges ensure that we will continue to give positive pro-life education to students this year.

"Hikers" signed up on-line and many included "why" they were hiking to raise money for Calgary Pro-Life Assn. Here are a few excerpts:



"I am raising funds for Calgary Pro-Life for several reasons. First, because I know and believe that every human being, from conception to natural death has dignity and worth. Second, because I have seen firsthand the quality and value of the programs that Calgary Pro-Life offers. I have hosted *You Matter* presentations with my grade 8 classes and *Fetal Development* presentations in my grade 7 classes. These presentations are truthful, scientifically accurate and promote respect for ourselves and for others. In the current culture, people are encouraged to value themselves and others based on looks and productivity."

Liisa Honish, Prince of Peace School



"We've been strong supporters of the educational, pro-life programs that Calgary Pro-Life Assn. brings to students for years! Let's continue to support this cause especially under the special circumstances of our times."

*John Siroishka,
St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Parish*

"We moved to Calgary in the fall of 1984 and I have participated in almost all of the Hike for Life walks since then. It became an annual event for our council and many of our members participated each year. ...Hopefully next year we will be able to walk together with our sisters in the League."

Mary Kuntz, Holy Spirit CWL

"As a priest, I firmly believe in the God-given gift of life, therefore, I am delighted to support Hike for Life as an initiative to raise awareness to preserve the sacredness of the gift of life given to us by our Heavenly Father."

Fr. Pilmaiken, now at Holy Spirit Parish

"Debbie, grandmother of 5 grandkids, 4 of whom are adopted. So thankful that 3 mothers chose adoption and not abortion. It is very important that the Respect for Life program be offered in schools so that students can understand the value of life starting at conception. Choose adoption not abortion."

Debbie, St. Michael CWL

"I hiked last Saturday evening and I'm grateful to all of you and to God for making this Hike so special... Although we hikers can't do the Hike physically together this year, we are united virtually. We hike(d), not for ourselves, but for the cause."

Elaine Ho, Calgary



"Calgary Pro-life provides formative presentations in schools that inspire reverence and awaken wonder at the miracle and gift of life. I still remember these presentations I received at school and youth group growing up and how they helped develop and inform my understanding of both science and human dignity. I'll be doing a 10k run in my neighbourhood."

Amanda, Ottawa

40th Annual Hike for Life • Winners

St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian W.D. Goodfellow QC Trophy

- Parish with the most participants and pledges

St. Peter's Catholic Church Runner-Up Trophy

- Parish with 2nd most participants and pledges

CWL – Holy Spirit Council Bishop Fred Henry Trophy

- CWL council with the most participants and pledges

CWL – St. Peter's Council Runner-Up Trophy

St. Nicholas K of C Council #7659 St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukr. Parish St. John Bosco Trophy

Emily Spronken, St. John Choir School Marie O'Shea Student Award

- Student highest pledge amount

John Siroishka

Individual Prize

- Individual-highest pledge amount

Liisa Honish

Individual Runner-Up Prize

Fr. Alex Mijangos LC & Fr. Ken LeBlanc LC Honourable Mention

- "Bike for Life" from Calgary to Canmore for the "Hike for Life"!

Peter Baltutis and daughter, Hannah Honourable Mention

- Climbed to the summit of Table Mountain for their Hike for Life!

Widmeyer Family

- First Time Hiker(s)

Trophies, certificates and prizes will be presented or sent in October.



**SAVE THE DATE
HIKE FOR LIFE
MAY 8, 2021**

Calgary Pro-Life Assn. Membership & Donation – 2020

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____

Preferred Method of Contact: ☐ Email ☐ Phone

Address _____

City _____ Province _____

Postal Code _____

Membership Type: ☐ Student \$10 ☐ Adult \$20 ☐ Family \$30

Donation \$ _____ Total \$ _____

CHARITABLE B/N: 10683-0995-RR0001

Positively Pro-Life Newsletter

I would like to receive the newsletter by:

☐ Email

☐ Canada Post

☐ Both

☐ I would like to share a "pro-life witness" story in the newsletter

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the
Annual General Meeting
of the Calgary Pro-Life Association
will be held virtually on October 26 at 7:30 p.m.

**Please email pro-life@shaw.ca to register, and
to receive the Zoom Meeting Room
information and password.**

Calgary Pro-Life Office • (403) 243-0691



Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Loving God, Source of all Life,
With a sincere heart we thank you
for the gift of every human life from
the time of their conception until
their natural death. We are grateful
for the blessings of food that we
share, and remember those who are
hungry. We thank you for our health,
and remember those who are ill. We
thank you for our family, and friends,
and remember those who are lonely.
We thank you for our freedom and
remember those who are imprisoned.
May we continue to answer your
call to respect every person, and to
share the many gifts of life you have
bestowed on us. Amen.*

Calgary Pro-Life Association
#311, 4014 Macleod Trail SE
Calgary, AB T2G 2R7

PHONE: (403) 243-0691
EMAIL: pro-life@shaw.ca

RENEW MEMBERSHIPS AND
DONATE ON OUR WEBSITE:
www.calgaryprolife.com

Thank you for your
continued support!

