

POSITIVELY PRO-LIFE

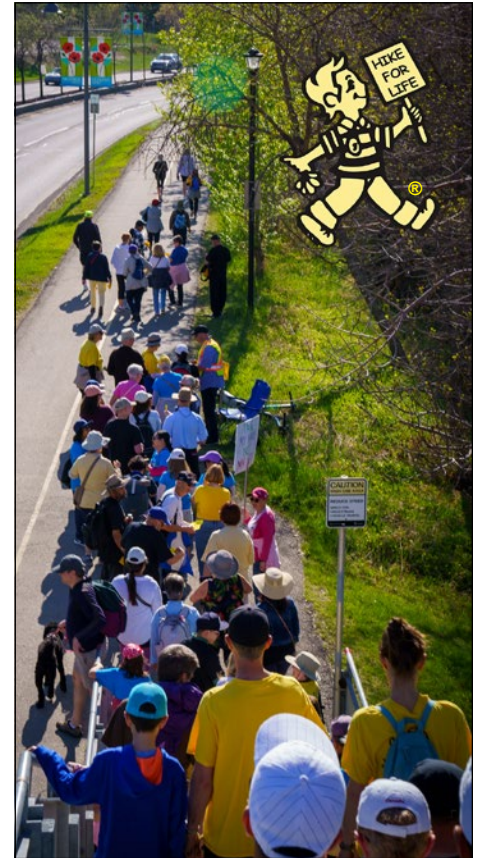
Hike for Life Supports Respect Life Education

Board of Directors and Monique Achtman, Educational Resource Consultant

Thank you for participating and making generous donations during the **Mothers' Day Rose Sale** and the **43rd Annual Hike for Life** at Prince's Island Park in May. Congratulations to the winners of the trophies, certificates and prizes. Thank you to all of you who share in the Calgary Pro-Life mission. Your participation and witness in downtown Calgary was awesome! The funds raised, the prayers said, and the extra events to support the Hike (Holy Spirit Pancake Breakfast) allow us to continue to bring educational pro-life presentations to thousands of students this year. The money raised will also drive our new educational **Respect Life: You Matter for Adults, Grandparents and Elderly** as we are receiving bookings already. We are bringing hope to those who choose respect for every human life, not only from before our birth, but until our natural death.

Teachers from Calgary Catholic and Christ the Redeemer school districts are already booking our educational, life-affirming presentations for this upcoming school year. The **Respect You: You Matter** (self and life esteem) educational presentations are designed for students in grades 4 - 9 with modifications to the program to match outcomes for each grade level. Booking dates are open from the last week of September (2023) to May 1, 2024.

The **Respect Life: Fetal Development** presentations are usually booked from January - June (after human sexuality parent consent notes are received). Teachers from the CSSD and CTR school boards are invited to book one or both programs using our online booking calendar. Please visit calgaryprolife.com or email us at fetaldevelopment@calgaryprolife.com for more information.



AGM May 28, 2023 • "Making a Difference"

by CPL Board of Directors

CPL members and guests came out to attend the first in-person AGM since COVID-19. It was so good to see each other again!

Our keynote speaker, **Jutta Wittmeier**, from Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre, shared a very powerful, personal pro-life witness through personal stories, and a few testimonies from women who have benefited from the services at Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre. Jutta said that if we believe in something, we need to put those words into action everyday. We have to keep up with technology if we are to be engaged with our young people; we need to be aware of the changing cir-

cumstances in the world they, and we, live in. There is a lot of talk about men and women being equal, but when a woman is faced with an unplanned pregnancy there's a phrase: "Her body, her choice." This is supposed to be empowering for women, but often a woman feels that she has no choice.

The crisis issues that are social issues affect all of us. Lack of housing, finances, and health, along with increased food costs are profoundly affecting the people who are served by Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre. Sixty percent of people in poverty are mothers with young children. Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre offers education, connec-

tion and support. Being pro-life also means honouring adoption, and honouring birthmothers and birthfathers. The take away is that we shape others by how we treat them.

After a short break, we reconvened for the business meeting. Board members were reinstated, and the financial report was read. Our resource consultant, **Monique Achtman**, gave a brief report about the success of the educational pro-life presentations we bring to schools and beyond. Thank you cards were presented to board members in attendance, acknowledging their leadership in our organization especially over the past three challenging years.



Baby Joseph Hickey
11 days old!
Youngest First-time Hiker



Thank you Bandi Szakony for capturing the day.
BandiPhotography.com



43rd Annual Hike for Life at Prince's Island Park

The Hike for Life was held at Prince's Island Park on Saturday, May 13. It was a spectacular day and the event was held according to tradition! After our three previous "virtual" fundraiser hikes, this one was attended by about 200 CPL supporters. We are already planning for a bigger crowd next year. Regrets were sent in, along with donations, so the funds raised were well received! Some of our donors did a 'virtual' hike because they were not able to attend on that day. Others did the Hike at Prince's Island Park earlier that day, or on another day.

The Hike morning started with a beautiful prayer led by Fr. Jos Tom K, followed by the national anthem, *Oh Canada*, and a few words from Lili Szakony from the Calgary Catholic School District. She offered thanks to Calgary Pro-Life for the educational **Respect Life** programs that we bring to schools for students in grades 4-9 free of charge. She also said that she is looking forward to seeing us in more schools this year!

We invited everyone to come out and hike, or walk, or sit with us, to show a peaceful life-affirming public witness for respect for every human life from conception on. Thank you to the Hike marshals, the check point monitors, the volunteers at the registration table, the coffee and donut servers, the God Squad BBQ team who served the lunch after the Hike, and Denis Grady and the Welfare Band who came with feel-good tunes from the stage. We are thankful for the guests who joined Denis on stage and shared their talent. We thank Bandi Szakony for capturing the day with his camera! We were all feeling very blessed with the great weather. We give special recognition and thanks to Fr. Michael Bomback and the parishioners at St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Church for very generous donations that came in to support the costs of the Hike for Life, and our educational programs. We thank YOU!

The effort, the time and the prayer made for a successful Hike for Life this year. Mark your calendars to join us next year on **Saturday, May 11!**

See our Banners at these Events

September 9, 2023

Breakfast with the Nation and the Bishop at Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Church
Address: 1714 - 14 Avenue NE

Time: 8:30 - noon

Tickets: \$50/person

Contact: franciscanandfriends.ca

September 23, 2023

Dying to Meet You Open House Event
"The Church as an Expert in Humanity"
Tickets: \$10/person; \$20/family
Register: dyingtomeetyoucalgary.com

December 12, 2023

Our Lady of Guadalupe
To borrow this display banner,
Contact: pro-life@shaw.ca



43rd Annual Hike for Life • Winners

St. Michael's Catholic Community

W. D. Goodfellow QC Trophy

➤ Parish with the most pledges

St. Peter's and St. Bonaventure

TIE! for the Runner-Up Trophy

➤ Parish with 2nd most pledges

CWL – Holy Spirit Council

Bishop Fred Henry Trophy

➤ CWL council with most participants

CWL – St. Bonaventure Council

Runner-Up Trophy

Holy Spirit K of C Council

St. John Bosco Trophy

➤ K of C council with most participants

Mimi Naubert, St. Mark's

Individual Prize

➤ Individual with the most pledges

Deb Cyr (Psalm 139 Team)

On-line Team raising most money

Catherine Lamb, Holy Spirit Church

➤ First-time Hiker

Baby Joseph Hickey, 11 days!

➤ Youngest First-time Hiker

Confirmation Candidate, St Anthony's

Marie O'Shea Student Award

➤ Student participation

Trophies, certificates and prizes are being presented or sent in October and November



SAVE THE DATE

HIKE FOR LIFE
MAY 11, 2024



AND
THE MOTHERS DAY
ROSE SALE
MAY 12, 2024

Siksika Holy Trinity Community Receives Banner

by CPL Board of Directors

On Sunday, May 21, we were invited to Holy Trinity Church on Siksika Nation in Cluny. Fr. Long Vu received the **Our Lady of Guadalupe** banner as a gift to the Indigenous faithful of his parish.

About 30 people attended Mass that morning. Following Mass, there was a short educational explanation about the significance of Our Lady of Guadalupe for all of the Indigenous of North America. CPL President Paul O'Leary and Monique Achtman stood with Mrs. Eulalia Running Rabbit after she shared a powerful faith witness of her personal encounter with Our Lady of Guadalupe during a retreat years ago. It was a very beautiful, and inspirational morning in Cluny!



Each person received a souvenir bookmark with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and a prayer. May Our Lady of Guadalupe continue to pray for our intentions to respect every human life from conception until natural death.

Shrine Church Hosts *Love Life* Pro-Life Conference

by CPL Board of Directors

On Saturday, May 27, Valerie and Dale Heath invited us to Our Lady of the Rockies Shrine Church in Canmore, Alberta to be part of a special **Love Life Pro-Life Conference**. Fr. Pilmaiken gave a beautiful homily highlighting respect for every human life from conception until natural death. About 25 people attended Mass and the conference that morning. We presented two educational Respect Life programs. One was the **Respect You: You Matter** presentation for **adults, grandparents and elderly** that shares Pope Francis' teachings for World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly. Attendees were treated to hospitality, refreshments, and live musical entertainment between the talks. Everyone had an opportunity to see the eight fetal development models that we set up to share about the miraculous beginning of human life.

To book a presentation at your next social meeting, convention or at your school, please contact us at (403) 243-0691 or see www.calgaryprolife.com.



God of Creation,

We ask you to bless the bounty of our harvest, and all those who prepare our meals.

May we eat with gratitude. May we listen to each other with compassion. May we love each other with open hearts. We thank you Lord for the many blessings we take for granted: for health, food, home, work, faith, forgiveness, friends, and family including those who are most vulnerable and the elderly in our community. We thank you for the gift of every human life, especially our own!

Amen.

NEW ADDRESS

Calgary Pro-Life Association
PO Box 72127
Glenmore Landing RPO
Calgary, AB T2V 5H9

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!

