



## JOIN OUR VIRTUAL HIKE FOR LIFE!

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



APRIL 2021

# POSITIVELY PRO-LIFE

## President's Message

I hope this newsletter will advance a certain theme that will recur in future editions. This theme requires the help of all our supporters. It will be revealed in its fullness when your pro-life articles are submitted and published. We challenged all board members and some of our readers to submit an article that begins with the words, "I am pro-life when...." Following is my instructional message to help you collect your thoughts and encourage you to participate for the benefit of others.

I'll begin by sharing what was a profound experience for me and hopefully my grade 2 classmates, many years ago. We arrived at school that September and were given the daunting assignment to memorize a well-known poem (not to grade 2s though) that begins as follows:

*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both,  
But be one traveller long I stood,  
And looked down both as far as I could,  
To where they bent in the undergrowth.*

After several more stanzas, the author reached the conclusion...

*I took the road less travelled,  
And that has made all the difference!*

To ensure class participation in this assignment, our grade 2 teacher announced that she would pick one of us to recite this poem to the entire school at the Christmas concert. When I complained to my mother that it was not possible for grade 2s to memorize such a lengthy poem, she simply said, "Put in the effort and Jesus will help you."

Years later, perhaps I see the wisdom of my grade 2 teacher. Often we are faced with "two roads" in our lives and we must make difficult decisions. Growing up in a Christian school, we are often reminded, as my mother did, "to let Jesus help us."

A Man came to earth, many years ago, and told us He was the way, the truth, and the life. He asked us to be pro-way, pro-truth, and pro-life! So I ask you to accept this challenge and write an article that helps others understand what it truly means to be pro-life. We look forward to sharing your responses to "I am pro-life when...."



**Paul O'Leary**  
President

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

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

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DONATE ON OUR WEBSITE:  
[www.calgaryprolife.com](http://www.calgaryprolife.com)

Thank you for your continued support!



# School Presentations on Zoom!

by Monique Achtman, Educational Resource Consultant



Happy Easter! I have some good news! I have been giving our *Respect You: You Matter* presentation to students via Zoom!

So far, so good! I created an evaluation form and have been receiving excellent feedback. For example, in the beginning the teachers told me that the students were fidgeting and needed more stretch breaks. Now we've incorporated some more interactivity and all is going well!

We offer two free educational pro-life presentations traditionally given to students in grades 5 - 12. The school boards have asked us, and approved an abridged *Respect You: You Matter* program for fourth grade students as well! I have

about 50 presentations lined up from now until the end of June for grades 4 - 9 and we're almost at the point of taking bookings for the next school year!

In May and June we will be showing the *Respect Life: Fetal Development* presentation to students in grades 6 and we're receiving several invitations from grade 7 teachers as their students missed out last year.

Your prayers and financial support continue to make pro-life education in schools possible as we revise and update the programs for virtual presentations to accommodate the different learning levels and school schedules.

## I am pro-life when...

by John Siroishka, for Calgary Pro-Life Assn.

I am pro-life as a member of the Knights of Columbus—St. Nicholas Council—an organization committed to respect for all human life from conception until natural death. We support the Calgary Pro-Life Assn. programs and educational services provided to enhance school family life curricula. I am grateful to belong to St. Stephen's Ukrainian Catholic parish, where as a faith community we support respect life activities and programs as part of living our faith.

I am pro-life when I promote and participate in the Hike for Life. We are grateful to all of you, priests, teachers, families and individuals who support our mission through this important fundraiser ensuring that together, we stand for life.

Traditionally, the Hike has been held on Mothers Day week-



end. We encourage you to commit to a 10K hike or walk, or any activity that will let you peacefully and financially show your support, and respect for all human life. For more than 40 years, our parish priests, religious and parishioners have been hiking with us and accepting pledges for their support. We look forward to receiving photos and stories from your Hike for Life experience in 2021! To sign up or send your pledge or donation, please see page 4 for details.

**Thank you to ST. STEPHEN'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC PARISH for 41 Years of Continuous Support!**



# Calgary Pro-Life Assn. AGM • March 29, 2021

from the CPL Board of Directors

Thank you to members and friends who attended our AGM on March 29. Our keynote speaker, Amanda Achtman, gave an engaging presentation about her new year's resolution to blog about death and dying every day this year.

Her ***Dying To Meet You*** blog offers life-affirming thoughts and reflections on living with purpose. Amanda grapples with what it takes to "humanize humanity" and in doing so, she offers three motivations: ***Encountering*** people in their depth; ***Discovering*** (and sharing) the stories that only you can tell; and ***Seeking*** an eternal perspective. She shared stories that have made a profound difference in her life, and just listening to these stories has impacted our lives as well. To be honest, we've watched her keynote several times, and learned more each time! Amanda's presentation can be seen on the Calgary Pro-Life YouTube channel or via our website. You may also like to read her daily blog at ***DyingToMeetYou.ca***.

After a 5-minute break, the Annual General Meeting was called to order. John Siroishka introduced the board members, and our educational resource consultant, Monique Achtman. Paul O'Leary presented the President's report stating that as he prepared it, he found that it had a theme: *Life Changing Events*. He explained how this COVID-19 year has impacted Calgary Pro-Life Assn., the people we work with, and the work that we do. He said that we have all had life-changing events that take us out of our comfort zones. On a societal scale, the global health pandemic has certainly has been a life changing event.

Last year, Paul was involved in a serious motor vehicle accident. Over the last six months he has tried hard to see this life-changing event from a perspective outside of himself. He experienced the after-effects of his new plight in life, and realizes how fortunate he is to be alive. He was receiving advice from some friends, and he shared with us what he's learned: "Let others do their job and help you." Life-changing events make us vulnerable for a reason. We need others in our lives. Our challenge remains to see, with the eyes of faith, the hid-

den meaning in these life-changing events. In the end, we might see the journey we are on from a more exalted perspective.

Paul said that we have endeavoured to re-tool our practices to deal with our virtual world. A brief summary is as follows:

1. We now employ only our resource consultant.
2. We are running a balanced budget despite a significant reduction in revenues in these austere times.
3. As reported in Oct. 2020, we were pleasantly surprised by the significant funds collected in our ***1<sup>st</sup> Virtual Hike for Life*** in May 2020. We are currently planning our ***2<sup>nd</sup> Virtual Hike for Life*** 2021 (May 8) as COVID-19 restrictions remain in place.
4. With COVID-19 protocols still preventing physical access to schools, Monique has altered our programs and is now providing virtual presentations.
5. We continue to generate newsletters that are relevant and timely to spread our pro-life message. We are challenging each other on the Board, to share some of our pro-life experiences and would like to further this challenge to our members. Do not under-estimate the value your experience may have on others and take up this challenge. This could be your life-changing experience.
6. We will continue to guide the CPL Association in these challenging COVID-19 times and make prudent decisions going forward, and we will continue to satisfy our educational mission.

In closing, we thank all our members for their continued support and all our Board Members for their help in guiding our association. This meeting was recorded. Please email ***pro-life@shaw.ca*** for a link to the recording if you want to view it.

## Dear God, Bless All Mothers

*Since the special time of each baby's development in the womb, bless all mothers who knew that their lives were about to change forever.*

*Bless all mothers today because they feel alternately so very happy, and sometimes scared, for the lives of their children. Help every mother to know deeply in her heart, that she has been chosen by You to guide her children through their lives. Let her know that she will never be alone. Help her to remember that each of her babies is a perfect gift for the world.*

*Thank you God, for making each of your human creations uniquely perfect in their own way. Amen.*





*Celebrating  
41 Years*

PHOTO: VICTOR PANLILIO



# VIRTUAL HIKE FOR LIFE

## SUPPORT US!

**BE SAFE. BE HEALTHY.  
EVERY LIFE MATTERS.**

**Saturday, May 8, 2021  
10K Hike for Life  
in Your Own Community**

**Hike for Life Campaign • May 1 - June 4, 2021 • Goal: \$40,000**

### HIKER REGISTRATION:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School, Youth group, Church, CWL, KofC council: \_\_\_\_\_



**41ST ANNUAL  
HIKE FOR LIFE**  
Benefiting Respect Life  
Educational Programs

Calgary Pro-Life Association

311, 4014 Macleod Trail S. Calgary, AB T2G 2R7

PH: (403) 243-0691

[www.calgaryprolife.com](http://www.calgaryprolife.com)

**SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2021**

WITH  
FAMILY AND FRIENDS

**10K HIKE**

**WALK IN YOUR COMMUNITY  
OR PARK**

**CHEQUES PAYABLE TO CALGARY PRO-LIFE**

To receive **TAX RECEIPTS** for pledges \$20 or more please print clearly

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2						
3						
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**PLEDGE OR REGISTER ONLINE AT:**  
[www.calgaryprolife.com](http://www.calgaryprolife.com) (Hike for Life)

**SEND DONATION OR PLEDGES TO:**  
Calgary Pro-Life Association  
#311, 4014 Macleod Tr. S.  
Calgary, AB T2G 2R7

Life-Affirming Educational Resource Programs  
[www.calgaryprolife.com](http://www.calgaryprolife.com)