

RESPECTING GOD'S GIFT OF LIFE

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“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live.” (Deuteronomy 30:19)

The concept that innocent human life is sacred has always been a basic principle of the Judeo-Christian ethic. In 1969, certain changes were made to the *Criminal Code* to allow therapeutic abortions to be performed when the life or health of the mother was in danger. However, the law was loosely interpreted to define the word “health” in its broadest sense, thereby allowing the destruction in hospitals of many thousands of unborn babies.

Since that time, the League has taken a strong stand in defence of the most vulnerable members in society, as part of our Object to support Christian family values.

It is timely to reflect on these issues and remind ourselves that members are still active in all aspects of the pro-life movement. At the national level, a pro-life voluntary fund was established in 1973 to assist national pro-life groups, through voluntary contributions from individual members and councils. In recent years, donations to this fund have been disbursed to the Catholic Organization for Life and Family, Care-in-Dying Coalition and the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition.

The League conducted a survey in 1999 to find out what action members and their councils were taking to promote the sanctity of life. The results were compiled in a booklet, together with all the resolutions and position papers pertaining to this committee. The booklet is available from national office in the form of a computer disk. Members have written position papers and presented resolutions concerning various aspects of sanctity of life. These resource materials are also available from national office.

National and provincial/territorial delegations who meet regularly with their respective governments, present resolutions and discuss life issues in general. The views of the delegations are always respected, even when no agreement can be reached.

What can we, as individuals and within our councils, do to promote respect for human life? Prayer is the starting point, as everyone can pray for those who are involved with the killing of the innocent and for those who are working to promote life and justice for all human beings. Ask your council to access the resource material and study it at a meeting. Become informed

on the subjects of abortion, post-abortion counselling, natural family planning and euthanasia, so that you are able to respond with confidence when you are questioned on your beliefs. Educate the youth of your parish on fetal development in an age-appropriate manner. Support your local pro-life groups and pregnancy crisis centres.

One member cannot do all of these things on her own. Form a committee and ask each member to study one issue of particular interest to her and bring back information to share at a council meeting. Make a point of writing to politicians and the media to let them know your views. It is up to us to be vigilant in opposing all of the anti-life measures which are gradually becoming acceptable in the world of the 21st century. †

ST. PIUS X PARISH COUNCIL BRANTFORD, ONTARIO

Members of St. Pius X council were delighted with the ordination of Fr. Bill Foote on November 4, 2006. Also, on December 8, 2006, they celebrated the investiture of Prelates of Honour of Msgr. Murray J. Kroetsch.

