



Prince George ProLife Society

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NEWSLETTER NO. 27

January 2006

PROLIFE SOCIETY

This newsletter is a publication of the ProLife Society of Prince George.

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Members of the ProLife Society believe in the right to life of all human beings from the moment of fertilization until natural death. We support only the use of peaceful means to promote the aims of the society.

COMING EVENTS

January 2006

28 Supreme Court Vigil
Outside the Courthouse
On 3rd and George
1 – 2 pm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"I encountered evil last week – up close, in my face and frightening." These are the words of Joanne Byfield, president of LifeCanada, as she shared her experiences of the National Pro-life Conference that was held last November in Montreal. "It sounds dramatic, I know. But there it was and it shook me more than I could have imagined. It also served as a wake-up call that the cultural battle we face in the pro-life movement really is about good and evil and we need the spiritual resources to cope."

I also had the privilege to be at this conference and will fill you in on the events that occurred. The conference had originally been scheduled to be held at St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal. St. Joseph's is a renowned Catholic shrine that attracts thousands of visitors each year who come to pray and to ask for healing. Both this site and the city of Montreal were chosen specifically for the conference by LifeCanada and Campaign Life Coalition in the hope of bringing about a renewal of faith in that once-Christian province.

However, the day before the conference was to begin, the organizers received word from the officials at St. Joseph's who, after hearing that several groups were planning to protest outside of the Oratory, decided not to host this event. As you can well expect, there was some scrambling about to find a new venue. The pastor of La Bible Parle, an evangelical church outside of Montreal, quickly offered their premises and organized a group of parishioners who prepared this facility for the three hundred who were expected to be in attendance.

There was some confusion about where to find this new location but, in short time, everything was sorted out and the conference got underway. But the protesters had not given up. They were not to be done out of their protest. They gathered at the Oratory, with signs and chanting, hoping to still carry out their mission to "abort" the conference. After all were gone, there was graffiti found on the Oratory gates.

On Friday night, approximately 150 participants of the conference went to a restaurant in Old Montreal. The first group to arrive was greeted by a group of 30 protesters carrying signs, many with obscene messages, and some that said, "Too bad Mary (yes, that Mary) didn't know about abortion." Many were dressed in costumes and clerical garb, wearing

(President's Message, cont)

masks and handing out condoms with the words "Body of Christ" stamped on them. Later on in the evening, other groups joined up and they began yelling and chanting, as well as throwing dozens of eggs at the restaurant windows.

But they were not yet finished; the next day they showed up at La Bible Parle. When the police arrived, they locked down the church so no one could go in or out. We, in our upstairs meeting room were basically shielded from the sight of what was happening although we were still able to hear their shouting. Once again, graffiti was left behind. This time, it was on the steps of the church.

Earlier on in this message, I said that I had had the "privilege" of attending this conference. And indeed, it was a privilege, for I witnessed God working a miracle through it all. Many more people than expected, perhaps as many as a hundred more, came out and joined us at the conference because of the attention drawn to it. And all those who were present were united in a spirit of oneness of purpose, without complaint for inconveniences, for all felt the power of God, alive and active, within the walls of that upper room.

And as unbelievable as it may sound, the media was with us, supporting our right, under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, to freedom of association and freedom of speech. Brigitte Pellerin, of the Ottawa Citizen, stated that, "Such actions are slowly pushing moderate Quebecers toward the pro-life camp. Very few people want to be associated with rock-throwing masked thugs." All that the protesters had wanted to accomplish was turned about and, in the end, they actually strengthened that which they had hoped to destroy. Despite the evil and the hatred present, good had certainly won out.

Joanne Byfield's concluding words were, "Evil can not conquer as long as there is truth being proclaimed and someone to shed light in dark places. I know now in a very concrete and

personal way that...the work we do is a threat to those who advance the culture of death. They will not stop as long as someone is proclaiming the truth. We had better be prepared, physically and especially spiritually, for this battle."

Let me close by wishing you all a very blessed and beautiful new year. I pray that God will abundantly fill your hearts and your homes with His peace, joy and love. May 2006 bring you all that you hope for and all that you treasure and may He continue to strengthen us all in the fight for life.

Laura Fowlie, President

Pew Survey Finds Opinion Divided on Physician Assisted Suicide

WASHINGTON, January 10, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) - A Pew Research Center survey, conducted in November 2005 shows there is a nearly 50/50 split in US opinion on allowing physician-assisted suicide. Among 1,500 adults surveyed, 45% oppose the introduction of laws allowing doctors to "help patients to end their lives."

The support for assisted suicide varied considerably depending upon the reasons given. 60% believed that a patient should be allowed to take his own life if he is "suffering great pain with no hope of improvement," an increase from 55% in 1990. Assisted suicide because of fears of being "a burden" to family or because "life has become too burdensome," has little support, 29% and 33% respectively, and shows little change since 1990.

61% said they feel the "mercy killing" of a spouse is always (6%) or sometimes (55%) justified, only if the spouse was "suffering terrible pain from a terminal disease." The number of people who believe that killing a spouse is never justified has increased slightly from 20% in 1990 to 29% in 2005.

84% supported establishing laws to allow terminally ill patients to decide when to cease medical treatments and 74% agreed that a close family member should be allowed to decide when a patient has become decisionally incapacitated.

Responses differed, however, on the question of actively killing patients. Opinions on physician assisted suicide and active euthanasia are also strongly divided depending upon the respondents' religious affiliation. 61% of white evangelical Protestants oppose laws allowing assisted suicide while those with no religion and those affiliated with mainline Protestant groups approve (62% and 65% respectively). Catholics are nearly evenly divided with 50% opposing assisted suicide and 40% approving.

60% of those polled said they believed there is such a thing as a "moral right" to commit suicide. The numbers varied slightly between men (66%) and women (54%) who believed that a patient suffering great pain with no hope of improvement has a moral right to commit suicide. 60% of Catholics agreed to this as did 73% of "mainline" Protestants and 78% of "seculars." Only 42% of white, evangelical Protestants agreed however.

The numbers who believed that "every effort" should be made to save the lives of "severely handicapped" infants has increased significantly since 1990. 59% of women responded that disabled infants should be treated, up from 47% in 1990. The numbers also increased slightly with Catholics (57% to 63%) and white evangelical Protestants (60% to 68%). African Americans (84%) and younger respondents (70%) are more likely than others to favor providing as much treatment as possible.

Screening IVF Babies For Defects Poised to Leap to Whole New Level

Children identified with potential to develop particular disease usually aborted

GREAT BRITAIN, January 6, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com)— Screening unborn babies for birth defects is poised to leap to a whole new level. Research by British scientists suggests it will soon be possible to screen human embryos for thousands of genetic disorders.

In most cases, current screening techniques are carried out on babies conceived through in vitro

fertilization (IVF), before the child is implanted in the womb. In such cases, a child carrying a recognized genetic disorder is "discarded."

The new procedure builds upon existing methods of testing babies, conceived in vitro, for disease before they are implanted in the womb. These advances in genetic screening are limited to children conceived through IVF techniques.

A study issued by the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) shows improved estimates of birth defect frequencies in the U.S. population. The study has provided more accurate estimates of the rates of 18 major birth defects.

While the study states that the purpose of improving estimate accuracy is to help prevent birth defects, in fact pre-natal screening for disorders usually results in death by abortion for the children who are identified with the potential to develop a particular disease. In the U.S. 90% of all children with Down's syndrome are aborted. In Canada the number is 85%.

While present testing methods have been able to identify close to 150 disorders, there are about 6,000 disorders caused by single-gene mutations that could potentially be identified with new technology. Currently, scientists can only test for known variations of genetic mutations, such as cystic fibrosis, and then only if the particular strain has been previously identified.

Having a genetic potential for a certain disease in no way means certain development of the disorder. Many people in full health carry in their genes potential for disease that never develops.

Research has shown that IVF babies have a dramatically increased likelihood of carrying birth defects. Recent studies from the United States, Finland and Australia, to name a few, show as high as 40% incidence of genetic disorders in IVF babies.

In October 2005, Health Canada spokesman Bill Maga said the department plans to introduce genetic screening to IVF clinics in May 2006.

The New Eugenics: Latest Advance in Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis Extolled
<http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2004/jan/04012910.html>

Genetic Screening of Embryos to be “Regulated” by Health Canada
<http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2005/oct/05100504.html>

42% of IVF Ova Carry Genetic Abnormalities New Studies Show
<http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2005/oct/05101905.html>

Unborn Child Who Became Hockey Star Stopped his Mother From Taking Her Life

VANCOUVER, , January 4, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) – A small kick from an unborn child was enough to save his mother’s life, and his own.

Justin Pogge, star goalie for the Canadian junior men’s hockey team, and newly signed to the Toronto Maple Leafs made a move 19 years ago that stopped his mother from throwing herself off a bridge into the river in Fort McMurray, Alta.

Annet Pogge was 22 when her boyfriend walked out on her at their engagement party, after she told him she was four months pregnant. After dealing with 126 confused guests, she walked onto the bridge that night and thought about ending her life.

“Just when I was thinking of doing it,” she told the Globe and Mail last week, “when I was thinking of terminating everything, not just the pregnancy, but me, I felt a kick. It was light but I felt it. “

That tiny motion of her baby shocked her out of her despair.

“It was the first real sign of life,” she said. “I remember thinking, ‘Oh, my God. This is a sign. God wants me to live.’ I couldn’t end my life then. I couldn’t.”

Ms. Pogge underwent financial hardship and sacrifice to raise her son and keep him in hockey. She told him the story of that moment

on the bridge, years before anyone else heard about it. She wanted him to know he was born out of love, she told the Edmonton Sun, and that it was his action that had saved her from ending their lives.

New Research Supports Abortion-Mental Health Risk Claims

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, January 4, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) – New research from New Zealand has confirmed that abortion substantially increases the risk for mental health problems such as anxiety and depression in young women.

Lead investigator, psychology professor David Fergusson, along with colleagues John Horwood and Elizabeth Ridder from Christchurch School of Medicine, found a relative rate of mental health-related concerns such as depression, anxiety, a tendency to suicide, and drug and alcohol abuse were all significantly increased in women with a past history of abortion.

The group examined mental health records for women who had abortions between the age of 15 and 25, concluding that 42 percent of these women had experienced major depression during the previous four years – almost twice as often as those who had never been pregnant, and 35 percent more likely than in women who had been pregnant but carried their children to term. The increased prevalence persisted despite adjusting for “confounding factors,” such as family problems or a history of mental illness.

The School of Medicine study also found that women who had previously had abortions were twice as likely to suffer with anxiety and be addicted to alcohol, as well as three times more likely to be addicted to illegal drugs.

Dr. Fergusson, who describes himself as “pro-choice,” told Australia’s ABC News that, although abortion is the most common surgery in young women, its long-term effects have rarely been researched.

He confirmed the bias against such research, admitting he had trouble getting his findings

published, particularly in the US. "Journals we would normally have expected to publish them just declined the papers, and I think it's . . . because the debate is so very hot, and I think this is particularly so in the US of A (United States of America), and it's notable that our paper was published in a British journal," he told ABC reporter Tom Iggulden.

Related US research last year found that women who had abortions had higher subsequent substance use rates than both women who had never been pregnant and women who carried their unintended pregnancies to term. The researchers report that the elevated rates of substance use among women who had abortions might be linked to higher levels of anxiety, depression, and unresolved grief which have been measured in other studies of women with a history of abortion. "It seems most likely that we are looking at a cluster of interrelated reactions, not a simplistic, isolated, cause and effect reaction," said researcher David Reardon.

See related LifeSiteNews.com coverage: [Abortion of Unintended Pregnancy Linked to Higher Substance Abuse: New Study](#):

<http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2004/jun/04062104.html>

Swiss Hospital Agrees to Help Kill Patients as of January 1, 2006

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, January 4, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Lausanne University hospital, Switzerland has decided to permit assisted suicides starting from January 1, 2006. Assisted suicide has always been considered a form of active euthanasia. In addition to Lausanne, other leading Swiss hospitals are now actively discussing permitting the procedure. Though Swiss law initially did not allow doctors to kill their patients the practice of euthanasia has been gradually extended from private groups into the public health systems.

According to Doctors for Life (DFL), extensive experience with euthanasia laws in other countries has revealed a consistent pattern. Assisted suicide is presented to the public as a

last resort necessary to alleviate human suffering. Once this becomes acceptable to the public, says DFL, the categories of people deemed expendable steadily expands to include those perceived to have a diminished value to society or to themselves.

In the Netherlands, doctors have been allowed to practice active euthanasia since 1973. While Dutch death regulations initially required that euthanasia be strictly limited to the sickest patients, it has been steadily redefined with the protective guidelines gradually eroded. As a result, Dutch doctors now legally kill the terminally ill, the chronically ill, disabled people and depressed people, on demand, Doctors for Life reports. Furthermore, repeated studies sponsored by the Dutch government show that a significant number of patients are killed by their doctors every year as a result of involuntary euthanasia.

Consequently, says DFL, "eugenic infanticide has now become common in the Netherlands (even though babies cannot ask to be killed)." According to a 1997 study published in the British medical journal *The Lancet*, approximately 8 percent of all Dutch infant deaths result from lethal injections. An alarming 45 percent of neonatologists and 31 percent of pediatricians who responded to *Lancet* surveys had killed babies. "A more severe slide down this slippery slope has been well documented in Belgium with euthanasia advocates actively fighting to not only expand the categories of killable people but to also force health care workers with moral objections to participate in assisted suicides against their consciences."

Use Dying People For Embryo Stem Cell Experiments says British Cloning Researcher

EDINBURGH, January 4, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Dr. Ian Wilmut, one of the world's most prominent cloning and stem cell researchers and the creator of Dolly the cloned sheep, has suggested that researchers be allowed to use people with severe neurological disabilities as human lab rats in "high risk" embryonic stem cell research.

The UK's Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), one of the world's most permissive government overseers, granted a license to Wilmut in February 2005 to use existing human embryos in cloning research. He told the BBC that he intended to create cloned human embryos with motor neuron disease (MND) in order to obtain their stem cells.

Dr. Wilmut, who was appointed this month as the first director of Edinburgh University's new Centre for Regenerative Medicine, said that his proposal would of course be aimed at finding cures for such diseases as ALS, but not necessarily in the given human test subject himself. Wilmut claims that the strong desire of patients suffering from MND is enough reason to justify ignoring ethical standards in research.

"I've come across people who have neuro-degenerative disease who face a steady, slow decline and premature death, a very unpleasant situation. They would be only too keen to participate in trials," he said.

International agreements on ethical use of human test subjects were developed and laid down after Nazi medical atrocities on concentration camp inmates were discovered after the Second World War. The Directives for Human Experimentation in the Nuremberg Code require that human test subjects can be used only after sufficient animal testing has been done and the positive outcome from the research can be found in no other way.

"The experiment," the code says, "should be such as to yield fruitful results for the good of society, unprocurable by other methods or means of study, and not random and unnecessary in nature." Such has not been the case with embryonic stem cell research.

Thus far embryonic stem cell research has yielded no cure or treatment that has not been more easily and safely obtained using adult stem cells. Embryonic stem cells, when used directly in therapeutic trials, have been found to produce tumours and sometimes bizarre and horrifying untreatable side effects.

Wilmut said, however, that such practices as animal testing and the standard ethics procedures for research slow things down too much. "If we wait until things are totally tested and analyzed in animals, it will deny some people that treatment."

"They should be allowed to use treatments which have not been properly tested because in their case the benefits may outweigh the risk. The sad fact is if we wait until all the tests have been done, some patients will have passed away," he said.

Pope Benedict says Embryo a "Full and Complete" Human Being from Beginning

ROME, January 3, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) - In his Wednesday, December 28 general audience address, Pope Benedict XVI said that "something of the splendour" of Christmas "shines on every child, even on those still unborn."

20,000 people heard the Pope's meditation on Psalm 138 in which, addressing God on the wonder of unborn human life, the Psalmist says, "Your eyes foresaw my actions; in your book all are written down; my days were shaped, before I came to be."

The Pope said the Psalm is "a meditation on those who are weakest in their spiritual path in the Christian community."

A passage of Psalm 138 reads, "You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb..." The Pope said the passage means that "the loving eyes of God look on the human being, considered full and complete at its beginning."

"It is extremely powerful, the idea in this psalm, that in this 'unformed' embryo God already sees the whole future," Benedict said. "In the Lord's book of life, the days that this creature will live and will fill with works during his time on earth are already written."

The Pontiff also raised the theme in his Christmas Eve mass on Saturday, saying the love of God shines on each child, "even on those still unborn."

Benedict's popularity belies the often negative coverage he receives in much of the mainstream press. According to a December 28 statement from the prefecture of the Pontifical Household, since his election in April, over 2.8 million people have already attended Masses and public audiences with Benedict. These numbers exceed those even of the wildly popular Pope John Paul II in the early days of the former Pope's pontificate. The statement said that the numbers do not include the approximately one million who joined the Pope in Cologne, Germany for World Youth Day in August.

Vatican spokesman, Joaquín Navarro Valls, director of the Vatican press office said that so great are the crowds attending the weekly Wednesday general audiences that they had to be moved outdoors.

"At other times, in other years, the general audiences in this period were held in Paul VI Hall," Navarro Valls said "Now, they cannot be held there because of the number of people who come to the Wednesday audience." He speculated to Vatican Radio whether the numbers who crowd the square for the weekly prayer and address with Benedict is an indication of a religious revival.

EU says Catholic Doctors Must be Forced to Abort

EUROPE, January 3, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) – A Network of Independent Experts on Fundamental Rights released a 40-page document ordering the EU to impose rules on Catholic countries to force Catholic doctors and hospitals either to abort or refer women for abortions.

The order came after Slovakia, a predominantly Catholic country, had proposed a treaty with the Vatican which specified guarantees for legal protection for unborn persons, including embryos. The European Union said that the agreement violated "international human rights" to abortion and EU laws.

While recognizing that its recommendations are not binding, the Network says that the right to conscientious objection was "not unlimited." The report says that the right to conscience should be "regulated" so that where it conflicts with "circumstances where abortion is legal, no woman shall be deprived from having effective access to the medical service of abortion."

The report recommended that the state in question must "ensure, first, that an effective remedy should be open to challenge any refusal to provide abortion." Without specifying what kind of "remedy," it said "an obligation" should be "imposed on the health care practitioner exercising his or her right to religious conscientious objection" to refer for abortions – an act which itself conflicts conscientious objection.

The Vatican treaty with Slovakia laid out that Catholic hospitals and medical professionals would not be legally obligated to "perform artificial abortions, artificial or assisted fertilizations, experiments with or handling of human organs, human embryos or human sex cells, euthanasia, cloning, sterilizations, [and] acts connected with contraception." The treaty did not require Slovakia to ban abortions or other attacks on human life but only to guarantee the rights of Catholic medical practitioners not to be forced to violate their conscience.

The Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute (CFAM) contacted abortion advocates in Europe who boasted that the report was a result of effective abortion lobbying. CFAM's weekly internet bulletin, the Friday Fax, quoted Irene Donadio of International Planned Parenthood Federation, who wrote, "The Conclusions reflect all the arguments presented by the SRHR [sexual and reproductive health and rights] community!!!!"

The Network report complains that some EU countries, notably Poland, Lithuania and Slovakia are too Catholic and that women are having difficulty finding doctors willing to abort their children.

PRINCE GEORGE
CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTRE
CHANGE FOR LIFE
BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER

January 29 to February 26

fill a baby bottle with cash or
coins to help fund the work of
the Crisis Pregnancy Centre

see your church bulletin or
call the Crisis Pregnancy Centre
for information and baby bottles

562-4464

SUPREME COURT VIGIL

Saturday, January 28, 2006
at the Courthouse
on 3rd and George
1 - 2 p.m.

Join with us in a peaceful,
prayerful protest to urge our
federal government to
enact a new law - a law
that defends the sanctity of
life and protects the rights
of the unborn. Let your
presence speak for those
who have no voice.

Name/s: _____

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Membership: New Renewal (Membership year starts from AGM each October)

Individual/Family **\$24** Senior/Student **\$12** Donation _____

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(Prince George ProLife cannot issue charitable tax receipts for donations)