

Campaign Life Coalition

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“Children will stop killing children, when parents stop killing children.” – *Fr. Frank Pavone, at the National March for Life Rose Dinner, May 2006.*

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Dear Pro-Lifer,

Our National Organizer, Mary Ellen Douglas of Kingston, Ontario, was reflecting the other day on the current status of the Canadian pro-life movement. “Pro-lifers who have as many years behind them as I do,” she said, “will remember how we looked at the abortion issue and our chances of reversing Pierre Trudeau’s disastrous Omnibus Bill of 1969.”

Mary Ellen continued, “Our role in 2006 is exactly the same as it was in 1969. We must continue to be the voice that declares to all the world: This little child in the womb is a human being.

“When God calls you to do His work, He provides you with courage far beyond your strength, endurance which stretches your ability to the extreme and His grace to carry you through the disappointments, confusion and outright hostility from those who want to stop your efforts. As the Psalms say, “He gives marvelous companions to me” who make the task easier, and there are no dearer companions to me than the ones who have laboured so long and hard with Campaign Life Coalition and sacrificed so much for the unborn and vulnerable.”

I’m sure that it comes as no surprise to a majority of our supporters, that the crucial centre of all pro-life work comes from God.

Some people may suggest, in the hope of being helpful, that to actually achieve any federal legislation to protect life and family, we must move away from any reference to God. After all, they reason, we don’t want the public to think that we are some sort of religious zealots or fanatics.

Well, I’ve been around long enough to have caught the first wave of this type of thinking, when it hit me back in the late 1970s. However, if we place our trust in mere mortals, if we elevate them to God-like status, we shouldn’t be surprised to discover that many of them have feet of clay.

The army of pro-life people across this country and, for that matter, around the world, definitely march to the beat of a different drummer than pro-abortionists.

The pro-life movement derives its strength, first and foremost, through its total dependence on Almighty God. Then, its grassroots supporters across the country take the issues to the streets. They become the channels or instruments through which much good is accomplished. CLC networks with them, develops strategies based on these discussions and fine-tunes its tactics to meet individual or regional needs.

For instance, a strategy which might be effective in one part of Canada may need to be tweaked and fine-tuned to address a situation in another part of Canada.

As time marches on, the faces of political leadership may change, but the overall goals and the determination to reach them and effect positive change become stronger.

In April, we urged federal Liberal Party supporters to ensure that their memberships were up-to-date in order to participate in the federal Liberal leadership races, should a pro-life contender emerge.

Now, we are reminding federal Conservative Party supporters to do the same in preparation for a federal election. Once nomination meetings, expected to start sometime in September after Labour Day, are scheduled, it is essential that pro-lifers support the pro-life incumbents and help to nominate pro-life candidates.

We need your prayers, your ongoing perseverance to carry out the ‘action items’ to make our voices heard and to keep life issues in the forefront, and your financial support to cover the regular ongoing operating costs, and carry out our strategies.

As Fr. Frank Pavone of Priests for Life eloquently stated at the National March for Life Rose Dinner, “There is nothing we can do, no cause for which we can stand, no task that is more urgent for us in the world than to stand up and defend the most fundamental right we have – the right to life.”

On a more personal note, in June, Ginny and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary. She celebrated by attending a musical production of “Emily” in Barrie, Ontario, with our son, Michael. I had to be on the east coast for a pro-life conference, and marked our anniversary by having lunch with my cousin, Brother Joe Frechette, S.J., in St. Johns, Newfoundland. Ginny and I did get to celebrate our anniversary together later in the week.

Someone recently asked me, “After 40 years of marriage, how much do you really know about your spouse? For instance, what’s her favourite flower?” “Pillsbury”, I answered immediately. Seriously though, please say a prayer for us and join us in thanking God for all His help and for the grace for all that my wife has had to put up with throughout those 40 years!

May God continue to bless you and keep you in His care.

Yours for Life,



Jim Hughes

National President

P.S. Our donations for the first quarter of 2006 were down substantially over last year. We have been really struggling these past few months because of this. Please help us if you are able. No donation is too small, and I guess the reverse is true, no donation is too large.