

Campaign Life Coalition

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Dear Pro-Life Friends,

Not long ago, I was standing at a busy downtown Ottawa intersection counting the number of participants in the 10th annual National March for Life, when I gradually realized that most of the 6,800 marchers were under 25 years of age.

There were also so many pro-life veterans walking by with their relatives and friends that I regrettably could not respond to every one of them. However, it was wonderful to see them all there in the March.

The annual National March for Life is growing each year and with a steady increase in the number of school age participants every year. The March was initiated at the suggestion of Fr. Al De Valk, founder and editor of *Catholic Insight* magazine, to mark the anniversary of the late Prime Minister Trudeau's Omnibus Bill, passed on May 14, 1969, which has resulted in the deaths of over 3 million Canadian children.

Our hats off to the many teachers and chaperones who accompanied the students and in many cases sacrificed to bring their group to the March.

The entire event – from prayer vigils and services, to the Parliament Hill rally, the March, Silent No More witness, Rose Dinner and Youth Conference – was an outstanding success. We have never before heard so many compliments, expressions of gratitude and determination to bring along more participants next year.

Pro-life Canadians in Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan, also held marches to observe the fact that Canada is still suffering the effects of the 1969 legislation which started this country down the slippery slope of dismissing the value of life .

Most of you have never been able to participate in person, but your prayers, donations, candle pledges and support have always placed you shoulder to shoulder beside each and every one of us in this effort.

Congratulations and thank you to all of you.

Congratulations to the organizing committee co-chairs Frank Mountain and Ambrose Atkins, and to Yoli Singson, Bill Mullally, Suresh Dominic, Jeff Gunnarson, Theresa Matters, Aidan Reid, Wanda Hartlin, Chris Murawsky, Paul Lauzon, David MacDonald, Thomas Senior, Mario Richard, and Mary Ellen Douglas.

Our great friend and pro-life leader, Father Ted Colleton, sent a DVD message to all at the Rose Dinner, regretting that he was unable to attend due to problems with advancing age (he'll be 94 years on his birthday on July 20). For those who wish to send him a birthday message, please address your correspondence to Fr. Ted Colleton, C/O LaSalle Manor, 61 Fairfax Crescent, Toronto, Ont. M1L 1Z7.

We're also very sad to report that Fr. Ted wishes to retire to Kimmage Manor in his beloved Ireland, to spend his remaining years with his elder colleagues in the Holy Ghost (Spiritans) community. If these plans materialize, we'll organize a Retirement dinner for him, if possible.

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Our summer interns, with one exception, are all here and working hard. You may have noticed, if you called our Toronto offices recently. For almost 30 years, we have been hiring students as summer interns to assist us in the work, when regular staff take a much deserved break and when many of our volunteers enjoy a few months with family and friends.

These summer students are not just filling in time. They work hard, they learn about the issues and see first hand the steps we're taking to address some of society's ills. In years past, we have been able to qualify for various student assistance programs funded by federal government agencies, which have greatly helped to subsidize the wages of the students.

This year, reaching out in faith as usual, we've hired the students, but have just learned that there will be no government assistance.

Many legitimate organizations like ours have come to rely on these programs over the years, but, as you may recall, there have been some scandalous abuses in regard to misused dollars in other cases. So, on the one hand, although we're happy that the government is being careful with taxpayers' dollars, we are disappointed in not having several of our own applications approved under the new criteria. We desperately need you to assist us in a special way to finance the employment of our summer interns.

I guesstimate that 4,500 of the pro-lifers who attended the March for Life and related events were under 25 years of age. That's great news and an especially welcome factor when so many of our veteran pro-lifers are slowing down in health or vigor, although not in spirit and commitment to the issue.

It tells us that God is in charge, that the youth are not only our future, they are already on board here and now, able and eager to continue this work defending life and family.

So please consider a special donation during these upcoming summer months to help pay our regular bills and commitments and assist us with our summer interns.

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

Yours for Life,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Hughes".

Jim Hughes
National President