

Dear Pro-life, Pro-family friend:

Over 500 attend Fr. Ted retirement dinner



Pro-life activists Stella Corbett (left) and Pat Gerretson (right) at the table of popular *Interim* columnist Frank Kennedy.



Linda Gibbons and Dr. Ray Holmes, who like Father Ted have spent time in jail for their pro-life activism, are among the more than 500 people who celebrated Fr. Ted Colleton's contribution to the pro-life movement.

in jail for padlocking the door of the Morgentaler abortuary. And he still doesn't think he has done enough! What an inspiration to us all and no wonder so many people came to wish him farewell.

The highlights of the dinner included musical entertainment from Fr. David Roche and Deacon Philip Allard (on guitar and fiddle) and singing by Michael Hughes, Hugo Straney and Fr. Louis Di Rocco; keynote addresses from retired Toronto auxiliary Bishop Pearse Lacey and CLC National President Jim Hughes; and a moving half-hour video tribute. The video, featuring a professionally narrated life history of Fr. Ted with photos, new interviews with those who knew him best and highlights of Fr. Ted speeches from the past 20 years, was entertaining, informative and often humorous.

Fr. Ted then blessed those in the room and received not one but two standing ovations. We have been blessed to have this exceptional pro-life priest work so closely with us for so long. We wish we could have him by our side for

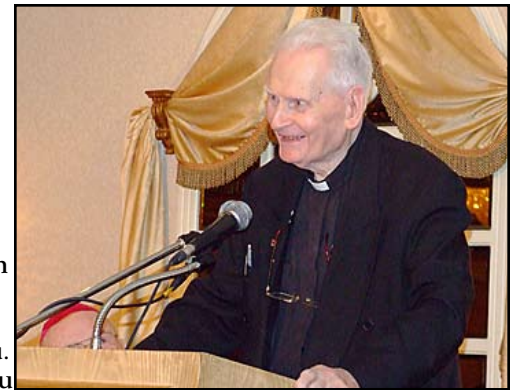
On August 9, the pro-life community celebrated the contribution of Fr. Ted Colleton to the movement. At the age of 94, Fr. Ted is 'retiring' to Ireland where he promises to continue 'praying me beads' for us. More than 525 attended the "Feast for the Lion" at Spirale in Toronto, filling the banquet hall. After more than three decades in pro-life work in Canada (following three decades of missionary work in Kenya), Fr. Ted has inspired countless pro-lifers, raised more than a million dollars for pro-life work, spoken at thousands of churches and pro-life events, led rosary walks for the cause, witnessed outside abortuaries and spent six weeks

much longer, but are appreciative and grateful for his contributions and continued prayers. As Bishop Lacey said, "A long time ago Ted Colleton came to know who he was. In knowing who he was, he could not exclude the author of life, God Himself. And so, I praise and thank God – I do every day – but I particularly thank Him for Ted Colleton."

The "CLC choir" sang a song prepared by Fr. Louis Di Rocco to the tune of 'Rosie O'Grady' in which we said: "When to Dublin you return, our prayers go with you, You can pray for us in turn, our thanks go with you. We'll remember you fondly for sure for your selfless devotion so pure. May the Lord bless you and bring peace and joy to you, our dear Father Ted."



Knights of Columbus State Warden Dan Heffernan and former MP Pat O'Brien, now a consultant to both the Knights of Columbus and CLC, were among the many pro-life leaders who attended the farewell dinner for Fr. Ted.



Fr. Ted thanks the crowd at Spirale for coming out to see him off to Ireland before blessing everyone and promising to continue praying for our efforts.

Action Item: You can receive the Fr. Ted DVD for a donation to CLC of \$25 or more. Please fill out and return the donation card in the enclosed envelope to 104 Bond St., Suite 300, Toronto, Ont., M5B 1X9.

Upcoming Provincial elections

We've been hard at work all summer preparing for provincial elections in Ontario (October 10), Newfoundland and Labrador (October 9) and Saskatchewan (expected this Fall). CLC has been assisting candidates who have asked for our help. We know the only way to get pro-life legislation passed is to elect principled men and women to the House of Commons and provincial legislatures. As you can well imagine, it is indeed frustrating when good people vote for pro-abortion, anti-family candidates when alternatives pro-life candidates are running.

Many times our supporters have expressed dismay that so frequently their fellow 'pew sitters' refuse to vote for pro-life



CLC National President Jim Hughes and Fr. Tony Van Hee at a Show the Truth witness at the Scott abortuary in Toronto, August 22.

candidates, or even worse, actively work to elect pro-abortion candidates. We believe that it's because they've never been fully informed on the crucial nature of life and family issues that makes them a much higher priority than other important issues. We've been attempting to help people to become better informed through CLC News, *The Interim* and LifeSite News, but it has been hard slugging trying to make a dent in that wall of apathy and misinformation created by culture of death proponents. Please pass on the information you get from these pro-life news sources to your family, friends, neighbours and co-workers. That will educate them about the true facts and implications of the ongoing denigration of all human life and decency in our society and guide them to what can and must be done to counter these truly evil trends.

We oppose proportional representation

We are generating much interest regarding our position opposing proportional representation. We understand that there is great disillusionment with the current political situation and frustration with the lack of progress on moral issues in the political arena. CLC appreciates that many people are looking to electoral reform as an answer to these issues, but we are convinced that the proposed solution – proportional representation in general and the mixed member proportional representation (MMP) proposed by the Ontario Citizens Assembly on Electoral Reform specifically – may end up making the situation even worse.

What we need is not electoral reform but political reform. We don't need a better system of choosing our elected officials; we need more informed and engaged voters and more honest and open debate in order to elect better politicians. We need fewer backroom deals and more public discussion of the important issues. We need less centralized control by party leaders and party elites. Currently Canada has a first-past-the-post system. The candidate who gets the most votes in any riding wins that seat and the party that wins the greatest number of seats gets to form the government. Many people say this is unfair because candidates can win with less than 50% of the vote and many majority governments are formed with 40% of the national or provincial vote. Critics note that the Liberals under Jean Chretien routinely won majority governments with less than 40% of the vote but got 100% of the power. The answer to this is to open up

parliament or provincial government by empowering parliamentary committees, removing the privilege of patronage from prime ministers and premiers, and making it easier to introduce, debate and pass private members bills. This will lead to more accountability, the ability to consider a wider variety of issues, and decreasing the role of government leaders and their unelected staffs.

In October, Ontario voters will decide in a referendum whether the province should adopt MMP for subsequent elections. If passed by at least 60% of voters province-wide and a majority in at least 60% of the ridings, MMP in Ontario would increase the number of MPPs in the legislature from the current 103 to 129–90 seats chosen democratically by the present first-past-the-post system and 39 seats allocated according to the proportion of each party's share of the province-wide party vote with a minimum requirement of 3%. (Each ballot entitles a voter to one vote for a local candidate and one vote for the political party of the voter's choice.) For example, if the NDP won 20% of the vote but were elected in just 10% of the seats, they would get "topped up" and be given additional MPPs. The 39 seats would be apportioned to the parties and be filled according to party lists of preferred candidates submitted prior to the election. Unfortunately, these lists, unlike the candidates in each constituency, will not be elected democratically but rather drawn up by party elites. The totally unaccountable parties have already been parachuting candidates into ridings, forbidden them to answer questionnaires, supporting gag laws, and now want to completely bypass the voters and appoint a significant number directly to the legislature. It is very unlikely that any of the leaders of the three major parties will put pro-life candidates near the top of or even in their lists.

Some pro-lifers believe that proportional representation will result in the appointment of Family Coalition Party members at the provincial level and Christian Heritage Party candidates at the federal level. Sadly, neither party has reached the minimum 3% level of province-wide support that most proportional representation systems require to garner seats in parliament. Until there is a sea change in their support, the number of FCP/CHP elected officials would be negligible to effect change.

There are very few examples of social conservative legislation being passed in countries with PR. This summer *The Interim* newspaper had a team of three people examine the records of other countries to track the progress of pro-life and pro-family legislation in countries with PR. They found just one significant example. In the Netherlands, the Christian Union Party, as part of the coalition government there, has effected some positive change in closing down brothels, reducing the number of marijuana shops and introducing guidelines requiring cooling off wait times for abortions.

But, for the most part, the researchers at *The Interim* found the reverse to be true: many countries with PR have experienced an advance of anti-life and anti-family agendas in recent years as left-wing coalitions dance to the tune of the most extreme elements in parliament. We are concerned that the highly likely result of PR in Canada will be third-place NDP contingencies dictating social policy to minority governments. Pro-life leaders in countries with PR with whom we have consulted over the years have repeatedly warned that proportional representation has made it more difficult to lobby elected.

If proportional representation was clearly linked to demonstrated progress on limiting abortion, euthanasia and anti-family trends, perhaps support for PR would be debat-

able. But it isn't. Therefore, PR's role in intensifying party dominance by political machines is too great a cost to pay. Coalition politics too often result in backroom deals and empower professional politicians and their staff while disenfranchising voters. Too often voters get the parties they elected but as a result of coalition deal-making, do not get the policies the parties ran on during the election because of the compromises necessary to keep minority governments in power. Those elected officials in parliament, as a result of being on the party list rather than being elected in ridings, will be beholden to their parties, not voters, and thus will have no direct connection to everyday citizens. That is, fewer elected officials will be influenced by grassroots campaigns, including from pro-life supporters. This is a perversion of democracy and has no place in our government.

Almost all the problems can be solved if elected officials understood that they are the representatives of those who elected them, not representatives of their party's leader.

MPs, MPPs, MLAs and MNAs must demand less centralized control of the agenda and doggedly fight to represent the interests of their constituents. Most of all, they must stand up for vital moral principles over party interests. What Canada needs is not a different electoral system, but more principled politicians. Proportional representation will not deliver them.

Abortion billboard truck gets out message



A truck featuring billboard sized images of aborted babies commenced traveling through Calgary streets in August, forcing city residents – and eventually the media – to take notice of the abortion issue. The image of an aborted baby

and the word 'choice' certainly got noticed as radio, television and newspapers were forced to cover the Reproductive Choice Campaign. CTV Calgary reporter Najuma Yagzan said, "You can clearly distinguish a body, hands and feet." The *Calgary Sun* headlined its article, "Graphic abortion images shock Calgarians" and *Fast Forward Weekly*, ran the headline "Little truck of horrors." The weekly paper quoted Stephanie Gray, Executive Director of the Canadian Centre for Bioethical Reform, the truck's sponsoring group, who said that onlookers need not be shocked. "If there is nothing wrong with abortion, the images shouldn't bother them," she said. Media outlets as far as Edmonton and Montreal also covered the story. The truck seems to be making an impact. CTV reported the reaction of one on-looker: "Looking at that [truck], you can see the murder aspect of it all." Gray, in an interview with Michael Smyth, CKNW Nightline B.C., agreed that the images are uncomfortable to look at, "because abortion is an act of violence that kills a baby. These are shocking images, because abortion is a shocking act."

National pro-life conference

Time is running out to get the reduced rates for the national pro-life conference in Moncton, "From Sea to Sea – For Life!". Hosted by NB Pro-Life and co-sponsored by

LifeCanada and Campaign Life Coalition, the event will be held October 25-27 in the "hub of the Maritimes." It is the first pro-life conference in the region since 1997. There are Canadian and international speakers from all ages and backgrounds and spanning all pro-life issues from abortion to euthanasia to stem cell research. It is a star-studded roster of informative, inspiring and entertaining speakers. There will be top-notch entertainment from award-winning Christian recording artist Lorraine Hartsook, a speech from Deputy Supreme Knight Dennis Savoie, and a keynote address from Mary Ann Kuharski, author of *Outnumbered: Raising 13 Kids with Humour and Prayer*. You won't want to miss this national conference, the first one in the Maritimes since the Charlottetown conference in 1997. Take some extra time and enjoy beautiful Atlantic Canada if you can. The scenery is beautiful and the people are wonderful.

To book your spot at the conference or for more information, contact Yoli Singson at (416) 204-9749 or 1-800-730-5358. The conference fees are reasonable and there are reduced rates until September 25, so book soon.

First international symposium on euthanasia, Nov 30

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition will be co-sponsoring Current Issues, Future Directions, the First International Symposium on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide in Toronto, November 30-December 1.

The event is co-sponsored with the Compassionate Care Network (Canada), Not Dead Yet (US), Physicians for Compassionate Care (Oregon), Vermont Alliance for Ethical Health Care (Vermont), Care not Killing Alliance (UK) and No Less Human (UK). It will feature speakers such as Margaret Sommerville of McGill University, Dr. Peter Saunders from England, Dr. William Toffler from Oregon and disability rights activist Diane Coleman, among others. They'll talk about the current global situation regarding euthanasia and assisted suicide, why euthanasia is a threat to people with disabilities and why we must resist 'mercy killing.' Register before November 15. It is only \$189, or \$100 for students or people with disabilities, and that includes Friday lunch and dinner and Saturday lunch. Reserve your hotel room by November 1 at the Four Points Sheraton (near Pearson International Airport) to get your Euthanasia Symposium reduced rate of \$105/night. For more information, contact Alex Schadenberg at info@epcc.ca or call 1-877-439-3348.

Ontario "Catholic" teachers bring in pro-abortion speaker

The Biennial Conference of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA) that took place August 23-25 in Toronto featured Michelle Landsberg, the former *Toronto Star* columnist and a leading advocate of abortion and the gay agenda, as a keynote speaker. Furthermore, one of the conference sessions promotes building "inclusive communities in Catholic schools" for "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-spirited and Transgendered students." While Landsberg is identified in the conference brochure as a "Social Justice Advocate," she is well known as one of the nation's most vocal critics of pro-life beliefs and a severe critic of traditional Christian moral teaching; she regularly used her *Star* columns to trash Christian principles and at least once the paper was required by the Ontario Press Council to apologize for such rants. She once called Human Life International, "purveyors of hate and violence" and

“true fascists”; she blamed the pro-life movement for the murder of abortionists, falsely claiming that the murders were the logical conclusion of the “disgusting rhetoric” of pro-lifers and “fake ‘documentaries’” such as *Silent Scream*; she has attacked the Catholic Church’s teaching against condoms and applauded the work of the pro-abortion group “Catholics for a Free Choice.” Such guest speakers are nothing new for OECTA. Last year the OECTA conference was keynoteed by teacher Joanna Manning, a prominent member of “Catholics for a Free Choice” and self-acknowledged lesbian activist.

Action Item: To respectfully express concerns, please contact the Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association at: P.O. Box 2064, Suite 1804, 20 Eglinton Avenue West, Toronto, ON M4R 1K8 or call them at 416-932-9460. You can email OECTA President Donna Marie Kennedy at d.kennedy@oecta.on.ca.

LifeChain Sept 30

Please join thousands of other pro-lifers across Canada for LifeChain. On September 30, from 2-3 pm (in most locations), pro-life Canadians will provide a powerful, prayer-filled, silent one-hour witness to the injustice of abortion, featuring signs with life-affirming messages. Bring your family and friends and help save moms and babies from the horrors of abortion. For more information, contact your local pro-life group or call us at (416) 204-9749 or 1-800-730-5358.

Agenda for Life

The Agenda for Life, a useful daily planner with inspiring content (and much more, including recipes) is available for 2008. They are just \$10.95 (plus \$2.55 postage) and discounts are available on bulk orders. They make great gifts for family, friends and employees, whether as a birthday present before the end of the year or a stocking stuffer for Christmas. Who doesn’t need a daily planner to keep track of birthdays, anniversaries, exam schedules, appointments, vacations, and other important dates. Order your Agenda for Life today. Call (416) 204-9749 or 1-800-730-5358.

CLC Christmas cake sales

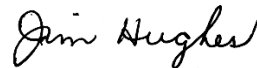
It is time to start thinking about Christmas cakes. We are selling delicious fruitcakes again this year. The regular 1.7 lb. bar cake is colourfully wrapped to preserve freshness and sells for \$15. The deluxe 2.5 lb. cake comes in a beautiful decorative tin. As those who have had them can attest, these trans fat-free cakes are moist, rich and aged to perfection, made with choice fruits, pecans and creamery butter. Treat yourself and give them away to friends, neighbours and co-workers as gifts. Postage varies depending on destination. To order cakes or to learn how you can sell them on behalf of the pro-life cause in your church, group or community, please call us at (416) 204-9749 or 1-800-730-5358.

Changes at Toronto’s Aid to Women

Ann Wilson, the executive director of Aid to Women for the past three years has resigned effective August 1. We commend Ann for her work and dedication on behalf of the unborn and wish her well in her future plans. She has carried the torch for unborn children, in a challenging environment, and we are grateful to her on behalf of those who cannot thank her.

Aid to Women is the crisis pregnancy counselling center located beside the downtown Toronto Cabbagetown abortuary. Numerous babies and their mothers have been saved from abortion since the pro-life agency opened in 1987. It has elected a new board of directors and has hired Theresa Smyth as the new executive director. Theresa, a social worker, has served as a reporter with *The Interim* and a researcher with *Catholic Insight* in recent years. With her professional background and commitment to Christian truth, Theresa will serve the needs of vulnerable women and their babies very well and we wish her much success. The board of directors has also selected Dan Di Rocco, a retired high school principal and currently the circulation manager for *The Interim*, as its board chairman and president. We wish Aid to Women all the best in its life-saving work on the frontlines of the abortion battle. We remind supporters of the material needs of all pro-life pregnancy counselling centers that include diapers, formula, infant products and financial contributions, as well as volunteers and constant prayer. Contact your local crisis pregnancy counselling centre to find out how you can help.

Yours for Life,



Jim Hughes
CLC National President



Campaign Life and *The Interim* summer students, from left to right: Ronnie Cote, Jonathan Castellino, Vanessa Di Rocco, Bernadette Jalsevac, Meaghan Hale, Steven Huryn, Shannon Hale, and Elizabeth Lemieux

As you can see from this newsletter, there are many issues that Campaign Life Coalition must address and on so many fronts. Please use the card and envelope enclosed in this package to financially support your local CLC organization.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

If you do not wish to be on our mailing list, please contact us at the address below.

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