

Campaign Life Coalition

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Dear Pro-lifers,

There is so much good news that for the first time in many years the accompanying June CLC news is eight pages in length instead of the usual four.

The National March for Life and the 9 Regional Marches for Life across the country enjoyed great success. All over Canada, pro-lifers were joined by religious leaders, politicians and the public, who demonstrated in a peaceful, prayerful manner that 40 years of abortion has devastated this country and we want it stopped.

A coalition of pro-life organizations, Knights of Columbus councils, women's groups and schools combined to make this year's Marches successful.

In Ottawa, the National March for Life, the candlelight vigil, the Rose Dinner and the youth conference drew collectively well over 12 000 participants.

Collectively, from Newfoundland to British Columbia, two dozen Catholic bishops, hundreds of clergy and religious from many denominations were in attendance and were highly visible.

In the largest turnout to date, in rain and in wind, the crowd in the Nation's Capital listened to greetings from 19 MPs, the Exodus 2009 theme song as performed by David MacDonald, Pat Willbond and Kathleen Dunn, men and women from the Silent No More Awareness Campaign and Cardinal Marc Ouellet from Quebec City, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson from New Haven, Archbishop Thomas Collins of Toronto and 12-year old Lia Mills from Toronto whose YouTube presentation on abortion has drawn rave reviews from her peers and elders.

After the National Anthem, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada president Bruce Clemenger led opening prayers in order to set the spiritual tone for the afternoon's events.

Nineteen MPs were present on the Hill, but many other MPs and Senators sent their regrets because of House duty, travelling, committees and caucus meetings. Many of those absent sent along greetings and words of encouragement for March participants.

The men and women of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign shared their struggles and touched the hearts of young and old alike.

Those under 25 years of age seemed to dominate the numbers once again, so not only is the movement growing larger and stronger but it is also growing noticeably younger.

Many thanks to Ottawa Archbishop Terrence Prendergast and his fellow bishops, to the CCCB, to Carl Anderson and the Knights of Columbus, to our sponsors and advertisers and to our organizing committee chaired by Ambrose Atkins and Margie Mountain for making the Ottawa event so successful.


Yesterday, the committee had the March for Life “debriefing” call where we all discussed things that worked well and things that needed improving. There was a general sense on the call that things were ramping up quickly. One committee member said that we had “turned the bend” as the US March for Life did just before its numbers sky-rocketed. This is the answer to our prayers as it seems more people than ever are on board.

Next year’s National March for Life is scheduled to take place on May 13th. Mark your calendars! If you are unable to make the National March for Life, the Provincial Marches for Life are also gaining momentum and you may want to join in closer to home. We thank you for your support and all of your hard work for the cause of life, not just by your participation at the March for Life but for your work and prayers throughout the rest of the 364 days of the year, as well.

Please remember us particularly this month as we shuffle to make ends meet in the wake of the March for Life expenses.

May the Lord of Life continue to bless you and your families abundantly.

Yours for Life,

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

Jim Hughes

P.S. Special thanks to all of the chaperones, parents and teachers who made the youth component of the March for Life a strong reality.