

In Defence of Life

Edmonton Prolife's Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

'educating for life'

August, September, October, 2003

Hot, Hot, Hot!

Paula Rebstock

President of Edmonton Prolife

The dog days of summer --- wow! I hope all of you are enjoying or surviving this hot spell. I am a couple weeks away from making my camping getaway with family to British Columbia, but before heading out, I take this opportunity to give you a little office news and a heads up on our fall Walkathon.



On Saturday, July 12, Edmonton Prolife's office manager, Ethna Scammell was married to Manny Torres of San Antonio, Texas. On behalf of all Edmonton Prolife membership and friends, I wish them many blessings on their new life together in San Antonio.



The new face in the office is Karen Richert, our new office manager. Karen comes with a lot of pro-life work experience. She is very knowledgeable about pro-life issues having served for many years with Wetaskawin Pro-Life and Alberta Pro-Life. We welcome her aboard.

July 17-26, Edmonton Prolife had a booth at the Klondike Days Exhibition. We were again able to be a very visible presence in defence of life in a very public place. The response was positive. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out. The winner of our Klondike Days draw was M.B. Mitchell of Grand Prairie. Congratulations!

Now before you jump back into the backyard wading pool, or return to your almost cool basement, please mark your calendar for the following events:

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The *Love-them-Both Walkathon* Saturday, September 20, 2003 and *Life Chain Sunday* October 5, 2003 and the *National Pro-Life Conference – Edmonton – Life 2003 Silent No More*. November 6-8, 2003.

The *Love-them-Both Walkathon* is our #1 fundraiser. Information on how you and your family can participate is included with this newsletter. The walk will conclude with a lunch barbecue. I look forward to seeing you there.

www.edmontonprolife.org
has been launched!

Edmonton Prolife's #1 education project for the 2002-2003 year was to design and maintain a professional, accurate pro-life educational website.

Edmonton Prolife's website is content driven; with a clean, professional look. The website is accurate, up-to-date, complete, and set up for easy navigation. There are no "Under Construction" signs, fancy graphics that don't load properly, and confusing navigation structures....

How is www.edmontonprolife.org different from the many other excellent pro-life sites out there? The focus of the site is *local education*. Specifically, it will provide a resource for students who need to write papers on life issues. The site lists resources available through our office, but also indicates whether the material is available in the Edmonton Public Library and the University of Alberta Libraries, or through the World Wide Web. The site also features information for local crisis pregnancy support, post-abortion counseling, and other services.

Our webmaster has done an excellent job and is open to any and all suggestions. So, take a moment to drop by www.edmontonprolife.org and say hello!



Sanctity of Human Life Sunday



This year, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton has declared the Sunday of Life Chain to be Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. Below is Bishop Collins' letter.

Dear Friends in Christ,

*I am writing to inform you that I have proclaimed the first Sunday in October as **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**, which will be celebrated annually in the Archdiocese of Edmonton.*

*This year, **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday** will be a day to promote respect for all human life in a special way. It will be a day for all of us to reflect on our personal responsibility to defend, promote, and celebrate the sacredness of each human life.*

*The theme of the **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday** will be "We are a people of life and for life." I ask each parish to plan ways to help celebrate this, our first annual **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**, so that each parishioner can consider prayerfully his or her personal responsibility to defend and promote the sacredness of human life.*

In the face of the growing number of abortions, the creeping acceptance of euthanasia, war, and legislative initiatives to approve destructive research on human embryos, it is easy to lose heart. Faced with a culture of death, but trusting in the grace of God, and acting with faith, hope, and charity, it is our personal responsibility to build a culture of life.

The first Sunday of October coincides with the International Life Chain, a prayerful witness to the sanctity of life. I encourage clergy and lay people to join local Life Chains throughout the Archdiocese to be a positive witness to our belief in the inherent dignity and sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death.

As Pope John Paul writes in his encyclical, The Gospel of Life. "No one single person or group has a monopoly on the defense and promotion of life. For more information, please contact John MacDonald of the Catholic Life Issues Committee at 469-1010.

May our Lord bless you always,

Thomas Collins, June 26, 2003

Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, September 20, 2003** – Love Them Both Walkathon 2003. Rundle Park. Mark your calendars!
- **Sunday, October 5, 2003** – International Life Chain, West End Christian Reformed Church, 10015-149 Street, Edmonton. Pick up your signs at 1:30 PM. Demonstration 2:00-3:00 P.M.
- **November 6- 8, 2003** – National Pro-Life Conference, Edmonton – *Life 2003 Silent No More* – Keynote speaker: David Reardon – Elliot Institute (www.life2003.ca)



For information on any of the above events, call the Edmonton Prolife office at 425-1637 or email us at edmpl@interbaun.com

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EPL Board: President: Paula Rebstock, Vice-President: Denise Fedoruk, Treasurer: John Wallish, Recording Secretary: Anne Arseneau, Mary Zak, Glen Woolger, Denise Mountenay, Corrie Morcos

Office Manager: Karen Richert

New board members welcomed. Meetings first Tuesday of each month at EPL office. All EPL members welcome to attend.

16th Annual Love Them Both Walk-A-Thon

launched by

**Archbishop Thomas Collins, Co-Honourary Chair of the Walk-A-Thon
Other Co-Honourary Chair to be Confirmed.**

The Love-Them-Both Walk-A-Thon is an annual event held on the third Saturday of September to build awareness and raise funds for Edmonton Prolife.

Edmonton Prolife's mandate is to promote respect for all human life from conception to natural death, to uphold and defend the right to life, the basic human right on which all other rights depend, to contribute to the understanding of the people of Edmonton and the surrounding areas, by education, that society has a duty to protect this right.

Registration at 8:30 am
Launching of the walk at 9:00 am
Saturday, September 20th, 2003
Rundle Family Center – 2909 113 Ave, Rundle Park, Edmonton

Water will be supplied along the route.
Barbecue lunch to follow.

Tips

Collect the pledge money when people agree to sponsor you.
Sponsor yourself first, and ask family, friends, neighbours, and co-workers to match your donation.
Remind your sponsors that tax receipts will be issued for all donations over \$5.





***A Merciful End: The Euthanasia Movement in Modern America* by Ian Dowbiggin
Reviewed by Eileen Rebstock
(with files from lifesite.net)**

Despite its recent high profile, the North American euthanasia movement dates back to the beginning of the twentieth century. Ian Dowbiggin, Chair of the history department at the University of Prince Edward Island (traces its history from its small beginnings to its present position as one of the most popular. Along the way, there are many surprises. Public support for euthanasia is not a recent phenomenon. In 1939, 40 percent of Americans supported the legalization of assisted suicide. Even more disturbingly, 1937 polls showed that 45% of the public supported the 'mercy killing' of seriously disabled newborns. Dowbiggin contends that if it hadn't been for the horror of the Nazi Holocaust and Euthanasia Program, euthanasia in North America might have become a reality.

A Merciful End is the first scholarly history of the euthanasia movement. Most previous histories of the movement have been written from the viewpoint of euthanasia supporters and have invariably portrayed its history as the inevitable triumph of rationality over superstition and backwardness. Dowbiggin outlines the development of the ideas and assumptions that underlie euthanasia.

The history of the euthanasia movement is intertwined with the history of eugenics, the belief that the human race can be improved by only allowing the 'fit' to reproduce. The cause of euthanasia has often been linked with those of eugenic sterilization and population control. Voluntary euthanasia, chosen by the individual, has always been shadowed by its dark twin, involuntary euthanasia. Prominent euthanasia advocates have promoted the killing of newborn handicapped infants, the disabled and the elderly.

Alex Schadenberg, executive director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, told LifeSite: "We recognize the importance of research that is being done and that needs to be done in order for us to effectively oppose the culture of death. It is important to understand the history of the Death with Dignity and Eugenics movements in order to effectively oppose their point of view."

***A Merciful End* is available at the EPL office.**



Edmonton Prolife: Working With Others for Life

Life Canada - Edmonton Prolife is an Associate Member of Life Canada, the national Pro-Life educational group. The object of Life Canada is the establishment and operation of a national association of local and provincial educational pro-life groups across Canada. In co-ordination with local groups, they seek to foster and promote public understanding and knowledge of life issues. *Life Canada News* is published six times a year. To subscribe to *Life Canada News* or to read back issues, go to www.lifecanada.org

Alberta Pro-Life - Edmonton Prolife is affiliated with Alberta Pro-Life, the provincial pro-life umbrella group. A portion of your membership fee goes to support their work with local and national groups to effect change in our society. *The Rose* is published four times a year. To read *The Rose* online, go to www.albertaprolife.com

AFT (Join an exclusive club)

What is AFT and how can you join? AFT simply means Automatic Funds Transfer. It is an easy way to support Edmonton Prolife all year round in a very simple way. The 'box in the box below' begins "join now for easy monthly giving." Please, consider becoming an AFT donor. It is the key to stable funding and is therefore so very appreciated by your Edmonton Prolife Board. Your monthly donation need not be large. The average monthly donation is around \$10.00. Your annual membership fee will be covered by the monthly donations. If you have any questions on how you can set up your AFT, please, give Karen a call. She's new on the job and would love to hear from you. Finally, I want to thank all of you who have so generously given of your time and resources to keep us up and working in defence of life.



Thank you, Paula



Clip out and send to Edmonton Prolife, 212, 1125-107 Ave, Edmonton, AB T5H 0X9
(EPL staff waiting to hear from you)

Yes, I would like to help Edmonton Prolife in their work in defence of life.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Annual Membership Fee (\$20) _____

Donation _____

Total Payment Enclosed _____

Payment Options

Cheque

Visa

MasterCard

Card # _____

Expiry Date _____

Signature _____

Join now for easy monthly giving

Monthly giving is an easy way to spread your generosity out over the year and provide a stable base of funding for Edmonton Prolife programs. Your annual membership fee will be covered by the monthly donation.

I authorize Edmonton Prolife to withdraw \$_____ (minimum \$5) from my bank account on the 5th day of each month. My personal bank cheque marked VOID is enclosed.

Signature _____

Date _____

Memberships and donations are tax deductible. Charitable Registration #118894047



Our Aims and Objectives

To promote respect for all human life from conception to natural death.

To uphold and defend the right to life, the basic human right on which all other rights depend.

To contribute to the understanding of the people of Edmonton and the surrounding areas, by education, that society has a duty to protect this right.

We are committed to peaceful actions to fulfill our mission.

Cheques payable to **Edmonton Prolife**

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