

In Defence of Life

Edmonton Prolife's Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 3

‘educating for life’

Summer 2006

Promote a Pro-Life Message – Simply!

As the lazy hazy days of summer descend upon us I would ask you to consider how you can take the prolife message on you holidays this year. We all know the importance of having a good break and we hope that you are able to have one this summer. We also hope that you use this laid back opportunities to share the “culture of life” with those that you may pass on your way this summer.

Keeping the simplicity of summer in mind, Edmonton Prolife would like to offer 4 simple ways to promote a pro-life message:

1. Wear a precious feet pin. Pick one up at the office or better yet, head down to Capital Ex days and visit the prolife booth and pick up your pin there.
2. Pro-Life bank cheques. You can order cheques with a prolife message on them for about \$25.00 for 200 cheques. It is estimated that 15 people will see each check as it is being processed. Call the office for forms.
3. Bumper Stickers. An inexpensive way to spread the prolife message. Want to get your bumper sticker? Read more on page 6.
4. Stickers and Stamps. Place envelope stickers on your bills and mail. Stickers are available from the prolife office. Stamps can be ready purchased or you can have them made up at any stamp shop.

These simple activities can be carried out by anyone who has respect for life. I encourage you to adopt one of these ideas and invite some else to do the same. We know that some of you will be sticking around Edmonton so....

Inside this Issue
1 – President’s Message - Summer hours
2 – Calendar of Events, EPL Board
3 – AGM, Omnibus Bill, Billboards, Prolife Sunday, John Patrick
4 – My Story
5 – My Story -continued
6 –Tuesdays with Morrie, Bumper Stickers, Just Life Heaven
7 – ASLAN - Provincial Prolife Youth Conference
8 – Partner Groups, Crisis Pregnancy Aid, Membership Form

If you stay in the neighborhood; visit or help an elderly friend down the block, mow grass or share a meal. Extended care facilities and nursing homes have lonely patients; many have an “adopt a grandparent” program. If you are on the road, keep the kids occupied by spotting prolife bumper stickers, billboards, highway signs. See who can spot the families with the most kids, families with members who are disabled, intergenerational families. All are becoming scarce!

At home or away, appreciate God’s creation, clouds, flowers, birds, beauty all around.

Have a restful summer.
Corry Morcos

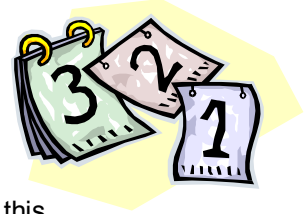
PS

Before you get to your lazy days of summer, may I please ask you to mark your calendar for the provincial prolife youth conference being held in Edmonton, October 28, 2006. We hope you encourage youth to attend and if you are able to help with preparing a chili meal or could bake some cookies for us we would really appreciate your help. Call Karen at the office and let her know if you can help. Thanks.

The Prolife office hours will be changed for the summer months. Someone will be in the office on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. As always please call the office to ensure that someone will be there, if you are planning to stop in. You can call anytime to make an appointment at a time convenient for you. You can always reach someone from Edmonton Prolife by calling and leaving a message at the office. Someone will get back to you.

In this issue you will read a true story submitted to us by a young lady. Her story encourages Edmonton Prolife to keep up the work of education on the life issues. There are so many opposed to life at the first sign of difficulty that they choose death for their children through abortion and euthanasia for the elderly and handicapped. We need to continue to be a voice for the voiceless. Thank you for supporting your local prolife group here in Edmonton to ensure the people of Edmonton and area are told the truth even if they sometimes choose to ignore it.

Upcoming Events



- **Klondike Days (Capital EX Days) July 20-29, 2006** - Our booth is used to display our fetal models showing the various stages of babies in the womb which attract many viewers, especially children. They are fascinated to know they were once that small! We also provide pro-life literature on a variety of topics, including abortion, stem cell research, contraceptives, adoption and euthanasia. Our presence at Capital X provides an opportunity for the community to become aware of who we are, what we do and to get information on pro-life issues. Volunteers are needed to make this event successful please call the office, 425-1637, to reserve your shift.
- **September 15 - 17, 2006 - Rachel Vineyard Retreat – Post Abortion Healing**
An Inter-denominational Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat for spiritual and emotional healing after abortion, miscarriage or stillbirth, will be held in Edmonton and Rural Area, September 15, 16, 17, 2006. The retreat is a confidential and emotionally safe environment for those struggling after abortion, stillbirth, or miscarriage. Contact Marlene at MAJButterflies@aol.com, Carla at 780-963-4048 or visit www.rachelsvineyard.org. A Rachel's Vineyard weekend with a Catholic mass and reconciliation will be held October 27, 28, 29, 2006 call 1-877-597-3223. One on one counseling is available anytime by appointment, please call 424-4538 to make an appointment
- **September 16, 2006 - Walkathon**
As a non-profit society, we rely on donations from supportive pro-life people to continue doing our work. The Walk for Life is our biggest fund-raiser of the year and it is an event that the whole family can enjoy. The next Walk for Life is scheduled for Saturday, September 16, 2006. Registration starts at 8:30 am at Rundell Park Family Centre. Walkers recruit sponsors to donate funds to our projects and continuing pro-life work. Sponsor sheets will be available in August, 2006. Call us for more information at 425-1637.
- **October 1, 2006 – Life Chain**
This event is sponsored by our Society and held in co-operation with local Christian churches, not only in Edmonton but in many communities and cities across the nation. Participants in the Life Chain are witnessing, in a peaceful and prayerful way, to the truth about the effect of abortion on women and unborn children. The Life Chain takes place from 2 to 3 pm on Sunday, October 1, 2006. We invite those in church leadership to make a commitment to personal involvement and then to urge the members of their congregation to participate as well. We provide posters and bulletin inserts to advertise the Life Chain prior to the event. For more information, call our office at 425-1637
- **October 28, 2006 – ASLAN Youth Conference**
It is time for a REBEL-UTION, we need our youth to help us Conquer the Culture. Plan to attend the provincial prolife youth conference in Edmonton, more info on page 7. Watch for further details or call the office at 425-1637
- **November 16 to 18, 2006, – National Prolife Conference, Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond, BC**
This year's national pro life conference "Healing the Culture: A New Beginning" will be hosted by Pro Life Society of BC, LifeCanada and others. A host of top-notch speakers will be presenting on a wide range of topics and there will be workshops available. All who attend will be encouraged in their pro life work and will enjoy getting to know others from across Canada. For more information, call Edmonton Prolife at 425-1637.
- **Join others in an hour of peaceful, prayerful activism against the daily slaughter of innocent babies.**
Morgentaler Abortion Clinic: 12490, 109 A Ave.
Every Wednesday from 10:00 am to 11:00 AM
The third Sunday of every month. Candle light Rosary at 7:30 pm. Contact Maryellen at 476-4026
Rock for Life holds Mercy services every Wednesday evening at 7 pm **Email: edmontonrockforlife@yahoo.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: Corry Morcos, Treasurer: Glenn Woolger, Recording Secretary: Anne Wansink, Directors: Judy Kopsas, Michael Cooper, John MacDonald

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New board members welcomed. Meetings held bimonthly first Tuesday, 7:30 pm, at EPL office. All EPL members welcome to attend

Edmonton Prolife AGM – Margo Boisvert

Sexual Health for Teens and Adults was an informative, challenging presentation. STD's have skyrocketed not only from 4 known diseases to approx.50, but also to the number of people infected. This is a frank presentation including myths and facts, those most at risk, risky sexual practices, contraceptives and their ineffectiveness, serial monogamy, and multiple partners. The New Sexual Revolution of Abstinence until marriage and fidelity within were stressed, not only from a moral, but also from a health perspective. Medical professionals are realizing that it is the only way to stop the STD epidemic. We can recommend Ms Margo Boisvert for any school or other group presentation, aimed at adults or teens. Contact her at 1-780-467-8252.

May 14, 2006 37th Anniversary of the passing of the Omnibus Bill

Bill C-150 or the "Omnibus Bill", as it is known, passed in 1969. With the passage of Bill C-150 on May 14th 1969, our lives were changed irrevocably. The Omnibus Bill legalized therapeutic abortion. The 1969 Omnibus legislation began a process of radical reshaping our culture. The author of this bill, Pierre Trudeau, knew he had to hide the abortion agenda in an omnibus bill as he explained to the Calgary Herald in December 1967; he deliberately placed the abortion item amid 108 other items in an Omnibus Bill "in order to weaken resistance to it". Today the abortion agenda and the truth about abortion are still being hidden.

It has caused a cultural earthquake, the abortion culture, which corrupted every institution and individual that has co-operated with it and even many that have not adequately resisted it. The anti-child abortion culture has deprived us of millions of conceived citizens and their offspring and left us with the ominous task of coping with a coming tidal wave of elderly with not enough young, working persons to support them. It has crippled our churches, the source of teaching of essential wisdom, virtue and sense of purpose and it is draining us of national vitality as we have come to view children as an expense, a burden and even a commodity to be ordered from reproductive technologists or discarded if imperfect or simply unwanted. There has been a precipitous, on-going and dangerous decline of respect for life in Canada. We are working to stop this trend and to push back the anti life forces. Please consider helping Edmonton Prolife in any way that you are available; financially, attending rallies, events, volunteering in the office or from home etc.

Billboards

Billboards on; the link between breast cancer & abortion, the fact that Canada has no abortion laws, post abortion healing and other subject matter is the focus for the upcoming year project. Edmonton Prolife would like to have at least one billboard or bus shelter ad running every day of the year. Edmonton Prolife has committed to participating in LifeCanada's fall billboard campaign again this year to once again educate Canadians on the link between abortion and breast cancer. We would like to target areas around the university, malls, doctor clinics, high schools and any other area that you feel would have an effective impact on a target audience. So, we would like to encourage our supporters to contribute towards the billboards, and let us know if you like the messages or have other ideas.

Pro-Life Sunday – A New Initiative

This is an opportunity for churches in Edmonton and the surrounding area to choose a Sunday where the focus is specifically on the sanctity of life. In addition to a pro-life message or sermon, some churches may put up a display table with pro-life information and fetal models. The purpose is to have the congregation be reminded of the fact that many human lives are taken by abortion each week and to give an opportunity to contribute to the work of pro-life organizations such as crisis pregnancy centers and educational societies in the community. The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton has chosen the first Sunday in October as the date for Pro Life Sunday to coincide with the International Life Chain but *any date during the year can be chosen*. If you require literature and displays please contact our office at 425-1637.

Dr. John Patrick - U of A Abortion Talk to Medical Staff and Students

Dr. Patrick is a well-known pro-life apologist, who spoke in March to medical staff and students at the UofA to a packed auditorium. His eloquent presentation focused on Dr. Morgentaler's atheistic humanitarianism versus the goodness of God; human being versus human person and the intrinsic right to be. Relationships and cognitive function dictates now if mankind is worthy of existence, so we have now infanticide and euthanasia. The new generation was selectively "wanted", and agonizes over self-worth. Can we trust one another to make right decisions, when suffering and disability are no longer allowed? Great thoughts for contemplation. A tape is available from the prolife library in the office.

My Story

I still remember the last “normal” moment of my life. I was joking with a co-worker about not being able to remember when my last period was. When I flipped through the calendar, it was just like everything paused for a moment in time. I stopped laughing.

I could literally feel my heart sink. I had never been late in my life and I just ‘knew’ that I was pregnant.

I told my boyfriend, Andrew*. He wasn’t worried and assured me that I could not be pregnant. But sure enough, two home pregnancy tests proved that indeed I was pregnant.

The feeling of devastation was unexplainable. Words cannot describe it. I was totally in shock. Andrew and a friend went out that night. He left right after the test. He was in shock too. I remember just feeling absolutely speechless and numb.

The thoughts kept me up many, many nights. How was I going to ever tell my parents? Even my best friends who I had known my whole life were shocked! How would my parents react? A friend of mine, actually told my mom, when they had talked in secrecy. My mom knew something was wrong with me and called her. Then my mom told my dad and the rest of my family. They were horrified, ashamed, disgusted. We barely spoke for the first 7 months of my pregnancy. Even my dad, who was very involved in our church, told me that he would support me fully if I got an abortion. My whole family including Andrew believed that an abortion was in my best interest, the option to make everything ‘normal’ again. And to be totally honest, I did consider it for a few days, but I knew inside that I could never, ever kill my now developing child.

A few years prior to my pregnancy, I went with a friend to get an abortion. She was 18 and about 4 months pregnant. We waited in the waiting room for about an hour before she was called in. Some girl was crying and kept leaving to throw up, another was giggling with her mom about something. One girl and her boyfriend just sat there. There were no windows or they were all covered up, I don’t remember. In fact, we had to go in a back entrance and they spoke to my friend through an intercom before letting us in. I still remember walking to the bathroom and the doctor who performed my friend’s abortion walked by and smiled. A big, happy smile.

When they called in my friend, they took her to a room for about half an hour. Then they came out and told me that she wanted me to come in, and that it was up to me. I wanted to be supportive, even though I did not at all believe in abortion.

All I could ever tell anyone is that I witnessed this abortion soberly. People that have an abortion are drugged, usually heavily. They don’t see or remember a lot of the experience. Believe me, it was horrible. The sound of the vacuum still haunts me. Watching the pain that my friend experienced was horrifying. They kept giving her more drugs through her I.V.

When we got up to leave the room at the end of it, my friend was looking at the dish that the baby was in. I walked over to her, and I swear, I tried not to look, but I couldn’t help it. Totally drugged, she asked the doctor if that was her baby. He said yes, and even pointed out the head, arms and tiny little spine that were totally visible and clear to anyone. I assure you, **a life had been taken**. All that was left was a torn apart, dismembered tiny body.

I will never, ever forgive myself for going with her. I was young and ignorant, but that is no excuse. For letting a child get slaughtered and not stopping it somehow. I hate myself for just sitting there and allowing a baby to be torn from its mother’s body. A child, which at its stage of development, already knew its mother’s voice. I would never, ever support that now.

So, I really believed that the situation I had gotten myself into was **my** problem, a result of my own irresponsibility, not this child’s. I refused to punish an innocent life for my carelessness.

I remember feeling more hurt than I ever felt before, because everyone that ‘loved me’, had no faith that I could be a wonderful, loving and devoted mom. It was horrible that the people that loved me the most would encourage me to kill the precious life that grew inside of me. My friends, however, as well as Andrew’s parents were the total opposite. They wanted me to keep the baby more than anything. I still remember my best friend saying, “I know you better than anyone knows you, better than you know yourself. Keep this baby. It will be really hard, but you will be such a wonderful mother. You *can* do it.”

Everyone began to accept the fact that I wasn’t going to have an abortion. So the next suggestion they had was that I give the baby up for adoption. **They strongly believed that I was not ready to be a mother**. Being adopted myself; this was a really hard decision to make. For a few months I considered it. I even told a few people that I was possibly going to give the baby up for adoption. However, I couldn’t bring myself to even call an adoption agency. After going for the ultrasound, I knew in my heart, that a pack of wolves couldn’t take this child away from me. And it was then that my life changed.

I kept working, often 12 hour shifts only making 8.50 an hour. It was brutal. My legs would be so swollen at the end of the day, I couldn't even bend them. I'd take the bus every morning to work, and shockingly only *twice* got offered a seat. Other wise, I had to stand because it was so busy in the mornings. I started to talk to my family more around my 7th month of pregnancy. I began to take pre natal classes with my mom as Andrew wouldn't make the effort to come down to my side of the city. It hurt a lot, since everyone else in my prenatal classes came with their husbands. Although we lived apart, we were still together. However, we fought a lot and only saw each other about once a week. He still didn't want a child and claimed that he wasn't going to be a father to her. It was lonely. I lost a few friends, since I couldn't really go out and party anymore.

But time still went on. As I got bigger, Andrew slowly began to really bond with the baby inside and decided that he did want to be in her life. I also began to worry a little more. I had no vehicle and did not want to take the bus with a child. I'd gone to college before I was pregnant but never finished. I was now in a low paying retail job. I had no savings. I had to move into low income housing. But I figured that I had one year (the length of maternity leave) to figure it all out and promised myself that I'd start my life over.

And that I did.

My daughter was born in February 2004. Words will never be able to describe the feeling of holding her in my arms after she was born. I cried so much, I could barely see her. That moment defined me and my whole life. I was blessed with an angel. This little child needed me as much as I needed her.

Andrew and I did move in together after my daughter was about 2 months old, but that lasted only 2 months. He was totally overwhelmed by everything, and refused to change diapers or help whatsoever. We fought constantly, the fights turning into scary scenarios. I decided to move back to my parent's house and I lived there for about a year and a half. I saved every dollar that I got. I bought my first car when my daughter was about 8 months old, and started working for Royal Bank when my maternity leave ended.

But I needed to get out on my own. So after a couple months, I saved up as much money as I could for a damage deposit and some new, good furniture. I looked around and found a nice apartment in the Oliver Area of Edmonton and moved in.

That pretty much sums up where I am now. It's not quite where I want to be, but that's okay because I'm proud of what I have and what I've accomplished. I did everything on my own. I know that things will only go

up from here. I have something that I haven't ever had before... confidence in myself. I have many goals and dreams, and none of them are impossible. I used to hide my left hand when I was out with my daughter, because I had no wedding ring, I was really ashamed. But now, I'm proud to be my little girl's mom. I've built my life from the ground up. And nothing intimidates me anymore.

Writing my story hasn't been easy. It brought back a lot of tears of shame, hurt and of joy. It made me relive some times that I never wanted to go back to again. But I feel like I have to tell my story. I want anyone that is facing an unplanned pregnancy to understand that life does not end, it only begins! Abortion is not a solution. Everything happens for a reason. Believe that. It's part of the journey of life. The universe will help you, if you go with the flow. A soul is created the moment of conception and life truly begins at that very second.

There *are* many hard times, sleepless nights, and often lack of money, but if you believe in yourself, you can make a good life for yourself and your child! You have to work your way up though.

If you really believe you are not ready to be a parent, adoption is also an option. There are so many wonderful people out there that want to be parents more than anything, but for different reasons, they can't be. I'm very close with my birth mom now, and I have never resented her for giving me up! She chose life and I will forever love and respect her for that!

I am so thankful everyday for the strength I gained during my pregnancy. Most importantly the strength to not listen to others. *To listen to myself.* Had I gone through with an abortion, my life would have been over. I wouldn't have been able to even look at a child again. **Trust me.** The only one who truly knows **you** is **you**. No one that really knew me and was truly looking out for me would have tried to encourage me to have an abortion.

There is nothing more powerful than watching your child sleep at night. To watch them breathe. To feel their chubby little arms around your neck and to know that you've found *true* love. Although I'm still single, I hope to one day find someone who shares my same respect for life. Someone who is ready to be a father. As for my family, my parents have really come around. They love my daughter so much. My mom actually thanked me on her 2nd birthday for giving her such a beautiful grandchild.

Life is a precious gift, even though it may seem hard to see it that way at first. Every woman has so much strength inside. Believe in yourself.

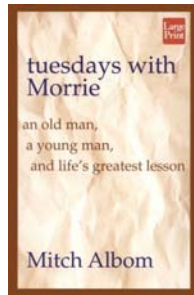
*Names have been changed

Tuesdays with Morrie

Book Review from the jacket.

Recommended by board member John Macdonald.

Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher, or a colleague. Someone older, patient and wise, who understood you when you were young and searching, helped you see the world as a more profound place, gave you sound advice to help you make your way through it.



For Mitch Albom, that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly twenty years ago.

Maybe, like Mitch, you lost track of this mentor as you made your way, and the insights faded, and the world seemed colder. Wouldn't you like to see that person again, ask the bigger questions that still haunt you, receive wisdom for your busy life today the way you once did when you were younger?

Mitch Albom had that second chance. He rediscovered Morrie in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he was dying, Morrie visited with Mitch in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final "class": lessons in how to live.

Tuesdays with Morrie is a magical chronicle of their time together, through which Mitch shares Morrie's lasting gift with the world.

As an additional note, if you would rather watch than read, the book has been made into an excellent movie as well. With the same title and with actors, such as Jack Lemmon, who plays Morrie, the movie does justice to the book.

Bumper Stickers!

Whenever I am driving and I approach a vehicle that has a prolife bumper sticker I feel like pulling beside and waving. It gives me a good feeling to know that there are other prolife people out there.

This summer as you drive along keep you eye open for those bumper stickers and let us know what the slogans are, we are always looking at new messages to incorporate in our educational campaigns.

If you would like to be the recipient of some friendly waves from other prolife summer travelers call the office to have your FREE bumper sticker mailed out to you.

We would like to have a major bumper sticker push at Life Chain this year. We are grateful to have our volunteer Andy Labrie supply and install the bumper

stickers at Life Chain every year. We would also be pleased to host a bumper sticker Sunday at your church. This is one of the simplest and least expensive ways of spreading the prolife message.

Please consider joining the "wave" and get your bumper sticker today! Call 425-1637 or email edmpl@interbaun.com. Happy Holidays! This is just a sample of one of the many slogans that are available. Please call today to get yours.



Just Like Heaven

Movie Review

Recommended by board member Glenn Woolger

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about *Just Like Heaven* is its distinctly life-affirming, even pro-life twist with respect to end-of-life issues. Here is a light comedy that — without remotely getting maudlin or morbid — dramatizes how



-a person not yet incapacitated is in no position to sign away life-sustaining measures in case they should ever become incapacitated, since what they would actually want under the circumstances may well be completely different from how they feel now

-incapacitated patients may be more aware of events around them than we might give them credit for

-doctors who compassionately counsel pulling the plug may not be giving family members the straight facts

-family members need to resist such pressure and defend the rights of their loved ones.

Although there may be some concern about scenes of flaky new-age spin, the movie isn't in the least making a serious statement about spirituality, as it is with respect to end-of-life issues.

A romantic comedy, highlighting some prolife issues. A good summer movie.

Over 1/3 of our generation is Missing

Over 100,000 children are aborted in the womb every year in Canada. 2 million people are missing since the Supreme Court of Canada struck down the abortion regulation law in 1988.

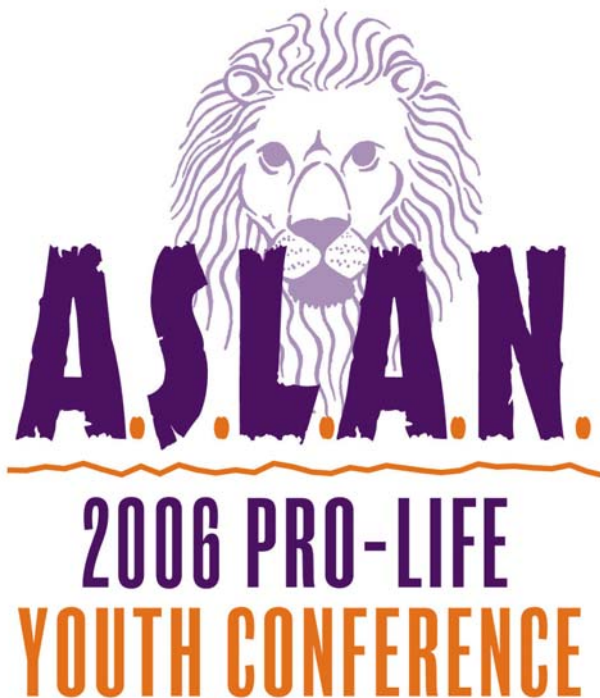
The Elderly and Disabled are at Risk

The most vulnerable are made to feel like a burden on the system. Canadian MPs are trying to push euthanasia legislation like Bill C-407 through Parliament.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

~ Martin Luther King, Jr

It's Time to Stand up for Human Rights from Beginning to End!



Lead the Followers
Instilling Leadership qualities in prolife youth

Choices
What do they really mean?

Sound Bytes
Bite Back!

Unwanted Children
And other Oxymorons

Leadership101
If you are leading and no one is following -
You're just walking!

Speakers - Tony and Adrianna LaGrange
U of A campus Prolife Alumni

Band- PROFILE

Saturday October 28th, 2006 9 am to 4 pm, St Alphonsus Church 11828 85 Street, Edmonton
Watch for registration information or call Edmonton Prolife at 425-1637 to pre-register

Say NO to ABORTION
Join The Human Rights Movement of the 21st Century
Register for the prolife youth conference today!

