

Turning the Tide for Life

As I write, the “40 Days for Life” campaign that began on Ash Wednesday is in its second week. This prayer vigil held around the world to intercede and advocate for the cause unborn children is happening this year for the first time in the City of Prince George.

The response has been surprising. As expected, faithful pro-life people are taking turns at the vigil site on a sidewalk near the hospital, but what I did not expect is the high number of positive reactions from the general public. During my visits, I’ve noticed many passing motorists, including bus drivers and police, honking their horns in support. One person delivered hot chocolate for five and on another day a delivery driver stopped to present pizza to the people on vigil, saying “You guys have earned this!” Several passing pedestrians have also offered their encouragement.

There have been a few hateful comments, too, but the public response to this pro-life vigil has been overwhelmingly positive. That suggests to me that, contrary to the agenda often presented in the media and by politicians, Canadians are not happy with the *status quo* that denies human rights to unborn life. The issue of abortion is not “settled.”

The witness offered by those at the vigil is an act of leadership that may be instrumental in reforming our culture. I’ve heard from participants that despite some trepidation at first, they feel really alive and effective in doing something for the most important public cause of our times.

We’re often reminded of Edmund Burke’s words to the effect that the only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing. The 40 Days for Life vigil and other public acts of witness and advocacy may seem like small gestures, but their effects can be out of all proportion to the effort expended. When people stand up to be counted, it may be the encouragement others are waiting for to move them to act, too. The cumulative effects of pro-life initiatives may lead to another stage of action in our legislatures and councils of government. The steps we can take now are the ones God asks of us. He will do the rest.

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March 19, 2014
Solemnity of Saint Joseph