

October 17, 2016

re: 20<sup>th</sup> Day of 40 Days for Life

If you haven't had a chance yet, please drop by 40 Days for Life. At least 9 different churches have been represented so far, either by individuals or group. Over 130 different people have come to spend a few minutes or a few hours and carry the sign "Choose Life." The outdoor vigil is from 3:30 - 5:30 everyday on Third Avenue from Nicola St. to the lane. The church is open for prayer from 3 - 6 pm.

The purpose of **40 Days for Life** is clearly stated in the mission statement: **Through prayer and peaceful activism, we seek God's favor to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life. As a peaceful and educational presence, we stand witness to send a powerful message about the tragic realities of abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide.** With the recent change in legislation in Canada, Bill C-14, it is not only abortion that may be a choice, but end of life and other diagnosis during life.

The first 20 days of the prayerful vigil has been quiet on the Choose Life line on Third Avenue, but the opposition has been brash and bold on Columbia St. This has resulted in some confusion to the public. However, 40 Days participants observe a code of conduct that supports the mission statement. Some passersby ask for more information. Then he or she is handed a business card with the 40 Days for Life mission statement and contacts for further information. If someone mentions pregnancy or abortion, participants have cards for local Pregnancy Care and Rachel's Vineyard Post-Abortion healing. There is always an on-site spokesperson to answer individual or media questions and to supervise the vigil. No raised voices, no contact, no aggression; simply prayer and fellowship amongst the participants. Though accusations have been made, they are totally unfounded.

Minimal press coverage has occurred. See the links below. Though the articles are clear and concise, the online comments include misinformation, old stereotypes and outright false statements. The informative press release found at the end was sent to media but has not yet been printed. Check below for the news release. Check us out on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/40daysforlifekamloops](http://www.facebook.com/40daysforlifekamloops) where there are daily posts, photos etc.

Stories have been shared on and off the prayer vigil. One woman getting into her vehicle felt compelled to share her story of refusing an abortion 35 years ago. She recognizes that her husband has been negatively affected by a previous implication to abortion. One of the women from the Pro-Choice group came by with some questions that were respectfully asked and answered, finding some mutual areas of understanding. Friends, acquaintances, neighbours and family have been discussing the important issues of abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia because of the spotlight that has been put on them during these 40 Days. One never knows the ripple effect of standing up publicly and praying for life. In God all things are possible.

Since the weather has cooled and rain has accompanied the fall, hot drinks and homemade snacks are served daily to satisfy those late afternoon cravings. Lots of honks and thumbs up keep us smiling through the vigil. It is a special gift to ourselves to take the time to pray for this difficult issue.

Consider coming out with friends, family or as an individual to stand with others and pray to Choose Life. **The vigil continues very day till November 6, 3:30 - 5:30 outdoors. Cathedral is open for prayer from 3 - 6 pm. Nicola and Third Avenue.**

**We are planning a celebration for Sunday, November 6, 1-3 pm on the final day of 40 Days.**

In solidarity of our respect for life, maybe members of your church would like to join us at the Cathedral.

Perhaps your church would like to have your own event. We challenge local churches to go into the street and be visible in your support of life. Take picture and send them to [kamloopsprolife@gmail.com](mailto:kamloopsprolife@gmail.com).

A final article will be published to share with all those involved. Let's demonstrate our love of life.

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## 40 Days for Life

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[www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com)

[www.campaignlifecoalition.com](http://www.campaignlifecoalition.com)

[www.voices4life.com](http://www.voices4life.com)

### Press Coverage:

<http://www.kamloopsthisweek.com/lets-create-culture-life/> - Let's Create a Culture of Life - Letter to the Editor of Kamloops this Week - Dianne Barker

<http://truomega.ca/2016/10/05/pro-life-pro-choice-groups-line-the-streets/> - Pro-life Pro-Choice Demonstrate in front of Church TRU Omega article: warning: nudity and coarse language

<http://www.rcdk.org/news/prayerful-warriors-stand-up-for-life> - Prayerful Warriors Stand Up for Life - Claude Julien - The Diocesan

[https://issuu.com/kamthisweek/docs/ktwn161004\\_a/5?e=0](https://issuu.com/kamthisweek/docs/ktwn161004_a/5?e=0) - Sides Square Off Downtown - KTW Dave Eagles

### News Release: (unpublished as of Oct. 17, Day 20)

#### 40 Days for Life 2016

Why are a group of church goers gathered daily outside Sacred Heart Cathedral? Women and men, usually busy working, volunteering in the community, caring for family and friends, are dedicating time each day for 40 days to draw attention to life. By standing in silent, prayerful vigil, they encourage others to become informed on important issues: euthanasia, assisted suicide, abortion. Realization of the potential of every human being leads to the message on the signs: Choose Life.

Canadians are proud and fortunate to live in a country whose Charter of Rights and Freedoms is based on the Christian values of free choice and love of neighbour. It has never been easier to access information in order to make informed choices about medical care when difficult or unexpected health issues occur. 40 Days for Life is a focused campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end the "culture of death"<sup>1</sup> that exists in Canadian society.

Has Bill C-14 made these everyday people stand outside? Recent legislation in Canada is a great concern to those who respect life from conception to natural death. Almost 30 years without an abortion law, lack of information and misinformation has led Canadians to believe that there is a need to kill the vulnerable and unprotected. Those in the medical field, who could never have imagined having to assist in ending a patient's life, may be required to do so by health authorities or professional organizations. Access to palliative care and hospice is inadequate with 71 to 85 percent of Canadians unable to get this effective and beautiful end of life care.<sup>2</sup>

How can a culture of life evolve in Canada? “To whom much is given, much is expected.”<sup>3</sup> For developed society this means that informed and thoughtful choices are expected of citizens. Expedient and short-term thinking can lead to great pain over time: regret, anger, depression, self-harm, physical health effects, suicide.<sup>4</sup> The realization that human life is valuable encourages people to think of others: the pre-born child in the womb, the infirm grandparent living in isolation, the special needs person who deserves care and support. It inspires them to raise a child, to care for the vulnerable, to request government to adequately fund palliative and hospice care.

Why 40 days? The 40-day campaign tracks Biblical history, where God used 40-day periods to transform individuals, communities and the entire world. From Noah in the flood to Moses on the mountain to Jesus in the desert to the disciples after Christ’s resurrection, it is clear that God sees the transformative value of His people accepting and meeting a 40-day challenge.<sup>5</sup>

1. Cultures that support abortion, euthanasia, degradation, humiliation, human cloning, self-absorption, apathy, poverty and capital punishment.

[www.yourdictionary.com](http://www.yourdictionary.com)

2. Luke 12:48

3. Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association, October 2012

4. Lanfranchi, A. et al. Complications: Abortions Impact on Women, 2013

5. [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com)