

Priests For Life Canada

Working to support, inform, and empower
Catholic clergy to build a culture of life

PO Box 37031, LaSalle, Ontario, N9H 2N8

Toll-Free (888) 300-2007

priestsforlifecanada.com



The Promise of Hope

It is easy to talk about patience. It is much harder to be patient. The people of Israel had to wait hundreds of years for their promised Messiah. It seems ironic, and it must have been very difficult, that even when the promised Messiah came with the birth of our Lord in Bethlehem, the people needed to wait even more decades to be made aware of his presence.

There were some that knew. Our Lady and St Joseph in the midst of wonder, the shepherds summoned by the majestic array of the angels in the heavens, the Wise Men drawn through wisdom and constant vigilance – these were the first to see the fulfillment of the promise.

As the years went on, others were added to this small select group. Simeon and Anna, the teachers in the Temple, and gradually John the Baptist, the disciples, the Apostles, and the crowds; even at Pentecost, thousands more were brought to the Good News. It seems it takes a long time for the promises of God to be fulfilled. The fulfillment of the promise of God began in a small seemingly insignificant way, but it gathers momentum until the Christ Child at Bethlehem becomes the Christ of all the Nations. It seemed like such a small miracle, but that was, in its way, only because the people that were looking needed to learn how to look and truly see and how to listen and truly hear. Any reflection on the birth of the Christ Child has

to be struck by the dichotomy between smallness and greatness, between hidden truth and eternal wisdom.

And so, it is in our time. There is a Christmas hymn written and sung by (of all people), Kenny Rogers that talks about sparks of hope – “this comes to pass when a child is born.” And of course, that is true. The miracle of the Incarnation makes a miracle of the birth of each of us. The fact that God took on flesh means that all persons are worthwhile, miraculous, and worthy of protection. His fragility and vulnerability show that each of us, small and hidden, are not forgotten, worthless or disposable, but, rather, that we too “share in the spark of the Divine” and that our destiny is not limited but eternal. This is what we fight for. All of you reading this know that.

But we fight for a positive, not a negative. We fight that the Light of Christ may shine on all the Bethlehems of our world, that the darkness of heart and mind so prevalent in our time may be

illuminated by the coming of the Son of Justice into each life and into each society, and to each decision. It is why in this “Covid year” that Priests for Life Canada has continued its work in whatever way possible. We have “visited” seminaries by Zoom, given lectures and talks virtually to groups across the country, in parishes, and thereby, in

In This Issue

The Promise of Hope	1
Summer Interns to Priests	2
Summer Interns (con't)	3
Father Vince Heffernan	4

Holy Mother of God and of the Church, Our Lady of Guadalupe, you were chosen by the Father for the son through the Holy Spirit. We beg you to protect all mothers and pre-born children within their wombs. We plead with you for your help to end the holocaust of abortion. Melts hearts to that love may be revealed!



people's homes. We have kept the national office afloat through your generosity and were able to hire a seminarian intern who was able to assist us in so many ways during his time with us.

As things eased up, I was able to celebrate several Masses for the 40 Days for Life in Toronto and also to speak at other events in British Columbia. This was all paid for by your generosity. We kept up a hectic pace of consultations on various bioethical questions and controversies and as always acted as voice for those who are seeking answers for "end of life" decisions for their loved ones. It has been a busy year but a strange one. In the midst of hospital shutdowns, cancelled surgeries and social restrictions, the forces of death didn't cancel abortions, they killed even more of the vulnerable and seemed to crowd out more of our pro-life voices from the public square.

But children were born because of the witness at 40 Day Vigils. Medical and nursing students were supported and able to stay strong because of people in their fields assisting and guiding them. Mothers and families made decisions to give their children life because of the support of Pro-Life Centres and the Sisters of Life. Minds were changed because of pro-lifers being in the streets and our activists being on campuses, and us gaining new skills on social media platforms. A Light has come into the world, a Light which the darkness cannot overpower. I want to thank you for your prayerful support and your financial generosity that allows us to continue this ministry and ask you to continue to support us. May you know all the prayers of the Christ Child for your goodness and hold fast to the promise of Hope which He embodies.

Fr. Tom Lynch (PFLC National President)



Buying or selling a home or commercial property?

You can support Priests For Life Canada at no cost to you by taking advantage of the Real Estate for Life program.

Call 1.877.543.3871 or
e-mail proliferealestate@yahoo.com
for more information

Visit www.realestateforlife.org to find a
Pro-Life Realtor near you!

Summer Interns to Priests

Over the years, as Priests for Life Canada has evolved, new programs and outreaches have been launched to better serve the needs of the Church and to spread the Gospel of Life.

One of these initiatives, as mentioned in our September newsletter, has been our work with seminarians and seminaries. PFLC has spent time regularly visiting the English-speaking seminaries across Canada, organizing two national Seminarian Congresses, and launching a summer internship experience for seminarians.

The seminarian internship program began in 2011 and we have been able to hire at least one seminarian every summer (except in 2019 during a time of transition with a new Operations Manager.)

Initially the program was funded through grant money from the federal government's summer job program. However, we are all well aware of Justin Trudeau's manipulation of the program, barring pro-life and pro-family groups from receiving grants if they did not embrace his pro-abortion agenda.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters, being barred from the grant program did not bring an end to this summer outreach program. Once again, our supporters came through with generous financial support to fund the program and we have been able to carry on each year. To those who have supported our annual "Seminarian Internship Appeal", thank you! Your generosity has made a difference.

This program not only provides meaningful and necessary summer employment for some of our seminarians, but it also helps educate them about the culture of life and how they can help build it now and, God-willing, one day as a priest. It also provides valuable and much needed assistance to our executive and Operations Manager and allows us to expand our ministry.

Since the inception of the program in 2011, under the leadership of Fr. John Lemire (board chair) and Fr. Tom Lynch (national president), PFLC has been able to hire twenty-two seminarians for this program. Of these twenty-two seminarian interns
(continued on page 3)

Summer Interns (con't)

hired by PFLC, nine have been ordained as priests and one has been ordained as a transitional deacon and three men are currently continuing in formation.

As we wrap-up our 25th anniversary celebrations, we thought it fitting to share a bit about the seminarians who have benefitted from this internship experience and the difference that it has made in their lives and the life of the pro-life movement.

The nine who have been ordained as priests are: Fr. Favin Alameo (Toronto), Fr. Michael Bombak (Eparchy of Edmonton), Fr. Stephen Decarlo (Peterborough), Fr. Steven Gaudet (Ottawa-Cornwall), Fr. Josh Lobo (Toronto), Fr. Raphael Ma (Congregation of the Resurrection), Fr. Eric Mason (Peterborough), Fr. Justin Pulikunnel (Kingston), and Fr. Rob Renaud (London). Deacon Cyril Kennedy (Eparchy of Edmonton) has been ordained as a transitional deacon.

We asked a couple of these priests who were summer interns to share a bit about their experience. We asked them to highlight one of their experiences as an intern and how their experience has assisted them today as a priest. Here's what they had to say:

Fr. Michael Bombak (Ordained January 1, 2016 for the Eparchy of Edmonton [Ukrainian Catholic]. Internship: Summers of 2012 & 2013) I provided information for a website upgrade, called priests from around the country regarding the "Just for Life" Kit and reviewed information about updating incorporation of PFLC. I have received tools to more confidently discuss pro-life issues with my parishioners, brother priests, and bishops. [Currently, Fr. Bombak serves as a member of the PFLC Board of Directors.]

Fr. Joshua Lobo (Ordained June 27, 2020 for the Archdiocese of Toronto. Internship: Summer 2017) My summer coincided with Canada's 150th Anniversary as a country. As a result, one of my projects was to go through the history of the pro-life movement in Canada which was an eye-opening

endeavor. I got to immerse myself in the stories of countless courageous pro-life advocates that heroically defended life throughout the decades. These people, who were from all vocations and various walks of life, inspired me greatly by their work and witness. The life and witness of Fr. Ted Colleton was especially moving for me. I also got to learn more about the origins of the March for Life as well as the struggles, setbacks and triumphs we've faced as a movement. I feel that PFLC is a great resource to help priests as they engage in the pro-life movement. Most importantly, their publications and personnel are very helpful.

Fr. Raphael Ma CR (Ordained on June 15, 2019 for the Congregation of the Resurrection. Internship: Summer 2012) I had the unique opportunity of speaking to many different priests as I went through the call list to check about their newsletter preferences. Some I knew, some I did not, some of the conversations were just about the newsletter, others were interested in how seminary formation was going these days, or what PFLC was working on. My experience as a summer intern was good practice for learning to engage people in conversation that I have never met before – something that is a regular part of priestly ministry when meeting new people.

Fr. Rob Renaud (Ordained August 15, 2020 for the Diocese of London. Internship: Summer 2015) In between calls to priests about the cause, I really enjoyed doing research on bioethics and social teaching surrounding pro-life issues. I submitted these findings to help develop future newsletter articles.

My experience helped give me greater insight on how to defend the sanctity of life by explaining the Catholic position on abortion and euthanasia. It also united me to a group of advocates for human life, both born and unborn.

PFLC will once again be offering this internship program in the summer of 2022. Information will be sent to the seminaries in mid-January. Further information as to how you can support this year's program will be in our February newsletter.

Father Vince Heffernan, SFM

1940 -2021



It is always sad to have a good friend to Priests for Life Canada die. Father Vince Heffernan of the Scarborough Foreign Missions died on August 13th in Scarborough. Fr. Vince served in both Mexico and Guyana along with holding many positions within the Society. He has always been a staunch supporter of the pro-life movement in our country and in 1990 he began the Second Chance Ministry along with Angelina Steenstra. It was located at the Scarborough

Mission Centre in Scarborough and for decades has offered support and spiritual direction for women suffering from post-abortion trauma. Celebrating regular masses, thousands of hours with Spiritual direction and healing work, and helping hundreds of women realize the healing of the Lord had been Fr. Vince's central work for decades. We will never know the full extent of the work that he has done soul by soul, but certainly we can give thanks for it and for him. Well done good and faithful servant, enter into thy rest.



WISHING YOU A VERY

*Merry
Christmas*

FROM
PRIESTS FOR LIFE CANADA

"May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women."
Pope Francis

PO Box 37031
LaSalle, ON N9H 2N8
(888) 300-2007
info@priestsforlifecanada.com
priestsforlifecanada.com

Executive Committee

Rev Fr Thomas A Lynch
President

Rev Fr John A Lemire
Chairman

Rev Fr Matthew R Kucharski
Secretary Treasurer

Advisory Board

His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins
Most Rev Terrence Prendergast, SJ

Donate Online

Click on the "Donate" tab on our website
priestsforlifecanada.com
and receive an immediate
tax receipt from CanadaHelps.org

Donate by Cheque

Please support the life-saving efforts of
Priests For Life Canada

- I would like to make a donation to help Priests For Life Canada and its life-saving work.
- I would like to become a supporter of Priests For Life Canada (\$25/year).

I would like to donate:

\$25 \$50 \$100

Other: \$ _____

Please send me an annual income-tax receipt

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____