

News Release  
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