

This spring edition of *The Interim Plus* presents several topics of interest. We are in the Lenten season preparing to celebrate the greatest feast in the Christian calendar, the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.



May the glorious truth of the empty tomb strengthen our faith and bring us the same joy and the same hope that inspired the disciples to go forth and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit as Jesus commissioned them to do.

Through this resource we try modestly to help you meet the challenges of classroom teaching. May it assist your efforts to teach young people the proper way of thinking, reflecting and living out their Christian faith.

So, what are the topics for this month?

Is a large public event an appropriate venue for airing a sensitive message? Donald De Marco looks at the media hype and controversy of the Tim Tebow ad aired during the February 7 Super Bowl.

Are young people apathetic when it comes to attending Sunday services? Eric Guy, religion teacher at Brebeuf College School in Toronto offers a sample lesson on how to engage them to learn more and honour their often neglected Sunday obligation.

Concern for the health of mothers and children in developing nations received a lot of attention during February and March, largely because of public statements by political leaders in Canada. **What are the politics of maternal health?**

Finally, with the annual National March for Life coming up in Ottawa on May 13, we should consider the usefulness of technology in promoting the pro-life cause in classrooms. Can clickers help in this way? Can the internet's youtube capabilities be used for educational pro-life purposes?

Part I

The other Super Bowl MVP

Donald DeMarco *The Interim*, March 2010

We know that Drew Brees quarterbacked the New Orleans

Saints to a Super Bowl victory over the Indianapolis Colts and was named the game's most valuable player. But there was another quarterback who, on that same day, earned an MVP award for what he did off the field, during the telecast of the game.



Tim Tebow is, in the parlance of football aficionados, "arguably" the best football player in [U.S.] college history. He is the first to win the coveted Heisman Trophy as an undergraduate and the first to pass and run for more than 20 touchdowns in the same season (32 passing and 23 rushing in 2007). He also quarterbacked his "Gators" to national championships, in 2006 and 2008. He is

accustomed to winning and his leadership qualities are, as they say, "off the charts."

The story of how Tebow's mom, going against her doctor's recommendation to abort, and subsequently delivering a perfectly normal child, is a great pro-life narrative. So, when CBS agreed to air a 30-second commercial by *Focus on the Family* featuring Tim and his mother, Pam, "pro-choice" people were infuriated.

They cried foul, demanding that the spot be cancelled. One leading feminist claimed, falsely, that Tim's mom invented her story. Another opposed the ad on the grounds that it would "dictate morality to the American public." Apparently, to air is human, but to forgive is contrary to feminist policy. Despite the tidal wave of opposition, CBS held its ground.

The *New York Times*, in a January 30 editorial, found the feminist protest puzzling and dismaying: "Instead of trying to silence an opponent, advocates for allowing women to make their own decisions about whether to have a child should be using the Super Bowl spotlight to convey what their movement is all about: protecting the right of women like Pam Tebow to make their private reproductive choices."

Sally Jenkins, writing for the *Washington Post* ("Tebow's Super Bowl ad isn't intolerant; its critics are," Feb. 2), was blistering in her denunciation of the "group-think, elitism and condescension" of what she derisively called, the "National Organization of Fewer and Fewer Women All The Time." It was only too clear to Jenkins that Tebow's critics were not at all "pro-choice," but simply pro-abortion. Furthermore, these misguided feminists were criticizing a male

role model who is unimpeachable, the very kind of specimen of manhood that any sensible women should admire.

What we need, wrote Jenkins, are more Tebows: “Colleagues who are self-ess enough to choose not to spend summers poolside, but travel to impoverished countries to dispense medical care to children, as Tebow has every summer of his career. Athletes who believe in something other than themselves and are willing to put their backbone where their mouth is. Celebrities who are self-possessed and self-controlled enough to use their wattage to advertise commitment over decadence.”

The recent moral conduct of many professional athletes has been most disturbing. The tabloids have been enjoying a feast, dining on the off-the-field exploits of Tiger Woods, Michael Vick, Plaxico Burress, Rex Ryan, Donte Stallworth, Gilbert Arenas, ballplayers using steroids, basketball referees admitting to cheating and so on. Given the current moral climate in professional sports, a sterling character such as Tim Tebow should be welcomed with open eyes and ears. Jamelle Hill, a sports analyst for ESPN, therefore, had this to say: “I don’t care if you’re pro-life or pro-choice, conservative or liberal, God-fearing or atheist, you’ve got to admire Tebow for standing with conviction, even as he’s opening himself and his family up to criticism.”

When the highly controversial 30-second commercial aired during the Super Bowl game, viewers saw an attractive mother declare her love for her son and her son move into the eye of the camera in the final few seconds to reciprocate that expression of love. There was no mention of abortion or birth. Observers have fairly appraised the ad as “sweet,” “touching” and far more acceptable than “witnessing women in bikinis selling beer.” The image of Tim Tebow hugging his mom was no more offensive than Drew Brees holding his little boy, Braylen, after he was named the game’s MVP.



Tim Tebow has earned a pro-life MVP award because he has, though indirectly, exposed before the world the hypocrisy and censorious attitudes of so-called “pro-choice” advocates who clearly do not believe either

in legitimate freedom of expression or in choice. If NOW (which is acting more like THEN) does not speak for women who are pro-life, nor even women who are genuinely “pro-choice,” for whom does it speak? NOW and other such “choice” agencies have reduced their philosophy to a single word and have forgotten what that word means. But one thing it does mean, something they vehemently want to suppress, is that not all choices are equal.

In 30 seconds, Pam and Tim Tebow made it a little more difficult for certain people to remain “pro-choice.”

1. Questions

1. How could a story like this be used in class to discuss the role of media?

2. Is the Super Bowl (or other large event, e.g. World Series, World Cup, Stanley Cup, the Academy Awards) a proper venue for advocating a moral stance on any issue? Why or why not?
3. In the Tim Tebow ad, what were the critics upset about? Were they right or were they way off base? (see for yourself, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqReTDJSdhE>)
4. Who or what cause won big points over the controversy? Why?
5. Have students research NOW (National Organization of Women), their origins, mission, influence, successes. What is its Canadian counterpart? What has been its fate?
6. What responsibility do media like television have in the public debate over sensitive issues? Did the CBS network do the right thing in your opinion? Why or why not?

Part II

The politics of maternal health and child mortality

Analysis by Paul Tuns, Editor, *The Interim*

The numbers are staggering. A half-million women die during pregnancy every year. Nine million children in the developing world will die before their fifth birthday. That’s one pregnant mother and 18 children every minute of every day of the year will die prematurely, unnecessarily. Their dire circumstances cry out for redress, but thus far, the plight of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable has been met merely with rhetoric.

In 2000, more than 100 countries signed up to the Millennium Development Goals, a set of eight goals to improve the lives of people in the developing world by 2015. For the most part, they are not even near to being achieved. Maternal deaths have dropped about 1.1% per year, about one-fifth the reduction necessary to reach the 15-year goal.

In January, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced he would use Canada’s leadership as host of the G8 and G20 meetings this June to highlight the issues of maternal health and child mortality. ...he challenged the G8—the group of eight large, developed economies that include the United States, Japan,



Italy, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Russia – to invest in clean water, inoculations, nutrition programs and the training of health workers to care for women and deliver babies. As Harper wrote, “The lack of the most basic services can lead to dire consequences, especially for the world’s most vulnerable populations ... This is simply not acceptable.”

Campaign Life Coalition “applauded” the prime minister for “prioritizing the health of mothers and children in foreign aid.” CLC national president Jim Hughes told *The Interim* the pro-life community has long argued for authentic maternal and infant care at the international level, whereas groups such as UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund, most foreign aid programs and various non-governmental organizations prioritize for abortion and reproductive health measures.

Don Hutchinson, vice-president and general legal counsel with the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, observed in a webitorial that several “Canadian charities already active in this area have noted they have been declined for (Canadian International Development Agency) funding because their religious orientation encourages a focus on maternal health, not including the option of abortion – which when you think of it, is the antithesis of maternity care.”

There was some initial concern that the federal government was partnering with, or sought the advice of the pro-abortion, pro-population control Action Canada for Population and Development (ACPD). Brian Lilley, the Canadian politics columnist for Examiner.com, reported that Jennifer Kitts of the ACPD is an advisor to Bev Oda, minister of international co-operation. Lilley reported that Oda indicated the government had not yet decided whether “family planning” was going to be part of the government initiative when he inquired about it, but that Kitts told him it is the key to reducing maternal and infant mortality.

Kitts claims abortion and contraception will reduce maternal deaths by 30 per cent and infant mortality by 20 per cent, but when asked to explain how the number of children dying before their fifth birthdays could be reduced by their mother’s access to condoms, contraceptive pills and abortion, Kitts “asked (Lilley) to turn off my recorder” and even then said she would have to continue the interview another time.

ACPD policy preferences are clear and it appears they are influencing the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). In its fact sheet on reducing maternal mortality, ACPD notes the Guttmacher Institute’s “4 Pillars” for saving women’s lives, which are (in order): “family planning and other reproductive services,” “skilled care during and immediately following pregnancy and childbirth,” “emergency obstetric care” and “immediate post-natal care for mothers and newborns.”



ACPD makes special note that “other reproductive services” include “the provision of safe abortion services.” Last May, Oda (photo on the left) announced priority themes to guide CIDA as pertaining to

children’s issues and one of those priorities included promoting and delivering sexual and reproductive health services, although the minister did not explicitly state whether that included abortion ...

The Conservatives

But on Feb. 18, Oda’s spokesman told the Canadian Press that abortion and contraception are not part of the maternal and infant health initiative. According to CP: “A spokesman in Oda’s office said the prime minister has set out several specific areas that will be the focus of funding, but that family planning measures were never part of that group. Instead, they include immunization, access to clean water, better nutrition and improved training for health-care workers on the ground who are delivering babies and treating children.”

Oda herself said, “Canada is not currently going to be changing its approach to improving maternal and infant health ... The prime minister has been clear since we became government that there’s no intention on regenerating any debate on abortion.”

That still leave some wiggle room; the current policy for CIDA does include support for a broadly defined “reproductive health” component of maternal health. Also, the CP report merely re-asserts that the “focus” of the initiative is the priorities Harper spelled out in January, but that does not mean that other measures cannot be introduced. If abortion is not part of the plan, it is incumbent upon the prime minister and his staff to ensure that the government’s priorities are represented in the program CIDA comes up with and carries out.

As Jim Hughes says in the March *CLC National News*, “Abortion is the antithesis of helping mothers and their children. You don’t promote infant health care by killing babies before they are born.” Hughes notes that the precise words Harper used in making his announcement – “Far too many lives and unexplored futures have already been lost for want of relatively simple healthcare solutions” – is rhetoric that should rule out abortion.

Thus far, the Conservatives are sticking tightly to the script, quoting what Harper has said the initiative should include and thus implying that there is no room for abortion within that agenda without explicitly ruling it out – just as Oda’s spokesman did to the Canadian Press.

In a press release, Harper spokesman Dimitri Soudas said his boss had “one clear objective and that is saving lives of vulnerable children and mothers.” He accused Ignatieff of “fear-mongering” and raising “red-herrings” by “stirring up old debates” and “playing cheap politics.” He said the initiative “has nothing to do with abortion,” as he chastised the Liberal leader for playing domestic politics with the health of women and children.



Conservative MP Shelly Glover (Saint Boniface, photo to the left) was more emphatic in her CBC interview: “First and foremost, this has absolutely nothing to do with abortion. That topic is not part and parcel of this initiative.” She reiterated that Harper specifically called for medical and nutritional

help. "Abortion is not a part of this," she reiterated.

Lilley says, "Harper owes it to all of us to say whether his solution" to the problem of infant mortality, "will see more kids reach their fifth birthday or fewer kids reach birth."

Michael Ignatieff



While Harper's comments imply no room for abortion, there is no ambiguity on the part of the Liberals. Both Soudas and Glover were responding to Liberal leader Michael

Ignatieff's call for a guarantee that the new maternal health initiative include "reproductive health rights." In a press release and a pair of

press conferences, Ignatieff insisted that, "Women are entitled to the full gamut of reproductive health services and that includes termination of pregnancy and contraception." For good measure, he used the phrase "full gamut of reproductive health services twice" and threw in a demand for the government to continue funding the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

Ignatieff's call to arms on behalf of international abortion was seen by many as crass politics. While calling upon the prime minister to eschew politics and ideology, he invoked George W. Bush, who cut off funding for international groups that promoted or committed abortions and urged the government not to follow the former president's example.

CLC national organizer Mary Ellen Douglas condemned Ignatieff for playing to his left-wing base and letting the party's women's caucus call the tunes. She said, "The women's caucus of the Liberal party pulling Ignatieff's strings shows that they are determined to include the killing of the unborn in developing countries."

Paul Szabo, a Liberal MP, went on the record complaining that his party leader was not speaking on behalf of the caucus, which includes several pro-life Liberals. Szabo noted that abortion never came up during a caucus meeting on the topic of international development, which occurred just before Ignatieff's bombshell. Indeed, another Liberal MP, John McKay, seemed surprised that Ignatieff mentioned abortion at the roundtable discussion on international development that he, McKay, was co-chairing on Jan. 26, where Ignatieff first announced that the party's support for the initiative was dependent on the government's guarantee for abortion "rights."

The EFC's Hutchinson was in attendance at that meeting and reported that of the 200 people at the roundtable, about a third gave only polite applause – "the kind you hear

when others have started and the uncertain join in" – while "half the room sat in shocked silence."

Ignatieff said, "We want women to care for themselves better and then look after their kids better." He said that without contraception and "safe" abortions, women will continue to die. Ignatieff said, "We want women to care for themselves better and then look after their kids better." He said that Liberal party support for Harper's initiative is contingent upon access to abortion and contraception, describing the requirement as "laying down a marker" for the government. All this, Ignatieff explained, was because he does not want to play politics with this issue.

Reaction



Religious leaders were quick to respond. Toronto Catholic Archbishop Thomas Collins publicly rebuked Ignatieff. In a statement, he said that "in light of the many positive contributions that Canada can make to the improvement of maternal and child health, it is astonishing that the leader of the opposition, Mr. Michael Ignatieff, has issued a statement advocating

contraception and abortion as fundamental elements addressing" maternal and infant health.

He continued: "There are many fruitful ways to improve maternal and child health and the discussion should centre on the most effective strategies for doing this." Collins noted that even abortion supporters do not "propose it as a positive contribution to society." Pastor Joe Boot of the Westminster Chapel in downtown Toronto was more blunt, calling Ignatieff's position "pure evil" on *The Michael Coren Show*.

Lawyer and blogger Ezra Levant suggested that Ignatieff's placement of abortion beside food, clean water and vaccinations was troubling enough, but that there was something deeply disturbing that the Liberal leader's foray into abortion politics was in relation to exporting it to the developing world. In his post on the topic, Levant reminded readers of the eugenic and racist views of Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger.



Tom Flanagan

University of Calgary political science professor, and former Harper adviser, Tom Flanagan told the *National Post*: "Of all the issues that you could possibly raise about women's health, why would you start with abortion?"

Flanagan, who has since had a falling out with the prime minister and cannot be considered a mouthpiece

for the government, wondered: “What kind of mindset is it that you have to start killing unborn babies in order to help people?”

Curiously, Ignatieff repeatedly referred to the “gamut of reproductive rights” and to “terminations,” but could not bring himself to say abortion. Indeed, his spokesman, Michael O’Shaughnessy, told the *National Post* that the Liberal leader is “not actively promoting abortion,” but merely “seeking assurances that all contraception health options will be available.”

Keith Martin, a pro-abortion Liberal MP, has offered a “compromise.” He suggests that each country in the G8 take up a different aspect of the initiative, whether it be the provision of clean water, training health workers or providing access to family planning. He said that countries could focus on an area of expertise. While Martin said this is a typically Canadian “pragmatic” solution to the quandary of a country that might not want to pony up for abortion and contraception, it misses the point: abortion and contraception should not even be considered part of maternal health.

The bottom line

Harper’s initiative seeks to address the issue of 500,000 maternal deaths and nine million infant deaths. You do not help these vulnerable people by having women kill their unborn. Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff wants to provide more abortion and contraception at the expense of less clean water and fewer inoculations; every dollar spent on condoms and abortion-performing midwives is a dollar not spent fighting malnutrition and unsafe deliveries.



This needs to be repeated: every dollar spent on abortion and contraception is a dollar not being spent on providing the necessities of life: food, clean water, medicine and safe deliveries.

Jim Hughes, who also serves as vice-president of the International Right to Life Federation, says, “Canada must not allow abortion and depopulation activists to gain control of this program and use it to promote their own agendas at the expense of the health and lives of millions of women and children in the developing world.”

For all the hoopla over abortion as part of maternal health, what has been ignored is that Canada funds abortion through its grants to groups such the United Nations Population Fund. CIDA will likely continue supporting pro-abortion groups abroad, just not as part of this new effort.

Still, this whole ordeal tells us a lot about Michael Ignatieff: either he is willing to hold the health and lives of women and children in the developing world hostage for domestic political reasons or he genuinely thinks abortion is a central component of maternal and infant health. Which is worse will be left for readers to decide, now and during the next federal election.

Questions

1. Are these statistics regarding world maternal and infant mortality in any way surprising? Why or why not?
2. What were the 8 Millenium Development Goals? Who set them? Have they been achieved? What have been some of the problems?
3. What announcement did PM Harper make concerning the issue?
4. How was the statement received by various public groups and other politival parties?
5. How did Harper’s announcement become controversial? What was the argument given by Liberal leader Ignatieff?
6. What is CIDA and what role does it play in delivering health and other related services to developing nations?
7. What did spokespersons for Campaign Life Coalition have to say about the Harper initiative and the Ignatieff response? What was the verdict of other interested groups?
8. What was the political motivation behind Ignatieff’s demands? Were there members of his caucus that were puzzled by his remarks? Has he and his party suffered in any way from his seemingly radical “intervention”?

See a related ironic news story UN Reports India and China Are ‘Missing’ 85 Million Women (Thaddeus M. Baklinski) found at <http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2010/mar/10030905.html>

A new United Nations Development Program (UNDP) report released March 8, entitled “Power, Voice and Rights: A Turning Point for Gender Equality in Asia and the Pacific,” and coinciding with International Women’s Day, highlights the fact that sex-selective abortion continues to increase the gender imbalance in developing countries.

Under the heading “more women than ever are disappearing,” a press release from the UNDP announcing the new report says, “The problem of ‘missing girls’ in which more boys are born than girls, as girl fetuses are presumably aborted, and women die from health and nutrition neglect - is actually growing. Birth gender disparity is greatest in East Asia, where 119 boys are born for every 100 girls.”

The report found that “China and India together account for more than 85 million of the nearly 100 million ‘missing’ women estimated to have died from discriminatory treatment in health care, nutrition access or pure neglect or because they were never born in the first place.”

While not addressing the cultural aspect of preference of boys to girls in developing countries where abortion is promoted by the UN, the report warns that “discrimination and neglect” are “threatening the very survival of women in these regions.”

“Females cannot take survival for granted,” the report said. “Sex-selective abortion, infanticide, and death from health and nutritional neglect in Asia have left 96 million missing women ... and the numbers seem to be increasing in absolute terms.”

Questions

1. In light of these statistics what appears to be the greatest obstacle to reducing maternal and infant mortality in developing nations?
2. What additional long term social complications may result from this growing gender imbalance?

Part III

The *National Post* recently had a week-long feature dealing with how families deal with the question of God and faith with their children. In his article *The head and the heart* Jim Power, principal of Upper Canada College (*National Post*, Friday, February 26, 2010) argued that there is a need and a place for faith instruction in schools whether for the sake of improving religious literacy or to help with spiritual formation. He sees the task as a challenging one for a host of reasons, but it requires both the head and the heart. And regardless of what kind of a school a student finds himself in, “eventually he has to come face to face with the meaning questions: Is life just a celebration of nerve endings? Is there a rhyme and reason to reality? Are we just chemicals that are activated at conception and deactivated at death? Our role as teachers is to honour those questions and to give our students the language and values they’ll need to honestly answer them for themselves.”

www.nationalpost.com/story.html?id=2614955&p=2#ixzz0h29BL1D1

Charles Lewis in his article *They’re learning more than you think* in the same edition of *The National Post* argued that forcing children to go to church is not a bad idea at all because “these children are all being introduced to this larger kingdom and reality. Years from now they might reject it all but that does not really matter. If they are generous,

they will look back and see those Sunday mornings not as a time of trial, but as a sincere act of love that passed along something of great value”.

<http://network.nationalpost.com/NP/blogs/fullcomment/archive/2010/02/26/charles-lewis-they-re-learning-more-than-you-think.aspx>

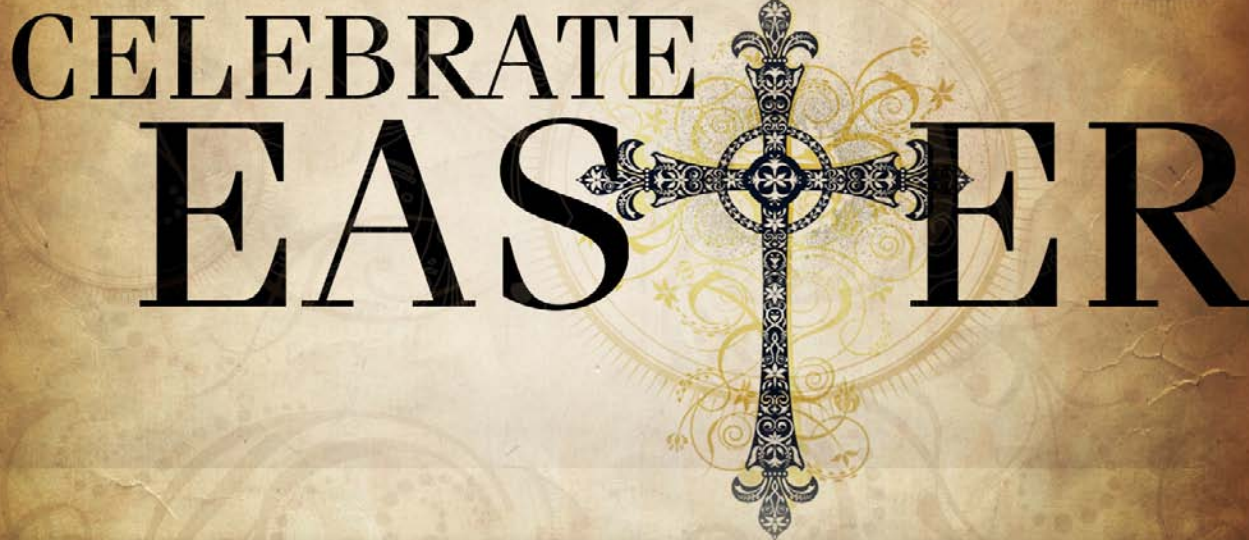
Lewis was referring to toddlers and other very young children but is there not something of great lasting value to the religious experience of attending Sunday worship? Is the believer not obligated to attending as the Commandments and the precepts of the church demand? In this section Eric Guy presents an interesting way of engaging students to take their faith worship obligations more seriously. He challenges his students to attend Sunday liturgy on several consecutive weekends and encourages them to listen carefully to the homily/sermon delivered by the priest/minister/celebrant/speaker.

The claim is often made that young people are not church attendants because of many reasons, some of which are expressed in the following clichés - “church is boring”, or “I don’t get anything out of it”, “I don’t need it”, “it’s not relevant”, “none of my friends go”.

The **independent study unit** is one approach designed to shake up the student’s view and oblige them to at least experience the liturgy with a purpose in mind. It is also hoped that the exercise will reinforce or reintroduce them to a proper sense of worship and the abiding and sanctifying role of religious worship.

There are three elements to the lesson plan

- a) outline for the unique ISU (Individual Study Unit) within a World Religions Course
- b) lame excuses analogy
- c) peer feedback schemata



HRE 3M1

WORLD RELIGIONS

I.S.U. VALUE 15%

Unit #3: CHRISTIANITY

Contextual Analyses & Reflections:

Due Dates:	1st Analysis & Reflection -Due – _____	5 Marks
	2nd Analysis & Reflection -Due – _____	5 Marks
	3rd Analysis & Reflection -Due – _____	5 Marks

I.S.U. (Approximately 250 words.) Description:

Attend 3 separate weekly Mass services – (dates) _____, _____ & _____. **Prepare a one page (typed) summary of: the homily (not the Gospel reading) & an analysis of the significance of the homily for you &/or your peers (adolescents).**

Note: If you are unable to attend one of these weekly Masses (i.e., on Sat. or Sun.), you will be given until _____ to attend any of the subsequent weekly Masses (i.e., _____, & _____) and hand your assignments. Failure to submit your analyses & reflections for any of the first 3 above mentioned due dates will result in a zero grade for that portion of this ISU unless you provide a written explanation from your parent/guardian.

Summaries of the Homily:

- should be a succinct (**¼ of the page in length or, 50 to 75 words**)
- paraphrased (not word for word) summary of what was said (not a lengthy recount)
- bring a pen and something to write on to the Mass (so, you can accurately summarize what you heard as soon as you can – after the Homily).

Analysis & Commentary:

- must comprise most of your write-up (**¾ of a page or, 175 to 200 words**).
- reflect on the **contextual (broader or relevant) meaning** or, **the value of the Homily in your faith maturation & life,**
- reflect on **how you or your peers could benefit from the message(s) of the Homily, &**
- **relate the Homily's message(s) to something that you learned** from the first 3 Units of our course (i.e., Mystery & Science, Judaism & Christianity).

In-Class Peer Feedback & Discussions:

Each Monday/Tuesday after the weekly liturgy you will be expected to share your reflection within a group of 3 other students for peer-feedback, evaluation & discussion. Two to three peer-feedback & evaluations will then be attached to your reflection & submitted for grading.

10 Reasons why I don't (go to Mass, or church worship, or Bible class) Wash?

One clergyman got tired of listening to the same old excuses from people who don't attend church services. At the end of his patience, he wrote the following item, entitled "Ten Reasons Why I Never Wash" for his church bulletin:



1. I was made to wash as a child.
2. People who wash are hypocrites. They think they are cleaner than other people.
3. There are so many different kinds of soap, I could never decide which one was right.
4. I used to wash, but it got boring, so I stopped.
5. I still wash on special occasions, like Christmas and Easter.
6. None of my friends wash.
7. I'm still young. When I'm older and have gotten a bit dirtier I might start washing.
8. I really don't have time.
9. The bathroom is never warm enough.
10. People who make soap are only after your money.



Now we may laugh at this little parable, but the truth is going to church has much the same effect on the soul as washing does on the body. This study exercise can be utilized by teachers in Christian schools. This example uses the Catholic Mass, but other denominations can substitute their respective church experience and worshipful demands (for example, Sunday school, Bible class, Sunday worship, Sunday liturgy, etc.)



*When one truly comes to understand and appreciate what the Mass is (and is not) - that it is a responsibility to our community; rests at the centre of our faith life; is the ultimate source of grace in our spiritual lives; and, that the Church has remained faithful to Jesus' command ("**Do this in memory of me**") - then one will recognize all the many reasons why one must attend Mass at least weekly and on days of holy obligation.*

I.S.U. Reflection: Peer Feedback

Reflection: # _____

POSITIVES (i.e., what the evaluator liked):

- _____
- _____
- _____

IMPROVEMENTS (i.e., what the evaluator would correct or omit):

- _____
- _____
- _____

SUGGESTIONS (i.e., what the evaluator would add, change or modify):

- _____
- _____
- _____

Marking Rubric:

2 Marks for: Date, Parish Name, Homilist or Celebrant, Gospel Reading

2 Marks for: Clear, concise & informative summary. (1/4 page Maximum Length)

2 Marks for: Clear, meaningful & personally relevant message for the author (1/4 page Maximum Length)

2 Marks for: Clear, meaningful & accurate message for the peers/teens (1/4 page Maximum Length)

2 Marks for: Clear, meaningful & relevant connection to course material/topics (1/4 page Maximum Length)

Evaluator's Mark: (_____ /10)

Part IV Technology and Pro-Life

Clickers

Last October, Jim Hughes of Campaign Life Coalition (a national grassroots organization that lobbies all levels of government to pass laws to protect the right to life of the unborn and other vulnerable people in our society) had occasion to address a group of pro-life teachers and student leaders at Camp Brebeuf, a leadership camp held by the Halton CDSB and the Hamilton-Wentworth CDSB. During his presentation he wished to gauge the level of accurate knowledge that the teacher/student audience had regarding historical developments in the abortion issue. He was able to get immediate feedback from the audience by utilizing clickers, personal response tools. For example, he asked the people present to identify which of the three prime ministers (Pierre Trudeau, Brian Mulrooney, Jean Chretien) was responsible for legalization/decriminalization of abortion in Canada. Many were able to identify Pierre Trudeau as the correct answer. Another question dealt with the cut-off date for legal abortions in Canada. Surprisingly few were aware of the fact that in Canada abortion may be obtained at any time during the pregnancy, right up to the time of birth.



The remarkable thing about the presentation was the quick anonymous giving of answers and the equally rapid correction of their answers. The clicker proved to be an effective tool for engaging the audience and teaching them some important facts regarding abortion in this country. One can imagine the many applications of this device in the classroom setting, whether teaching about pro-life or for regular lessons in any subject area when the teacher may wish to provide a change of pace, inject an interactive element, stimulate discussion or to gain instant feedback on a presentation.

Another good feature about this product is that it can be applied in large audience settings. Perhaps the Youth Conference at the Annual March for Life in Ottawa can be a testing ground. With over 1000 young people in attendance many questions can be posed and important feedback gained on the spot.

For more information about clickers you may wish to visit these sites and assess educational application of the device for yourself.

<http://dataonthespot.com/>
<http://www.irespond.com/solutions/k12.shtml>
http://scholar.google.ca/scholar?q=clickers+in+schools&hl=en&rlz=1R2ADBR_enCA364&um=1&ie=UTF-8&oi=scholar
<http://www.springerlink.com/content/r38v87p685445748/>
<http://www.smartroom.com/>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4A62QyAUHM>

Youtube Videos

Some schools have pro-life student clubs. Here is a suggestion for the clubs to express in a practical, meaningful way their skills and pro-life commitment.

During every federal or provincial election the criticism is made that 'young people take little interest in politics' or 'they don't inform themselves about the issues' and 'they don't vote when eligible'. However, young people spend a lot of time on the internet. It is also true that young people have an inordinate amount of interest in modern communications media and gadgets. And young people are very creative in their use of this media. Why not encourage the students to put all these talents to good use as news-gatherers via cell phones and video cameras prior to and during election campaigns. This would be an extremely important and effective role for young people to play in the service of the pro-life cause. Here's how it might be done.

Students who take a course in communications technology in their high school or students interested in participating in a political campaign via the internet can do the following:

1. find out the dates for various **local party nomination** meetings prior to the actual election campaign.
2. during the election campaign, find out the dates for **all-candidates meetings**
3. make plans to **attend** such meetings
4. **prepare questions** to ask the candidates in order to gain their views on specific life issues
5. **ask these questions** at the respective meetings
6. either **film the exchange (question and answers)** or have a student colleague do so
7. **contact Campaign Life Coalition** 1-800-730-5358 or email clc@lifesite.net for detailed instructions on how to upload the video clips and send to Campaign Life Coalition.

Some may be asking, well what kind of questions should I ask of the candidates? During an election campaign there are many issues raised by the media and the parties themselves. Seldom do the parties or candidates want to talk about or take a stand on life issues like abortion or euthanasia. It is in connection to these life issues that the pro-life minded student can be of greatest help in getting information collected and shared.

Here are a few of the most important questions to get a candidate's viewpoint or stand on record:

1. Do you believe that life begins at conception (fertilization)?
2. Would you support all legislative or policy proposals that would result in a meaningful increase of respect and protection for unborn human life? And that may curb or prohibit experimentation with human life at all times?
3. Are there any circumstances under which you believe a woman should have access to abortion?
4. Do you believe that the family (headed by a father and mother) is the basic unit of a healthy society?
5. Would you pass legislation to strengthen the capacity of families to care for its constituent members?
6. Would you support legislation that respects the rights of parents to choose the type of care they want for their children?
7. Would you specifically oppose any move to legalize euthanasia, like Bill C-384? Or legislative efforts to permit doctor-assisted suicide?

The end result is to accumulate statements from all candidates so that interested voters can cast an informed ballot, taking into account all important life issues based on actual public statements of candidates. This would constitute a valuable public service to the nation.



Screen captures of interviews with MP's Jack Layton and Frank Valeriote
Courtesy of Campaign Life Coalition



Join Us In Ottawa

The Nations Capital
For



May 12, 13, 14, 2010

The Annual National March For Life

Abortion - a Crime Against Humanity

Wednesday May 12

12 noon
Pro-life Prayer Service

7:30 pm
Pro-life Mass

9:00 pm
Candlelight Vigil



Friday May 14
9:00 am to 2:30 pm
Youth Conference
For information call CLC



Thursday May 13

10:00 am
Interdenominational Prayer Service

10:00 am
Pro-life Mass

12 noon
Gather on Parliament Hill

1:30 pm
March through downtown Ottawa

2:45 pm
Silent No More Awareness Campaign

4:00 pm
Closing Prayer Service

6:00 pm
Rose Dinner and Youth Banquet,
Call in advance for tickets 800-730-5358
or local CLC office





Sponsored by

Campaign Life 
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800-730-5358 (toll free)
613-729-0379 (Ottawa)
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www.marchforlife.ca