



Making abortion unthinkable

“I’ve had an abortion and it hurts to see those pictures but I want you to let others know about me. They need to know that even if it hurts to see those pictures, you need to show them because they save lives.”

–Christian mother at the end of my presentation to a youth conference her sons attended

Dear friends,

As a pro-life speaker, I’ve dealt with everything from angry opponents to malfunctioning equipment. But I faced one of my biggest challenges ever when I flew back to Winnipeg in early February: I lost my voice.

Laryngitis is hard enough to deal with as it is but when you speak for a living—and I was invited to give three different talks in Winnipeg—it’s almost unbearable. I couldn’t speak very loudly for three weeks and if I spoke too long, my throat would start throbbing. Thankfully, I managed to give my presentations and only lose my voice completely *after* my final talk. And despite having to struggle through my presentations, I was encouraged not just because of what I managed to say, but because of what I heard.

CCBR’s motto is *making abortion unthinkable*. This isn’t just our goal—to change how people think about abortion—but it is also the challenge we leave our audiences. The only way to ensure that the unborn are valued by our society like everyone else is if pro-lifers oppose abortion and effectively instruct others to do the same.

This was the message I shared with Couples for Christ, a very pro-life Catholic group composed mostly of Filipino members. There were about forty people in the church’s very large main sanctuary and I had to hold my mic close to my mouth just to make sure I was heard.

After the talk, I spoke to the leaders of the local group and they expressed interest in bringing me back to do more training with them. One of the leaders mentioned they wanted to get their members trained in pro-life apologetics.

The following day, I spoke at Winnipeg League for Life’s yearly luncheon, again in a large room

with about 120 people in attendance. This luncheon was one of the League’s main gatherings for the year and I always count it as a privilege to speak at these venues because it is an opportunity to speak to the pro-life leaders in a local community. This talk was especially important because the League was the first pro-life group I ever volunteered with. In my teens, I sat at information booths the League organized at the local fair.

Despite the state of my voice, I spoke about how much I wanted their group to succeed in saving the lives of the unborn. But I also said that our movement faces its challenges too and groups like theirs need to rise to the occasion. I pointed to the stark situation Canada is in: abortion is legal throughout all nine months of pregnancy and there is no political will for change. Worse still, the pro-life movement is largely failing to change minds on abortion. I urged them to understand that the debate is not going to be won in Ottawa until it is won in places like Winnipeg. And the good news is that we can win this battle of ideas because the pro-life position is *true*.



Couples for Christ in Winnipeg

The League's board later took me out for dinner and I was able to talk to them about the challenge I gave. I was glad to hear that they took to heart what I said. **The director of the League shared that before my talk she was very discouraged about the state of the pro-life movement. But after she heard me, she realized that the battle is over ideas and that the pro-life movement is the one whose ideas make the most sense. She told me that she was fired up to fight for the lives of the unborn.**



Winnipeg League for Life luncheon

I told the board that they can succeed if they also choose activities and outreaches that make abortion unthinkable. **They told me that one of the projects they want to do is our Reproductive "Choice" Campaign, something we can work with them to accomplish.**

My voice held up during the last part of my trip which was definitely a godsend. I spoke to a youth conference organized by a student member of the League. Most of the forty youth and parents there were associated with a local Christian school. Though most were opposed to abortion, many did not know what abortion was all about.



Winnipeg League for Life youth conference

Afterwards, I talked to youth who were eager to have me speak at their school. On her survey about the presentation, one youth wrote, **"I was more inspired to tell someone and know what to say if anyone asked me about [abortion]."**

As I packed up my supplies, one of the moms took me aside. She told me that she was really glad I

came to speak. Before she became a Christian, she shared that her boyfriend and mother forced her to get an abortion. As her eyes teared up, she whispered that even her sons didn't know about her past. But despite being reminded of her past because of my presentation, she wanted to encourage me. She said, **"I've had an abortion and it hurts to see those pictures but I want you to let others know about me. They need to know that even if it hurts to see those pictures, you need to show them because they save lives."**

When you support this work, we can speak out in the way this mom is asking us to. Thank you. I am proud to lose my voice so that I can speak out for those who don't have one.

Sincerely,



Link of the month: Winnipeg League for Life: leagueforlife.mb.ca/whoweare.html

Upcoming Schedule: I have three upcoming debates in Ontario. Please attend if you are in the area.

University of Waterloo: Wednesday, February 27th at 4 p.m.

York University (in Toronto): Thursday, February 28th at 5:30 p.m.

Lakehead University (in Thunder Bay): Tuesday, March 4th at 7 p.m., University Agora

Please make cheques payable to CCB, write Jose Ruba on the note, and mail them to
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