



Life Compass Society

"We acknowledge, respect and promote the dignity and right to life, of everyone, from conception to their natural death, a right that comes from God."

President's Report

Dear supporter of Life Compass Society,

We have finally finished our parish membership drives. A number of problems had to be solved, but the final total of paid-up members is 353, the highest ever. Most parishes recorded an increase since last November (AGM report), but Our Lady of the Assumption led the way with an increase of 46!!

Another positive for 2024 was the March for Life in Victoria. The weather was nice, the speakers inspiring (we were blessed to have Fr. Larry Lynn, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish and the Pro-Life Chaplain for the Archdiocese of Vancouver). , and the numbers were estimated to be close to 1500, compared to about 900 last year. In addition, there was a noticeable increase in young people attending.

Save the date of our upcoming major fundraiser, our annual **Walk, Bike or Run for Life**. It's at Lions Park and PoCo Trail Saturday, **September 21st**, 2024. Hope you can join us on this date later than expected. Also, we'll start later, at 10am, allowing people attending a 9am Mass time to register. Details to follow.

In Christ, and for every human life
Richard Whalen (president)

March for Life 2024 Victoria



Most buses brought us to Sacred Heart parish in Ladner, where **Archbishop Miller** celebrated Mass before we were dropped off at the Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal. His Grace greeted a packed-to-overflowing, congregation. This was our first gathering with such a diverse group, including people of all ages, from many parishes and school groups throughout the Archdiocese of Vancouver and the Diocese of Victoria.

Bishop Gary Gordon was the first to address the march participants. He focused on the First Nations communities and his presentation reflected a vast experience with our aboriginal brothers and sisters.

The march began at Centennial Square and followed down Government Street to the BC Legislative Building. Catholic Women's League from Vancouver, CWL, is shown as represented on the next page. Most pictures show the Knights of Columbus signs and large member presence. March sponsors include the BC and Yukon Knights of Columbus, Columbus Charities, Chilliwack Pro Life and ARPA Canada, a Christian Reform ministry that brings a biblical perspective to civil authority.





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everywhere, and our religious leaders were more prominent this year compared to years past. We were lucky to have Fr. Larry Lynn as our pro-life chaplain.

Fr. Larry, a Catholic priest, began by pointing out that he uniquely has grown children and grandchildren. He converted and was widowed, hence the family. In addition, he was a documentary film maker. He is connected to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. He produced “In the Spirit of Reconciliation” and was interviewed 9 years ago by the CBC. The film is well worth watching and easily



found online. Father Larry, Vancouver Archdiocese’s pro-life chaplain, said the elderly are in special need of society’s loving attention because of the long shadow of legalized euthanasia “More than ever, we need to connect with our elders, especially those in care,” said Father Lynn, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Coquitlam. “The culture teaches us that we shouldn’t want to trouble anyone, and we often hear our seniors say they ‘don’t want to be a burden’. When people start thinking like that, they become more vulnerable to assisted suicide.”

Alex Schadenberg is Executive Director of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, EPC. He is Canadian and writes the most widely read blog in the world, on the problem of doctor-assisted suicide and euthanasia. He travels all over North America and beyond and has been to BC many times.

Most startling, he stated that Victoria, is “ground-zero, the city with the highest rate of doctor-assisted suicide, in the world”!! BC and Quebec are the worst jurisdictions in Canada, and perhaps in the world. This is seriously wrong, a call to action. We need to act!!



EPC and Delta Hospice Society can, on request, provide an affordable legal card and document to protect family and friends, the vulnerable elderly, and even the poor and handicapped, those who are considered a “burden” and who governments might consider “too expensive”.

Membership Report 2024

The memberships drives are completed, and we have the highest total of paid-up members ever. Thank you for your continued support. The numbers listed below are compared to the numbers listed at our Annual General Meeting last November.

Listed by parish:

1. St. Luke’s and St. Patrick’s combined	146 (+4)
2. Our Lady of the Assumption	61(+46)



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3. St. Clare of Assisi	55 (+7)
4. All Saints	52 (-1)
5. Our Lady of Fatima	4(+1)
6. Our Lady of Lourdes	2(no change)
7. St. Joseph's	30(+8)
8. Holy Family	3(-2)
Total	353 (+63)

Blooms into Rooms blossoms with Life Compass support.

Terry O'Neill Blooms into Rooms co-founder

Our Blooms into Rooms (BiR) project marked its 30th anniversary on Holy Saturday, by visiting a



Terry O'Neill and St. Joseph's group, Eagle Ridge Manor

record 1,500 shut-ins giving them flowering plants, greeting cards and posters, and precious, personal contact. With organizational and financial assistance from Life Compass, BiR volunteers visited 14 assisted- and independent-living seniors' homes, two hospices, and a long-term care hospital throughout the north of Fraser region and in White Rock and north Surrey.

"It was such a wonderful experience," St. Joseph's Parish (Port Moody) volunteer Mary McKinnon said of her visit to Port Moody's Eagle Ridge Manor. "We were like messengers of joy. You should have seen the smiles."

Giulia Levrini, of All Saints Parish in Coquitlam, said team members were uneasy at the start of their visits because of the novelty of the project. "The ice quickly melted, and smiles spread all around, with the joy of giving and receiving colourful flowers and messages but, most of all, of new encounters,"

While the project had the immediate effect of cheering seniors and warming the hearts of the volunteers, its deeper intent is to show support for the sick and the elderly in face of the growing threat of Medical Assistance in Dying.

"We took nine grandkids plus 10 friends to help us deliver 234 gorgeous flowering plants to all the seniors. Twelve-year-old Gianna played about 10 popular songs on her guitar, and everyone sang along. Eleven-year-old Peter played several pieces on the trumpet. We had lots of fun. The seniors were thrilled with the plants and the singing. The staff said that we made their whole weekend. – Elizabeth Loch, St. Luke's Parish, who visited Sunwood Retirement Residence and Chartwell Willow Retirement Community in Maple Ridge".



St. Clare of Assisi group at Dufferin Manor



Elizabeth Loch and family



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“There has never been a more important time than now to support our seniors,” said co-founder and longtime project benefactor Wim Vander Zalm. “So, if our volunteers can add a little light to their lives, it can make a world of difference.”

BiR has, for the past two years, been partially funded by Life Compass Society (LCS). In turn, LCS receives a portion of its funds from the Archdiocese’s Pro-Life Sunday collection. Life Compass Society has worked with Blooms into Rooms for several years, and now have formalized the partnership, recognizing that the life-affirming mission of LCS is enhanced and animated by BiR

The leadership team of LCS recognize that the Blooms project is a great service opportunity to put into action our reverence for every human life.

Blooms into Rooms began in 1974 as a project of the pro-life committee at St. Joseph’s Parish in Port Moody. This year’s team also included volunteers from: St. Luke’s and St. Patrick’s parishes, Maple Ridge; Archbishop Carney Regional Secondary and Our Lady of Assumption Parish and School, Port Coquitlam; St. Clare of Assisi Parish, All Saint’s Parish, Queen of All Saints Elementary School, and Our Lady of Fatima Parish and School, Coquitlam; Holy Cross Regional Secondary, Surrey; the Focolare Catholic youth group; and the Families for Christ Community.

Walk, Bike or Run for Life 2024: Lions Park and PoCo Trail



Lions Park

This is our major fundraiser of the year, a family event that includes fellowship, refreshments, food, and exercise. Note, again, the date is **Saturday September 21**, two weeks later than last year. We will have prizes for top sponsor dollars raised, and you will receive a sponsor sheet later, probably in August, so mark the date, but start gathering supporters soon. You are needed, so together we can make a difference and save lives.

We were able to negotiate a campaign with Lamar Transit Advertising, placing 24 large posters, one or two per Skytrain station, on 13 stations from Coquitlam, Burnaby, Vancouver, New Westminster, and Surrey. In addition we purchased bus “Supertails” as shown. The 14 different buses, each on different routes, left from the Tri-Cities (#151, 152, 153, 156, 157, 159, 160, 180, 183, 188, 189 and 191) and Maple Ridge (#701 and #791). The contract was for 4 weeks, and started beginning of February. The ads remain until the space is purchased, and we saw bus ads into May, in the Tri-Cities. The \$28 000 cost was reduced by a \$10 000 grant from Pro-Life Sunday donations.



Lamar Bus Ad