

January/February 2006

The theme of this edition is peace, a basic good that eludes individuals and society. What is peace? What is it not? What stands in the way? Why is it sought? Where is it found? Who brings it? Who are the peacemakers? Can there be peace? What is it that disturbs the peace? Why does our wealthy, technologically advanced society not at peace?

The "longing for peace" is a complex topic. It will be continued in the next curriculum supplement. Here we introduce some general thoughts concerning its nature and manifestation, its expression in the recent election process, and its intimate connection to the issue of abortion.

Setting the Stage

There is an official International Day of Peace sponsored by the United Nations and observed on 21 September each year. There is a universal quest for peace. The topic has drawn the attention of some celebrated persons as well as common people:

"I need peace of mind!"

- Everyman

"The purpose of government is to provide peace and good order."

B.N.A. Act

Everybody today seems to be in such a terrible rush; anxious for greater developments and greater wishes and so on; so that children have very little time for their parents; Parents have very little time for each other; and in the home begins the disruption of the peace of the world.

- Mother Teresa

Peace, like charity, begins at home.

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

All we are saying is: give peace a chance.

- John Lennon

The purpose of all war is ultimately peace.

- Saint Augustine

If you want world peace, fight for justice.

- bumper sticker

For everything there is a season, And a time for every matter under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die....A time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate, A time for war, and a time for peace.

- Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

Do not overrate what you have received, nor envy others. He who envies others does not obtain peace of mind.

- Buddha

Permanent good can never be the outcome of untruth and violence.

- Mahatma Gandhi

Peace does not dwell in outward things, but within the soul; we may preserve it in the midst of the bitterest pain, if our will remains firm and submissive. Peace in this life springs from acquiescence not in an exemption from suffering.

- Francis Fenelon

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

- Galatians 5:22-23

Whom do we love? Muhammad. What do we want? Peace.

- Protesters chanting at rally outside Danish consulate in Toronto.

In all that you do, let yourself be guided by this constant thought: Peace within you and



peace around you, peace always, peace with everyone, peace for everyone.

- Pope John Paul II

Questions

1. Is peace a state of mind? Is it the absence of conflict? Is it the absence of suffering? Is it love in action? Is it simply rest? Is it the ultimate goal for humanity?
2. Is peace an interior reality or dependent on the outside world?
3. What is peace for you?
4. Is peace an important theme to explore? Why?
5. Which of the quotes offers the best insight in your opinion? Why?
6. Which of the quotes are more problematic? Why?

The Source of Social Discord

Individuals, societies and entire civilizations are in conflict. There is no peace in our day or on any day. The clash of peoples and their values seems never-ending in nature. It occurs everywhere and at all times, whether we realize it or not. The battleground may be the classroom, the family, the church, the workplace, the boardroom, the venues of public discussion, the arena of public service, the newspaper pages, radio shows, television programs, and other electronic media. Everyone is engaged in the culture wars, and at the very core there appear to be life issues.

Beneath the surface of “social peace” lurk the painful realities of – abortion, creeping euthanasia, abuse of biotechnology, unethical embryonic research, the manipulation of marriage, and the perversion of sexual relations. How is any peace possible when these conditions prevail?

Peace cannot exist without first recognizing the innate dignity of all human life and respecting the absolute right to life of all human beings. When this principle is honored then it will be possible to engage in meaningful discussions to promote positive relations among human beings of different races and cultures and to have human beings live in harmony with the environment as well.

Peace and harmony are fragile, ephemeral and easily destroyed. People walk in confusion at a loss as to what is right and what is wrong. The law, instead of educating and inculcating respect for moral principles that work for the general good of society, seems to be in league with those forces that promote a culture of death.

Since 1969, when abortion was first legalized, abortion has been a spiritual, moral, economic,

social, and political blight on society. It has helped to sow fear, confusion, and anger. It has helped to produce more poverty and family breakdown. It has contributed to an increasing disrespect for human life and for the dignity of the human person.

Questions

1. Why can it be said that life issues lie at the basis of the culture wars?
2. What is meant by the “culture wars”?
3. How has abortion poisoned social relations in society?

Life Issues in the Recent Federal Election and Its Aftermath

Despite the best cynical efforts of the leaders of the four major parties, life issues played a significant role in the success and failure of candidates in gaining elected political office. In the following editorial Paul Tuns gives an insightful commentary on the election different from those appearing in the mainstream media.

A new moment

The Interim, February, 2006 Paul Tuns

*T*hroughout the course of the winter campaign, then-prime minister Paul Martin frequently taunted Stephen Harper about his supposed “hidden agenda.” Such rhetoric jeopardizes deliberative debate - it prefers innuendo and suspicion to facts and arguments, it is used to scare voters and it panders to their misplaced sympathies and irrational fears. But it is also sbrewd.

Martin’s rhetorical campaign against the Conservatives was not only a scathing insult to pro-life members of every political party but, by implying that such policies and positions were beyond the pale of civilized discussion, the soon-to-be-defeated prime minister delivered a devastating parting shot to Canadian democracy.

Yet, what should have been a last-ditch, desperate effort on the part of a flailing and flagging Liberal campaign turned out to be rather successful. The familiar allegations of a “hidden agenda” stemmed the incipient blue tide and the performance of the Conservative party was well below expectations. This same tactic was used to similar effect in the last election. And, were it not for a host of other problems plaguing the beleaguered governing party, it might have worked again.

It is not surprising that when his prospects looked grim, Martin stooped to these cheap, cynical barbs.

What is surprising is that they were so very effective.

Before asking why being pro-life is considered a “smear,” we must wonder: why does the very possibility of a pro-life government scare some voters? And why are such obvious misstatements so frequently believed?

It certainly has nothing to do with the Conservative platform: in 2005, the party’s delegates established that a “Conservative government will not support any legislation to regulate abortion.” Instead, fears about a “hidden agenda” are really fears about abortion itself. It is not that pro-life MPs might win the debate, but the fact that there might be any debate at all. Indeed, what is scary is not the possible change of the status quo, but that a sober discussion about “social issues” would bring to light something that should remain hidden.

For some Canadian voters, it is truly scary to be reminded about abortion. They need to ignore it, to avoid that dimly perceived fear that the heart which beats on the ultrasound screen is like their own, to deny the possibility that what is euphemistically concealed by the phrase “right to choose” might, in fact, be infanticide. The frenetic zeal and hysterical pronouncements are not from those who seek to debate this issue, but from those who would avoid it at all costs.

Abortion is scary and, therefore, hidden. The threat to some Canadian voters is not that it will be stopped, but that it will be examined. Extreme and undemocratic rhetoric is a heavy price for silence, but it is one that some Canadians seem willing to pay.

What was the response to Martin’s attacks? Nothing. Harper answered Martin’s toxic rhetoric with corrosive silence. And while Martin’s strategy was cynical but shrewd, Harper’s response was both intellectually evasive and politically disastrous.

Just before the election, abortionist Henry Morgentaler indulged in hysterical rhetoric at press conferences in Toronto and Montreal, repeating many of the unfounded charges that Martin had made throughout the campaign; namely, that the Tories had a hidden agenda to ban or, at the very least, restrict abortion. And the Tory reaction to these attacks? A press release from Edmonton MP Rona Ambrose, assuring voters that Harper would uphold the status quo: “Stephen Harper has said on many different occasions that there will be no legislation to regulate abortion under his watch.”

So what was gained by Harper’s decision to ignore the pro-abortion legacy of recent governments and

Paul Martin’s radical policy on same-sex “marriage”? The Conservatives still had to face a media which assumed the worst (in their minds, at least) about them anyway, and which would have misrepresented whatever position they took on abortion. In most major cities, they still had to face the irrational, unjustified and immature fears of pro-abortion voters who didn’t believe them and would not support them, even if they did. By distancing himself from the pro-life members of his own party, Harper undermined his colleagues and insulted grassroots voters and volunteers.

The fact is that Stephen Harper made abortion an issue when he decided to avoid it. He made the notwithstanding clause an issue when he said he would not use it. His response to Martin’s rhetoric was that the charges were unfounded because he agreed with Martin on abortion.

Harper could have campaigned against late-term abortions, about which even Morgentaler has “concerns.” Harper could have seized upon a government-commissioned report recommending that polygamy be legalized. Instead, in what was a low point of a bad campaign, the Conservative Party issued a string of odious press releases quoting Liberals making “socially conservative” statements.

Harper’s response to these “attacks” on his party was to repeat them about the Liberals, thereby marginalizing the pro-life position even further, and causing possible fissures in the Conservative Party he had worked so hard to unify. Throughout the campaign, Harper argued that the Liberals lacked the “moral authority” to govern, but, on social issues, he was unwilling to demonstrate any moral leadership whatsoever.

The leaders of both parties showed contempt for the countless pro-life Canadians who have been so active in public life for so long. Canadians who believe in the sanctity of life and marriage – both Liberals and Conservatives – should feel betrayed.

But, for all this, a Conservative minority provides new challenges – and opportunities – for pro-life Canadians. The defeat of Paul Martin raises the possibility of a new direction in Canadian politics: one of true clarity and of honest dialogue. It now falls to pro-life MPs of all parties to propose a new, moral vision of Canadian society, to show that Canadian values have nothing to do with the culture of death. This is a debate that Canada needs to have.

At a press conference at the very outset of the campaign, Mr. Harper was asked if he loved Canada. Now, as the prime minister of the country, he has an

opportunity to answer the question.

*Mr. Harper, if you love Canada, defend the family.
And defend human life.*

Questions

1. According to Tuns, how is the democratic process undermined by the leaders' use of the abortion issue?
2. Was it good politics for Martin to use it as a scare tactic against Harper? Was it a successful tactic? Was it designed to maintain "social peace"?
3. Is it a smear tactic to accuse a candidate of being pro-life? Why?
4. According to Tuns, what would some people find frightening about a truly pro-life parliament?
5. *"Extreme and undemocratic rhetoric is a heavy price for silence, but it is one that some Canadians seem willing to pay".* Are Canadian voters complicit in a conspiracy of silence on certain issues?
6. What does Tuns find hopeful about the election results?
7. Can any political competition be free of controversy? Why not?

Restoring True Social Peace

There are people who try to defend innocent children in their mother's womb – the same yet-to-be-born children too often seen as inconveniences, obstacles to self-fulfillment and liberation.

Some educators speak and teach about a topic that many consider taboo. Joe Bissonnette, of Brantford Ontario, is a teacher in the Catholic tradition. He explains that it is possible to teach young people how to think and how to place in a moral context the great life issue of our time - abortion. Joe presents a manual on how to go about starting a school club devoted to learning about the proper respect for human life and human dignity.

NOTE: The timelines outlined in the manual are in fact very flexible and easily modified to suit the circumstances of individual schools. Joe Bissonnette was addressing the manual to Catholic colleagues. However, the ideas and strategies can be accommodated to other denominational and public schools.

Be Not Afraid

High School Pro Life Group Manual

*Overview of a 16 week Pro-Life Group season
(February 6 - May 26)*

Proposing a Pro Life Group to your Principal

Two key concerns of every Catholic secondary school principal are (1) to create a safe, positive Catholic environment, and (2) to be able to demonstrate a Catholic distinctiveness, which justifies our existence as a separate school system. The establishment of a high school pro life club serves both of these ends. Our students are constantly exposed to violent and promiscuous messages through secular music and media. Naturally these attitudes are brought to our school. School sports and other clubs develop natural virtues. This is good. But we must also boldly proclaim gospel truths. Humans are created in the image of God and deserve love and protection. As a school we must challenge ourselves and challenge society to love both mothers and unborn babies and protect them from abortion.

The primary focus of a high school pro-life group is to be a pro-life presence in the school, to develop confident pro-life leaders and to spread the good news to others. The primary activity of the group is to train students to make one-hour presentations to Grades 7 & 8 students in the feeder schools on fetal development, abortion, the effects of abortion and saving sex for marriage.

Your principal will no doubt want to see the presentation which will be offered to the elementary schools. You should have a copy of the presentation script, along with testimonials about the positive, lifesaving effects these presentations have had at other schools. (see attached appendix)

Preparation for Starting your Pro Life Group

Pre-Launch Preparation.

(1) Contact your local Right to Life group and meet with them to discuss your goals. You must have a Right to Life speaker who can assist with training student speakers and take student speakers to make presentations at local feeder schools. You will not be able to do this as a teacher. The Right to Life speaker may need to get school clearance to be taking pairs of students on these speaking engagements.

(2) Students from your own classes will be the initial core of your pro life group. Invite a speaker from the local Right to Life (see Appendix for phone number) to give presentations to your classes on fetal development, abortion, effects of abortion and saving sex for marriage. Discuss the importance of the issue with classes and form a nucleus of students for the formation of a school group.

(3) In the two days before the meeting, have announcements on the PA. Announcement #1 “Did you know that it is legal to abort a baby at any time through the full nine months of pregnancy? Unborn babies are people too. Join our (school name) pro life group. Our first meeting will be at lunch in room _____, Wednesday February 8. Bring your lunch. All are welcome.” Announcement #2 “21 days after conception your heart was beating and your brain waves could be recorded. You were a person even before you were born. Join our (school name) pro life group. Our first meeting will be at lunch in room _____, Wednesday February 8.

(4) It’s good to begin your first meeting and every meeting with a prayer. One of the daily Scripture readings is always good.

It is good to give students Timbits™ or some other little treat as well. Most other sports and activities are primarily for their amusement. This club provides a chance for them to do something extremely important for God and for those in grave danger. It is comforting to get a little reward.

First Meeting (Wednesday February 8)

Pass around a sheet for student names, grade, homeroom teacher and phone number. (It is a good idea to leave messages in the mailbox of the homeroom teachers on the day of the meeting, reminding students to attend.)

After the prayer briefly introduce yourself, discuss the importance of the issue and have students introduce themselves. Show pro life overview movie, like Alliance for Life Ontario’s “Life” (approx. 20 min.) Close meeting with thanks and encouraging words on what a great opportunity this is for all of us to do something that will save lives.

Second Meeting (Wednesday February 15)

Begin meeting with a prayer (you may have a different student each time). You may want to begin this meeting by giving each student a set of the baby feet (actual size of an unborn baby’s feet at 12 weeks. You can read article “Baby Feet Pins Save Lives”.

Give students an overview of what will be done over the 16 weeks: meeting with local politicians, letters to the newspaper, displays in the school,

presentations to Grades 7 & 8 classes, March for Life in Ottawa.

Give an overview of the Executive Positions which must be filled within the group (President [chairs meetings], Secretary [records minutes], Speakers Bureau [training as speakers to make presentations to Grades 7& 8 classes in feeder schools], Fundraising/Treasurer [a committee appealing to school council, local Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women’s League, school board, OECTA for donations to offset cost of trip to Ottawa. Organize and operate pizza day, sale of baby feet pins etc]). Have them think about how they can best serve and to prepare to volunteer for positions next week.

Third Meeting (Wednesday February 22)

You must select/elect students to assume Executive Positions within the group {President (chairs meetings), Secretary (records minutes), Speakers Bureau (trained as speakers to make presentations to Grades 7 & 8 classes in feeder schools), Fundraising/Treasurer (a committee, appealing to school council, local Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women’s League, school board, OECTA for donations to offset cost of trip to Ottawa. Organize and operate pizza day, sale of baby feet pins etc.) Political Contact person (organizing letters to the editor in local paper, meeting with local Member of Parliament and local Member of Provincial Parliament)}

You will want several people involved in the Speaker’s Bureau and Fundraising.

Inform Grade 12 students of the \$1,500 Fr. Ted Scholarship contest put on by *The Interim* newspaper.

Fourth Meeting (Wednesday February 29)

Distribute scripts for the fetal development and chastity components of the Grade 7 & 8 presentation. Walk through the entire presentation with the whole group. Make a list of pairs (preferably a boy and a girl, never two boys) and schedule presentation rehearsals for each pair.

Fifth Meeting (Wednesday March 1)

Begin rehearsing with pairs. Have students make posters advertising the pro life group and



what it does. Hang posters around the school. Have a student inquire about a display case in the school for a fetal model display (the religious education consultant may have a set, otherwise they can be borrowed from the local Right to Life group).

Bring students to a computer lab and have them visit www.lifesite.net and sign up for the free daily email. This is very important. The more they know the more deeply committed they will become. You may want students to report on **life-site** items at meetings.

Sixth Meeting (Wednesday March 22)

Introduce itinerary, costs and permission forms for Ottawa March for Life. Give students timeline for returning signed forms with \$10 deposit (next week, March 29 is good)

Most areas will already have a bus going to the Ottawa March for Life and offer seats at a reduced cost for students. If there is nothing from your area, a coach from the Toronto area to Ottawa (depart 5:00 am, return 12:00 pm) should run a little over \$2,000. This sounds like a lot, but between fundraising and donations you should be able to get the cost down to \$15 - \$20 per student.



National March for Life Ottawa

Seventh Meeting (Wednesday March 29)

Develop final list of students going on Ottawa trip. Contact bus company or network with area pro life groups to charter a bus together.

Brainstorm fundraising activities to offset cost of Ottawa March for Life. Sell pizza after school (lunch may not be available depending upon agreement with foodservices in cafeteria), sell pro life bracelets, balloons, teddy stickers etc (Lifecycle Books), ask for donations from local Knights of Columbus Councils, Catholic Women's

League, area parishes, the board of education, OEFTA etc. Get students to take responsibility for specific tasks with specific timelines. Be sure to clear fundraising projects with principal.

Eighth Meeting (Wednesday April 5)

Have students report on fundraising progress.

Have class come up with names of Grades 7 & 8 teachers and elementary principals. Have them write to their own former teachers and principals describing the content and the goals of the pro life presentations and then asking for permission to come and make the presentations. (see attached students' letter to their teachers).

Also, send letter from teacher/advisor to principals and Grade 7 & 8 teachers in the high school's area feeder schools. (see attached teacher /advisor letter to principals and teachers)

Ninth Meeting (Wednesday April 12)

Bookings from Grades 7 & 8 teachers should be starting to trickle in. Have a student keep a poster record so that everyone in the group gets a sense of progress.

Have students report on fundraising - sales of baby feet pins, balloons, pizza, and donations from Knights of Columbus, C.W.L., student council, board of education, parishes, OEFTA.

It is important to continue to develop and cultivate students' knowledge of pro life issues. Have students read article on abortion and the law in Canada.

Tenth Meeting (Wednesday April 19)

Have students report on fundraising progress. It may be time to praise those who are performing and give extra support where needed.

Poll those at the meeting to see which two students from the group should be recommended for the Campaign Life Coalition Student Pro Life Prizes (see attached description of prizes).

Eleventh Meeting (Wednesday April 26)

Have student report on fundraising progress.

Have two students from the group approach the editor of the local paper and offer to write a story about what your student pro life group is doing. They should bring an outline and pictures of students making a presentation to a 7/8 class. Emphasis should be on how abortion is not a good choice for babies of women and how today's youth are more pro-life than pro-abortion.

Have two students from the group approach

the community events reporter for the local tv news show. They should bring an outline of what it is the group does with special emphasis on the presentation to 7/8 classes. Emphasis should be on how abortion is not a good choice for babies and women and how today's youth are more pro-life than pro-abortion. Also, the students teaching students angle should play well on tv.

Twelfth Meeting (Wednesday May 3)

Have students report on fundraising progress.

Now is a great time to sell pizza and pop after school and/or baby feet pin at lunch. Both activities will raise funds and raise the profile of the group in the school. More students will find the courage to openly describe themselves as pro-life as the group gains profile and becomes mainstream. Talk with students about the importance of keeping the issue and the group front and center.

Thirteenth Meeting (Wednesday May 10)

Invite principal to attend a lunchtime meeting. It is important to maintain a good relationship with administration. Make sure a large number of students show up for this meeting.

The Annual March for Life occurs on Thursday May 11 in Ottawa. It would be great to have a busload of students to go to the march and participate in this important public manifestation of resolve, concern, and action on behalf of the untold victims of abortion.

Newspaper article about the group should have appeared by now. Review all that your group achieved this year and have students brainstorm for activities for next year.

Fourteenth Meeting (Wednesday May 17)

Ask local pregnancy center if they will send a speaker during the school day. Book large hall in the school and invite Religion classes and others to attend.) Launch baby food and baby clothes drive at the school to be donated to crisis pregnancy center.

Fifteenth Meeting (Wednesday May 24)

Make list of groups which have donated money, teachers who have hosted speakers and anyone else who has helped the group. Have members of the group write thank you letters.

Encourage students to stay in contact with each other and other pro life students throughout the summer and beyond. Making supportive pro-life friendships is an important part of building the culture of life. Jesus' parable about the sower and

the seed.

Sixteenth Meeting (Wednesday May 31)

Devote the meeting to a celebration of the successes achieved. Share photos, videos that capture some of the events involving the club. Have an end of the year social.

Appendix:

The following information can be obtained directly by emailing Joe Bissonnette

joe_france@hotmail.com

Pro Life Websites
Pro Life University Groups
Pro Life Movies
Fetal Development
Abortion Statistics
Hard Cases - Rape, Incest, Handicap
Effects of Abortion on women
Effects of Abortion on men
Abortion and Breast Cancer
Contraception
Overpopulation/ Environment
Responding to pro abortion teachers on staff

Questions/Suggestions

If you have experience in this field or suggestions to make please share them with Joe.

1. What are some of the most difficult challenges facing a group that wants to start up a pro-life club?

Canadian hockey hero makes a 'kick save'

Donald DeMarco, *The Interim* February 2006

It was Thursday night, Jan. 6, 2006. The site: GM Place in Vancouver, B.C. Canada had just won the world junior hockey championship by vanquishing the Russian finalists by a score of 5-0. The hero of the night, and of the series, was 19-year-old Justin Pogge (sounds like Poge). He had distinguished himself on this occasion by stopping 35 shots on net. It was his third shutout of the series, an overall accomplishment, unique in tournament play that fully warranted his being cast in the spotlight as the "man of the hour."

During the post-game celebration, he tipped his new world junior champion baseball cap to a wildly exuberant crowd, a gesture that acknowledged the regular chanting of his name – Pogge, Pogge, Pogge – resounding throughout the packed arena during the game, as well as during the entire series.

Goalies are supposed to make saves: pad saves, stick saves, skate saves and kick saves. It was the latter type, his very first, however, and one that took place away from the hockey rink and the roaring crowd that was by far his most important, for it saved not merely a goal, but two lives.

Let us wind the clock back some 19 years. Here we find 22-year-old Annet Pogge attending her engagement party. It was an elaborate affair, to which 126 friends and relatives came to offer their best wishes. If the hopes of the well-wishers proved effective, however, it was not for any forthcoming marriage, but for something entirely different, though certainly not less significant.

Annet was four months pregnant. When she informed her boyfriend of her condition, he walked out on her, leaving his now ex-fiancée with the humiliating task of explaining to the expectant guests why there would be no marriage.

Her rejection, humiliation and ruined hope were too much for her to bear. She left the party that evening and walked to a bridge that spanned a river in her hometown of Fort McMurray, Alta. She could drown all her sorrows at once by a single act.

“Just when I was thinking of doing it,” she told Toronto’s Globe and Mail, “when I was thinking of terminating everything, not just the pregnancy, but me, I felt a kick. It was light but I felt it. It was the first real sign of life,” she said. “I remember thinking, ‘Oh God. This is a sign. God wants me to live.’ I couldn’t end my life then. I couldn’t.”

The kick that signaled life defeated the pain that almost led to tragedy. This victory was one that Annet Pogge had to re-enact again and again before her son could begin executing his kick saves for large, enthusiastic audiences on a world stage.

Annet experienced financial hardship and made many sacrifices in keeping her son and allowing him to stay in hockey. She told him the story of that nearly fatal moment on the bridge, long before she told anyone else. As she explained to the Edmonton Sun, she wanted him to know that he was born out of love and that it was his action, gentle and unconscious though it was, that saved her from ending both their lives.

Two golden moments, one mirroring the other. The second, amidst fanfare and jubilation on a frozen ice surface in Vancouver. “Canada smashes Russia, takes gold,” was the headline of one Canadian newspaper. The first, alone on a bridge overlooking a watery

grave, except for a gentle kick that reminded her that her life should be lived and not thrown away. The more golden moment by far was the one in which a kick save by an unborn child of four months kicked out despair and death.

The Toronto Maple Leafs of the National Hockey League have already signed Justin Pogge. By all indications, he has a most promising career ahead as a professional goaltender. His story is an invaluable reminder to all of us, however, that hockey at its best is just a metaphor, though one whose significance we should trouble ourselves to understand. Keeping a puck from crossing the goal line pales in importance when compared with what it symbolizes in the form of preventing discouragement from entering our hearts and threatening to destroy our lives and the lives of others who depend on us.

The task of the goalie, as we have mentioned, is to make saves. The word save is etymologically related to the word salvation. The best thing about sports is that it reminds us of a struggle that transcends itself, ultimately, between hope and despair, good and evil, life and death. We would be wise never to sever this link. The major difference between sports’ symbolism and life is that only in life can we all be winners.

“For of all sad words of tongue or pen,” wrote the poet John Greenleaf Whittier, “The saddest are these: ‘It might have been!’” Canada’s gold did happen, but it might not have been without their goalie who himself might not have been except for his mother’s love. This is a good story. But how many sad stories are there of things that “might have been” that cannot be told?



Questions

1. What is the analogy that De Marco makes? What do you think of his analogy?
2. What major life challenges did Annet Pogge have to face because of her decision following the “kick”?
3. In what way is the concluding statement of the article a sobering thought concerning the tragedy of abortion?
4. Overall, is this an inspiring article? Why is this angle on sports not get any attention in the mainstream press?
5. Would such articles bring about greater sense of peace?