

The Interim

PLUS + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + Curriculum Supplement For Schools

The *Interim Plus* is a periodical dedicated to educational matters and specifically designed to assist teachers in integrating relevant life issues in their lesson planning.

Editor

Dan Di Rocco

Editorial Board

Dan Di Rocco, Alissa Golob, Matt Dineen

The Interim Plus is published Bi-Monthly by
The Interim Publishing Company
104 Bond St. Toronto, ON M5B 1X9

Date: November 2011

Edition: Volume 11 No. 2
interimplus@theinterim.com

Contents:

180 MOVIE p.1

Canada's Demographic Challenge p. 2

Immigration Trends for Canada p. 5

Father Ted Colleton Scholarship Reminder p. 9

Remembrance Day Poems p. 9-10

A Useful Video?

A new powerful film video has gone viral on the internet. The video is a 30 minute film on the topic of abortion and its comparison to the Jewish holocaust. The film offers an arresting approach and stimulates thinking about the controversial issues.



Although the video has an American context, the issue has a truly universal dimension and can legitimately be explored in a Canadian classroom as well. Both in Canada and in the United States there is virtually abortion on demand, with the situation being even more dire in Canada because there is no law limiting

abortion in any way from the time of conception right up to the actual birth of the child. The harm is incalculable for all of society.

This *180* movie produced by Ray Comfort could make a difference to the way young people think about abortion. The teacher can be the judge as to its appropriateness and its potential as a teaching tool. Here are some suggestions in the way of preliminary preparations and some questions the educator might formulate when planning a lesson on the video.

- ❖ Watch the 33 minute video a few times in advance.
- ❖ Write a brief summary of the main points and then prepare a short introduction for the students as to the general theme.
- ❖ Provide a brief historical background or context for your students regarding the Jewish holocaust so they can understand the video.



World War on the Innocent?

22 million killed in World War I (1914-1918)

62 million killed in World War II (1939-1945)

12 million killed in Stalin's starving of Ukrainians(1932-33)

43 million killed in Mao Tse Tung's Great Leap Forward in China (1959-1961)

53 million killed by abortion in the United States 1973-2011

48 million killed by abortion in Japan 1949-2005

3.5 million killed by abortion in Canada 1969-2011

949.5 million killed by abortion worldwide 1922-2009

672 million killed by abortion worldwide since 1995

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wars_and_anthropogenic_disasters_by_death_toll

http://www.gutmacher.org/pubs/fb_IAW.html#r1

<http://www.johnstonsarchive.net/policy/abortion/index.html>

- ❖ Hand out an introduction sheet in which some basic facts re abortion are listed (e.g., number of abortions committed in Canada, the United States and rest of the world. The enormity of the numbers killed through abortion boggles the mind.
- ❖ Prepare discussion questions for class time.
- ❖ Assign questions that can be used by students to reflect further on it at home.
- ❖ Create a short quiz based on the video.
- ❖ Watch the video together as a class either projected from computer or on small computer screen if in a computer lab.
- ❖ A possible follow up activity is for a group of four to five students to find similar short videos of their own to present to the class.

Questions

1. Who is Ray Comfort?
2. What is the aim of the 180 film?
3. Where does the interviewing take place?
4. How typical are the youths interviewed?
5. How does Ray Comfort make a link between Hitler and abortion?
6. What are the key questions asked by Ray Comfort? Are the questions leading questions or are they fair ones? Do the students give silly answers, or credible ones?
7. What do you know about Hitler? Do you have knowledge any better than many of the students interviewed in the film?
8. What do some of the students think about Christianity?
9. Were any of the interviewees obnoxious to you? Why?
10. Is the swastika really a twisted cross?
11. List the various reasons given as to why abortion might be justified. Do these arguments make sense?
12. Are the analogies presented by Ray Comfort reasonable ones? How did the interviewees answer the question "it's okay to kill a baby in the womb when ___?"
13. What convinced many of the interviewees to change their mind regarding abortion?
14. List three examples of situational ethics used to justify murder? Would you agree? (Bulldozing a building, driving the bulldozer over the Jews or be killed, being ordered to shoot someone or you will be shot)
15. Would it have been justified to kill the mother of Hitler in order to kill Hitler?
16. Would you do it? What about Osama Bin Laden? Muammar Ghaddafi? Saddam Hussein? Bill Clinton? Winston Churchill? Julius Caesar? Mao Tse Tung? George Bush? Wall Street Financiers? Why would your answer possibly differ in these various cases?
17. Do people value human life? What do those statistics in the box above suggest? How and why did the situation even worsen since 1995?
18. Can one believe in justice? How can one make sense out of these statistics of mass slaughter?
19. What follow up action should believers take to stop abortion? Voting? Demonstrating? Protest specific actions? Defunding of abortion? Volunteer at a crisis pregnancy centre? Praying? Writing letters to politicians? Writing letters to the editors? Joining a movement? Working on a political campaign?

There is a promising pro-life feature film slated for release in the spring of 2012. It may prove to be a strong film, good quality and a positive point of view.

<http://www.octoberbabymovie.net/resources>



Canada's Demographic Challenge

Judging from the news and talk show programs, Canada faces a demographic crisis of sorts. This brings into question the country's immigration policy as a possible answer to the problems.



Canada has had a controlled immigration policy all through its history, when it was known as New France or later when it was as a part of the British Empire. The reasons people were drawn to Canada varied as well.

The sources of immigration originally came mainly from the British Isles and Ireland in the 19th century, and from northern, eastern and southern Europe in the first seven decades of the 20th century. With the

Trudeau government's policy of official multiculturalism in the 1970s immigration to Canada became quite diverse, with large numbers entering from Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Africa. Most recently, the source has favoured China, South Asia and the Philippines.

All nations take a stand on immigration and may adopt policies that are quite welcoming and others are that are quite restrictive or selective. Generally Canada can be counted among the nations that have been welcoming.

However, there is always a debate regarding the policy to be adopted. Not surprisingly, there is a burgeoning debate regarding immigration policy once more: questions as to the purposes of immigration; how many immigrants can be accommodated; the effects of immigration on the host country; and, whether it is good to have a relatively open immigration system. Many recognize that immigration impacts on the very nature of Canada, its economy, its racial and cultural composition, and the respect for human rights.

Some observers express concern with any cutback to immigration, fearing that Canada's population will not be stabilized due to a dying baby boomers generation and lack of adequate replacement of them in the work force due to a slow Canadian birth rate. Others question the wisdom of letting in large numbers of immigrants into a nation that has serious economic challenges of unemployment. In an article that appeared in the *Toronto Star* on July 17 of 2011 (<http://www.thestar.com/printarticle/10262320>) *Immigration to Canada drops by 25 per cent* – author Nicholas Keung, noted that in the first quarter of 2011

Canada let 25 per cent fewer immigrants into the country compared to the same period in 2010, "raising concerns the Conservative government is embarking on a bold plan to restrict the country's immigration levels." He pointed out that "...over the last 15 years, Canada's annual immigration levels have remained around 250,000, about 0.8 per cent of the population."

Drop in immigrant acceptance in the first quarter of 2011 by class of immigrant

Class	2010	2011	Change
Federal skilled workers	27,824	16,836	-39%
Quebec skilled workers	8,904	8,239	-7%
Federal business immigts	1,883	1,831	-3%
Quebec business immigts	1,179	1,321	+2%
Provincial nominees	11,463	9,426	-18%
Live-in caregivers	4,714	2,897	-39%
Canadian experience class	1,241	713	-43%
Total Economic Class	57,208	41,263	-28%
Spouses and children	12,427	11,017	-11%
Parents and grandparents	4,039	3,112	-23%
Total Family Class	16,466	14,129	-14%
Government-assisted refugees	2,051	1,697	-17%
Privately sponsored refugees	1,112	1,535	-38%
Refugees within Canada	3,688	1,971	-47%
Refugees' dependants abroad	653	739	+13%
Humanitarian cases	2,868	1,866	-35%
Others	3,721		-43%
Total Humanitarian Class	10,409	7,829	-25%

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2010-summary/01.asp>

Citizenship and Immigration Canada is the federal department responsible for putting Canada's immigration legislation into action. In a 2006-2007 document it described the government's plans for immigration in the future and the expected benefits for Canada. It had noted that *"like many other industrialized countries, Canada is facing significant demographic changes. According to Statistics Canada, sometime between 2025 and 2030, the number of births to Canadian parents will equal the number of deaths. If Canada's population is to continue to grow, immigration will be the source of this growth, unless birth and death rates change. These demographic factors are also slowing Canada's labour force growth (the number of people who can work) which is key to ensuring economic growth. It is projected that sometime between 2011 and 2016, the number of Canadians entering the labour force will equal the number of people retiring. Without immigration, Canada's labour force will shrink."*

2006-2007 Report on Plans and Priorities, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, p. 5.



The repercussions of a shrinking labour force would be serious for the Canadian economy and the nation's standard of living. It would affect pension plans, family wealth and health, employment patterns, regional growth, national security, and a host of other matters.

People know that there are costs of settlement services associated with new immigrants and that the availability of such resources can impact on the number of immigrants to be let in and be appropriately absorbed. But tightening up the process may result in bigger backlogs, especially for sponsored relatives and refugees. Family reunification may suffer.

Meanwhile, Anne Golden, president and CEO of the Conference Board of Canada echoes the warning that with an aging population, Canada's "immigration levels will need to be raised to 350,000 annually to support Canada's economic growth."

Realistically, it appears that Canada needs more immigrants. Should there be any criteria for the admission of immigrants, the number of immigrants, the type of immigrant, etc.? For the long term, should Canada change its policies concerning reproductive rights and the needs of society?

Questions

1. Assign students to research Canada's current immigration policy, taking into consideration
 - a) purpose
 - b) criteria
 - c) main sources
 - d) yearly quotas

2. Does immigration aim to meet Canada's workforce needs?
3. Should an immigration policy meet the needs of Canada or the needs of the immigrant primarily?
4. Why do you think immigration criteria exist?
5. Why might Canadians have different views and perspectives on these criteria?
6. What is the point system for accepting immigrants?
7. Which criteria should take precedence or priority?
8. No one today is excluded from Canada because of their race or country of origin. The point system, for example, evaluates people based on their skills and education. What are some advantages and disadvantages of Canada's point system?
9. Why do you think Canada's immigration policies have changed over time? How do you think they might change in the future?
10. How are Canada's immigration laws today different than in the past?
11. Is Canada's immigration policy fair?
12. What is the basic thrust of that policy?
13. How has the source factor changed over the last 5 decades?
14. How is this changing the composition of the country? What is happening to the balance within Confederation, among the regions and the provinces?
15. Which provinces are gaining and which are losing ground? Do provinces influence immigration laws and policies? How?
16. What is happening to the language and cultural make-up of the country?
17. Is multiculturalism more entrenched or in danger because of this large influx of immigrants?
18. Is it fair to have so many foreign students studying in Canada? Does it restrict opportunities for native-born Canadians?
19. What are some key questions to ask concerning immigration policy and actual results?
20. What connection is there between immigration policy and the demographic problem facing Canada?

Follow up activities and questions

1. How might a person residing in different regions or provinces of Canada view the problem or issue of immigration?
2. What are some advantages and disadvantages of Canada's point system?
3. Working with a group of two or three, develop your own criteria for accepting new immigrants into the country and provide an explanation or the reasons for your criteria.
4. Choose a provincial or federal immigration issue currently in the news and write a letter to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration or to your local MP or MPP stating your position on this issue. Express your recommendations for how you think the government should respond to the issue.
5. Propose a pro-life solution to the immigration and demographic problem that Canada faces. Write to your MP or MPP and share this recommendation with them.



Canada - Permanent residents by category, 2006-2010

Category	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Spouses and partners	45,305	44,912	44,209	43,901	40,764
Sons and daughters	3,191	3,338	3,254	3,025	2,955
Parents and grandparents	20,005	15,813	16,600	17,178	15,324
Others	2,016	2,179	1,519	1,100	1,177
Family class	70,517	66,242	65,582	65,204	60,220
Entrepreneurs - principal applicants	820	580	446	370	291
Entrepreneurs - spouses and dependants	2,273	1,577	1,255	945	796
Self-employed - principal applicants	320	204	164	181	174
Self-employed - spouses and dependants	632	375	341	358	326
Investors - principal applicants	2,201	2,025	2,832	2,872	3,223
Investors - spouses and dependants	5,830	5,420	7,370	7,434	8,492
Skilled workers - principal applicants	44,161	41,251	43,361	40,733	48,821
Skilled workers - spouses and dependants	61,782	56,601	60,373	55,220	70,536
Canadian Experience Class - applicants	0	0	0	1,775	2,532
Canadian Experience Class - and dependants	0	0	0	770	1,385
Provincial/territorial nominees - principal applicants	4,672	6,329	8,343	11,801	13,856
Provincial/territorial nominees - spouses and dependants	8,664	10,765	14,075	18,578	22,572
Live-in caregivers - principal applicants	3,547	3,433	6,157	6,273	7,664
Live-in caregivers - spouses and dependants	3,348	2,685	4,354	6,181	6,245
Economic immigrants	138,250	131,245	149,071	153,491	186,913
Government-assisted refugees	7,326	7,572	7,295	7,425	7,264
Privately sponsored refugees	3,338	3,588	3,512	5,036	4,833
Refugees landed in Canada	15,884	11,696	6,994	7,206	9,041
Refugee dependants	5,952	5,098	4,057	3,183	3,558
Refugees	32,500	27,954	21,858	22,850	24,696
DROC and PDRCC**	23	15	2	4	0
Temporary resident permit holders	136	107	113	106	109
H and C cases	4,312	4,346	3,452	3,142	2,900
Other H and C cases outside the family class / Public Policy	5,902	6,844	7,168	7,374	5,836
Other immigrants	10,373	11,312	10,735	10,626	8,845
Category not stated	2	1	2	1	7
Grand Total	251,642	236,754	247,248	252,172	280,681

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2010-summary/05.asp>

Questions

1. Is there a proper balance between classes of immigrants to Canada based on this chart?
2. Are the needs of Canada being met or rather the needs of the immigrants?

Canada - Total entries of foreign students by province or territory and urban area, 2006-2010

Urban area	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
St. John's	225	321	337	402	440
Other Newfoundland and Labrador	207	250	317	128	108
Newfoundland and Labrador	432	571	654	530	548
Charlottetown	134	170	224	292	233
Other Prince Edward Island	33	45	35	33	22
Prince Edward Island	167	215	259	325	255
Halifax	1,369	1,497	1,742	1,869	2,341
Other Nova Scotia	659	670	785	735	1,053
Nova Scotia	2,028	2,167	2,527	2,604	3,394
Fredericton	337	327	360	432	476
Moncton	264	348	433	400	391
Saint John	171	185	186	246	218
Other New Brunswick	274	322	350	343	311
New Brunswick	1,046	1,182	1,329	1,421	1,396
Montréal	9,479	10,191	10,091	11,364	11,558
Québec	1,068	946	1,037	1,036	1,144
Sherbrooke	572	602	565	549	617
Trois-Rivières	324	243	214	273	232
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	122	164	158	166	160
Ottawa-Gatineau (Quebec part)	130	109	87	105	131
Rimouski	151	127	88	106	130
Other Quebec	726	638	697	534	648
Quebec	12,572	13,020	12,937	14,133	14,620
Toronto	13,778	13,661	15,172	18,312	25,304
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario part)	1,976	1,922	2,162	2,342	2,957
Hamilton	1,368	1,376	1,489	1,694	1,880
London	1,152	1,302	1,553	1,430	1,660
Kitchener	936	953	1,067	1,137	1,278
St. Catharines-Niagara	844	826	918	1,088	1,071
Windsor	768	786	762	619	659
Kingston	411	417	420	411	417
Barrie	216	204	181	270	366
Guelph	349	343	362	379	354
Sarnia	48	83	79	118	288
Peterborough	251	218	251	257	275
Greater Sudbury	131	147	190	189	243
Oshawa	179	168	185	183	210
North Bay	87	106	106	74	112
Belleville	133	108	100	88	97
Other Ontario	1,942	1,857	1,804	1,928	1,977
Ontario	24,569	24,477	26,801	30,519	39,148

Canada - Total entries of foreign students by province or territory and urban area, 2006-2010

Urban area	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Winnipeg	1,331	1,253	1,413	1,714	1,797
Other Manitoba	311	309	318	348	313
Manitoba	1,642	1,562	1,731	2,062	2,110
Saskatoon	533	606	649	619	648
Regina	429	424	534	639	569
Other Saskatchewan	306	239	251	204	219
Saskatchewan	1,268	1,269	1,434	1,462	1,436
Calgary	2,556	2,367	2,664	2,352	2,431
Edmonton	1,647	1,906	2,299	2,214	2,233
Lethbridge	182	166	147	180	197
Other Alberta	984	852	1,012	784	862
Alberta	5,369	5,291	6,122	5,530	5,723
Vancouver	16,243	17,556	18,572	20,157	20,488
Victoria	656	582	680	655	687
Nanaimo	359	391	414	301	353
Kelowna	280	266	319	266	328
Abbotsford	472	364	348	360	317
Kamloops	273	327	322	372	309
Prince George	123	132	152	167	197
Other British Columbia	4,255	4,619	4,880	4,289	4,816
British Columbia	22,661	24,237	25,687	26,567	27,495
Territories**	35	37	42	23	26
Province/territory not stated	0	3	6	2	6
Total	71,789	74,031	79,529	85,178	96,157

** Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut

Questions

- Are there too many foreign students in Canada?
- Why does the government allow so many in?
- Why do so many foreign students choose to come to Canada for their studies?
- Do the students contribute to the Canadian economy or do they harm that economy?
- Where are the largest concentrations of foreign students? Why? Is this surprising?
- What restrictions if any would you recommend regarding the presence of foreign students in Canada?

Canada - Total entries of foreign workers by province or territory and urban area, 2006-2010

Urban area	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
St. John's	169	225	213	350	227
Other Newfoundland and Labrador	800	1,015	1,088	1,043	979
Newfoundland and Labrador	969	1,240	1,301	1,393	1,206
Charlottetown	137	109	230	282	258
Other Prince Edward Island	73	109	220	242	275

Canada - Total entries of foreign workers by province or territory and urban area, 2006-2010

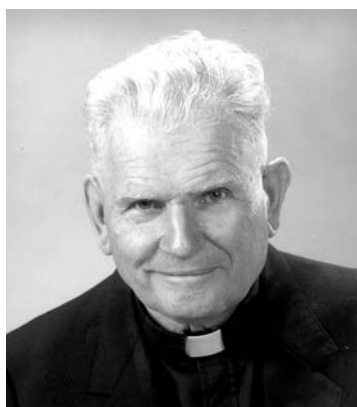
Urban area	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Halifax	946	1,038	1,311	1,651	1,389
Other Nova Scotia	757	631	818	1,146	1,116
Nova Scotia	1,703	1,669	2,129	2,797	2,505
Moncton	156	189	233	242	317
Saint John	203	282	370	452	246
Fredericton	148	140	201	232	207
Other New Brunswick	533	681	906	777	922
New Brunswick	1,040	1,292	1,710	1,703	1,692
Montréal	13,810	15,371	15,764	19,906	21,665
Québec	1,357	1,377	1,653	1,882	2,117
Sherbrooke	230	238	248	286	303
Ottawa-Gatineau (Quebec part)	129	143	162	186	211
Trois-Rivières	142	99	124	135	154
Rimouski	46	44	54	91	119
Other Quebec	4,530	5,217	6,233	5,415	5,769
Quebec	20,244	22,489	24,238	27,901	30,338
Toronto	19,207	22,779	26,463	25,621	30,384
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario part)	3,040	3,113	3,003	2,708	2,991
Hamilton	840	926	1,042	950	1,073
Kitchener	707	816	863	708	860
London	832	847	892	842	799
Windsor	906	1,195	753	532	659
St. Catharines-Niagara	582	480	543	571	541
Oshawa	690	409	572	346	440
Guelph	336	306	376	359	380
Sarnia	346	410	402	325	339
Norfolk	38	46	57	82	181
Kingston	106	114	162	113	157
Thunder Bay	138	159	164	151	154
Barrie	118	117	176	121	136
Greater Sudbury	180	206	193	265	130
Other Ontario	30,986	32,077	31,064	27,519	26,848
Ontario	59,052	64,000	66,725	61,213	66,072
Winnipeg	1,757	2,149	2,013	1,732	1,731
Other Manitoba	1,237	1,774	2,194	1,920	1,572
Manitoba	2,994	3,923	4,207	3,652	3,303
Saskatoon	605	846	1,179	1,222	895
Regina	371	477	775	998	817
Other Saskatchewan	920	1,149	1,699	1,718	1,416
Saskatchewan	1,896	2,472	3,653	3,938	3,128

Canada - Total entries of foreign workers by province or territory and urban area, 2006-2010

Urban area	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Calgary	6,103	8,804	11,555	8,905	8,194
Edmonton	3,017	6,118	8,292	6,197	5,358
Wood Buffalo	516	589	1,002	618	630
Lethbridge	211	308	382	372	323
Red Deer	210	455	440	367	303
Medicine Hat	149	144	219	276	227
Other Alberta	8,301	12,944	17,214	11,880	8,994
Alberta	18,507	29,362	39,104	28,615	24,029
Vancouver	18,122	19,564	24,858	24,417	25,520
Kelowna	397	511	871	660	504
Victoria	505	538	319	1,463	397
Abbotsford	383	310	294	273	189
Other British Columbia	11,653	15,543	20,591	17,603	19,327
British Columbia	31,060	36,466	46,933	44,416	45,937
Whitehorse	84	86	108	137	154
Other Yukon	117	71	127	102	112
Yukon	201	157	235	239	266
Yellowknife	72	15	29	33	27
Other Northwest Territories	189	382	222	116	200
Northwest Territories	261	397	251	149	227
Nunavut	90	137	43	175	52
Province/territory not stated	773	898	1,201	1,553	2,988
Total	139,000	164,720	192,180	178,268	182,276

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, RDM, Facts and Figures 2010

Reminder



The deadline for submissions of application and essay component for the Father Ted Colleton Scholarship is November 30, 2011. Please remind students and encourage them to participate. It is worthwhile noting that some teachers have made the essay topic part of their own classroom course writing assignments. As pointed out in the past this approach permits

the student to achieve two objectives with a single effort.

The essay topic does not call for the student to explain the evil of abortion, but rather what evidence is there that a pro-lifer has cause to be optimistic for the eventual ending of abortion in Canada, the ultimate goal of the pro-life Canadians.

Is there cause for pro-life hope regarding the abortion issue

in Canada?

Details regarding the scholarship program along with application form can be found at www.theinterim.com. Simply direct students to click on the image of the scholarship information on the right hand side or use the following URL

<http://www.theinterim.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Scholarship-brochure-2011-12.pdf>

Poems for Remembrance Day

Death is always near, standing by. It is a fact of life. War is unnatural. It brings untimely death and destruction to human beings. Today, war still rages around the world, many decades after conflicts dubbed as world wars came to an end.

Every November 11 memorial services are held across many nations, in cities and villages, to thank those who sacrificed their lives and to reflect on the meaning of life. Prayers, silence, reflection, laying of wreaths, somber music punctuate the services.

Many gave so much to save a way of life, permitting a nation

like Canada to grow. We owe gratitude to those past generations. We enjoy freedoms denied to others who went before us. Are we betraying their sacrifices when we permit practices like abortion to blight our land? Is this what their spilt blood won for us – the right to kill innocent life in the womb? It is a question well worth asking and one we need to answer.

The horror of war has been expressed in film, in plays, in novels, art, music and song. Some of the most poignant have been poems. We include two poems for reflection. The website where the poems can be found is

http://www.warpoetry.co.uk/RemembranceB.htm#Anthem_for_doomed_youth

Anthem for doomed youth *

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?
 Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
 Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle
 Can patter out their hasty orisons.
 No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor bells;
 Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs, -
 The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;
 And bugles calling for them from sad shires.
 What candles may be held to speed them all?
 Not in the hands of boys but in their eyes
 Shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes.
 The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;
 Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,
 And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.

Wilfred Owen
 September - October, 1917



Wilfred Owen was killed at Ors, near the French Belgian border, on 4 November 1918, at the age of 25.

Remembrance Day

She stands in the cold
 Her black cloth coat
 Suits the occasion
 But fails to keep her warm
 Despite the gleam of silver
 At her breast.
 Her thoughts circle round:
 "Why did we have another war?
 Didn't we lose enough men already?
 Why did my sons have to die?"

O God, keep me upright.
 Help me not to scream
 Out their names.
 "What will we have for dinner tonight?
 What would Joey and Bill have wanted?
 It's so hard to have faith...
 It's so hard to have hope...
 Why did my sons have to die?
 Jesus, you comforted your mother
 As she stood and watched you die.
 If I pray hard enough
 Will you bring comfort to me?
 "If that preacher says 'Noble Sacrifice'
 One more time I'll scream...
 I'll scream out their names
 So hard the dead will hear me.
 Only this time, I'll scream out loud
 Instead of in my heart."
 But she doesn't scream...
 She stands beside the Honour Guard
 Who are older than her sons
 Were when they died.
 The people nearby watch her,
 Wondering how she can stand
 So still, so calm,
 Knowing she lost two boys,
 Thinking she has lost her grief
 After all these years
 When to her it might
 Have been today.

Clare Stewart
 Copyright © 20 November, 2000

Clare Stewart also hosts a Remembrance Art Show on the web every November for the entire month. Here is the link.

<http://www.cscomps.on.ca>
<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/>



This is a good site for reference purposes and for interesting activities for Remembrance Day.

http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/teach_resources

