

PLAN WITH THE PASTOR



Sunday January 19 was Sanctity of Human Life Day. February 14 in our society has become a special day to express our joy and delight in others.

Many special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, etc., give us opportunities to let people know their value. The "world view" that each person embraces will eventually be reflected in his or her relationships and decisions concerning the value of others. In our society there are two great value systems in constant conflict. The one identified as "Secular Humanism" basically adheres to a belief in evolution, the supremacy of humans, the inevitability of progress, and the irrelevancy of God. The other identified as "Judeo-Christian", acknowledges the supremacy and relevance of God who created the world and each species unique. The devaluation of human life and dignity has its roots in the world view that we are merely a product of evolution. In recent years we have witnessed the outcome of this world view with the value of human life being tied to economics. Another result of a secular humanist value system is that the value of human life is related to one's ability to make a viable contribution. Others with this root view talk of "Quality of Lifestyle" and some promote the priority of personal freedom. The Judeo-Christian view of life has its roots in the revealed teachings of the Bible. Dignity and distinctiveness of every human being comes from believing we are created by a God who remains relevant and concerned about us. This view values human life from the moment of conception until death. The celebration of human life needs to be a part of what we fight for as we evaluate the freedoms we want as regards abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, etc. There are a host of activists today that appear to be promoting values that we like, but when we take them to their logical conclusion, they are destructive. For example, no lady should be given the right to destroy her unborn baby simply for her own freedom. Belief in the Biblical revelation of God gives a person a world view out of which flows meaning and hope. As individuals all across our land deal with their root world view and align it again

with the Bible, laws and relationships will become dependable and positive once again. The cure for our economic woes is not in the devaluating views of the humanists but in extending ourselves, paying the price of being responsible and in standing with conviction about the sanctity of human life. Francis Schaeffer summarizes it this way, "An emotional uneasiness about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, and the abuse of genetic knowledge, is not enough. To stand against the present devaluation of human

life, a significant percentage of people within our society must adopt and live by a world view which not only hopes or intends to give a basis for human dignity, but which really does." The world view we choose to live by will affect not only the social issues of our day, but also the very unity of our country. It is essential that there be the kind of grass roots declaration of unity described in the January-February issue of The Lantern, where citizens declare their allegiance to Canada.

The world view that promotes intrinsic values that will produce a stable future for all, has its roots in Judeo-Christian ethics. A deliberate committed return to the perception of life based on the unique sanctity of human life, although intolerant of other systems, will provide the quality of life we all desire. The opportunity to change and save our country does not depend upon the politicians but the value system that the majority of individuals choose.
Rev. Robert Sibley

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Hello Sunsense!

Tanning seems to have finally gone out of fashion. A new emphasis on anti-aging and maintaining healthy, wrinkle-free skin is challenging the tanned-skin status symbol. As far as preventing cancer goes, that's good news!

We now know that the deeper and darker the tan, the more your skin is damaged by the sun's ultraviolet rays — especially with the depletion of the ozone layer — and the more apt you are to develop basal cell, squamous cell and/or malignant melanoma, which can be fatal. Skin cancer now strikes one in seven Canadians and the numbers are increasing.

Since skin cancer is visible, preventable and curable, if detected and treated early, the Canadian Cancer Society attempts to increase public knowledge and to promote sun-protective behaviour through its 'Sunsense Awareness Programme.'

A 'Sunsense Awareness Programme Edu-Kit' has been developed by Ontario Division's Sunsense Awareness Programme Development Task Force, to aid Education volunteers in delivering the Sunsense message in their Units. The Edu-Kit was unveiled at a 'Sunsense Trainers Workshop' held in Toronto in April, 1991. The Edu-Kit provides Education volunteers with ideas on how to plan and implement Sunsense activities in their communities. These suggested activities range from simple to advanced, based on the time, manpower and resources thought to be required to perform a given activity.

Like the Healthy Food Choices Education programme, Sunsense Education volunteers must attend a 'Sunsense Qualification Workshop' which includes a qualification test. For more information on the Sunsense programme or the Edu-Kit, contact your District or Unit Education Chairman or the Education Department at Ontario Division.

See the back cover of this newsletter for the Sunsense Prevention and Early Detection tips.

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