



*Making abortion unthinkable*

**“I think the video was the thing that sealed the deal for me. I know that I couldn’t knowingly do that to my unborn child.”** –16-year-old female, St. Patrick’s High School, Thunder Bay, ON

Dear friends,

The more I do this work, the more I realize just how important it is to show people what abortion looks like. The kind of opposition we face from abortion-supporters, and even from some pro-lifers, tells me that these pictures force people to think about abortion. That’s what happened when I spoke in Thunder Bay earlier this year.

When Life Support, the pro-life club at St. Patrick’s High School, heard that I was scheduled to speak at Lakehead University, they invited me to speak at their school too. But the chaplain at St. Patrick’s High School, who helped start their club, said I could only speak if I didn’t use pictures. Apparently, a pro-life speaker had used similar pictures ten years ago and someone fainted after seeing them. One respected teacher complained about the presentation and no pro-life clubs were allowed at that school until last year. The chaplain told me that since things were so precarious, she didn’t want to risk losing their club by having me use pictures at that presentation.

But I challenged the chaplain to consider the images as necessary evidence for why our position is true. I told her I used the abortion images in the same context as I use images of past injustices, such as the Holocaust and slavery, to illustrate the wrongness of those acts. I also told her that I was going to give a verbal and visual warning before I showed the pictures. But most importantly, I asked how her pro-life club could stand up against

abortion if they didn’t really understand what abortion was.



**Speaking at St. Patrick’s High School in Thunder Bay**

After several conversations over the span of a few weeks, she finally let me present, but just to her pro-life group and one other class of high school seniors whose teacher supported the use of pictures.

I was glad she changed her mind and would at least allow some students to see and hear my message.

When I arrived at the school, I was told that the teacher who had complained ten years ago was going to be sitting in during the presentation. If she thought it went well, she would allow some of her classes to come too.

The first presentation was to a class of about 30 students, many of whom were in favour of abortion or indifferent about it. Yet many of the students participated in the discussions and even those who disagreed with me, admitted my position made sense. Best of all, the chaplain invited me to stay and speak to six classes consisting of about 150 students. Some of these students were sent by that teacher who had complained ten years prior!

The students were later asked to comment about the presentation and what many said proved exactly why they needed to see the pictures:

- Before the presentation: **“I thought that abortion was okay any time before the heartbeat was seen.”** Did your position change due to the presentation? **“Yes, now I believe that abortion is not okay anytime during pregnancy.”**  
–17-year-old female
- **“Before the presentation, I wasn’t as aware of what abortion involved, and now I believe that it’s wrong from the moment of fertilization... I think that the video of abortion was helpful because a lot of people try not to think about the actual killing of the fetus, when the reality is that you are.”**  
–17-year-old female
- Opinion before presentation: **“My view on abortion was that if a woman doesn’t want her child, abortion is an option to take.”** Did your position change due to the presentation? **“Yes, it changed drastically because I didn’t realize before the presentation that [was] what abortion [sic] really looks like after an abortion.”** Did this presentation motivate you to want to do something to stop abortion? If so please explain. **“Yes, speak to friends who are pregnant and encourage them to keep the baby because it has an equal right to be alive like us.”** –16-year-old male



**Dan Zeleny, head of St. Pat’s Life Support, introducing me before I speak**

In fact, of the 107 surveys we received, 24 said they supported legal abortion before the presentation and then changed their minds after the presentation. Many wrote that it was the pictures that convinced them to be pro-life. Another 14 said they supported abortion in cases of rape and changed their minds to become fully pro-life. Another 15 said they were pro-choice before and now were undecided. That’s about half the students who filled out the surveys who moved towards the pro-life position! (Also, 31 stayed pro-life, 22 stayed pro-abortion and one remained pro-life with exceptions for rape.) Because that chaplain changed her mind, many of these students changed their minds on abortion and some are now willing to change the minds of others.

Mike (note his real name), was one such student who was determined to change the minds of others: he took a copy of our abortion DVD, Choice Blues, home and placed it on a table. His mom and sister, who support abortion, found it and watched it. When they returned it to him they told Mike that they had become pro-life!

Another student heard my presentation twice, telling me that she wanted to educate her mom on abortion too. Through teary eyes, she said that her mom worked for the local abortion provider by helping schedule abortions and she wanted to change her mom’s mind. I encouraged her to take our materials and have the confidence to love her mom enough to speak the truth to her. Please pray her mom’s heart is receptive to this truth.

I’m so proud of pro-life students and their teachers and chaplains who are burdened to educate their friends and family on abortion. That’s exactly what you do when you support CCBR. By standing with us, you ensure that Mike and other pro-lifers are equipped to make abortion unthinkable in their community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jojo Ruba

**Link of the month:** Lakehead University’s Life Support can be found at <http://www.lulifesupport.com/>

**Upcoming Schedule:** This fall and winter, I will be focusing on local speaking engagements. More news will follow as those dates are finalized.