

The Catholic Register July 16 1983

Pro-life Unity Is Essential If Success To Come Soon

A Catholic's Notebook

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David Little is a well-built, fair-haired highly personable man in his mid-30's, who rose to fame on the crest of the pro-life wave in New Brunswick. He's the sort of man who, it seems, could be premier of this province, but who lost out on becoming leader of the pro-life movement because he was too successful.

Let no man in Moncton worry that I am going to spill the beans about the recent pro-life controversy here. It is the modern habit to bury Caesar, not to praise him. Nonetheless, this is a success story for pro-life.

David is a believer. He believes in what he does. Above all, he believes in God. He prays a great deal. A year ago, he saw the number of abortions in Moncton Civic Hospital soaring over the 300 mark, and he went to see the chief surgeon, Dr. Caddick, and he asked him to stop. Dr. Caddick agreed, if Mr. Little could show him a convincing reason.

Mr. Little resorted to a novena prayer special to Padre Pio of blessed memory. About the time the novena ended Mr. Little says, Dr. Caddick's daughter walked into her father's office and asked him to stop. Dr. Caddick did. And abortions at Moncton Civic Hospital ended for six months.

Of course, the local pro-life chapter had also done a magnificent job. There had been parades, protests, letters to the Times-Transcript. Mr. Little credits Padre Pio with the miracle, and the movement with the hard work.

It is important to make clear that Mr. Little was Assistant Executive Director of the N.B. Right to Life Association at the time and he was fundraiser and a spectacular one.

With this kind of dedication going on for him, he raised a very large sum indeed (dispute over the total amount makes the figure irrelevant).

In December, Dr. Caddick announced that he would resume abortions if it were shown that there was a sufficient demand for it. Then the pro-abortion lobby went into action.

So did David Little. In the space of a few weeks, he obtained 36,000 signatures opposing abortion, which were published in the Times Transcript and every daily and weekly newspaper in New Brunswick. But this time it did not work. The publicity was counter-productive. Dr. Caddick went ahead anyway. There was disagreement in the pro-life movement about strategy and allocation of money, and in June of this year David was out.

This extraordinary story tells us much about the situation today. We live in a society which is virtually at war with itself. This subterranean struggle is tearing us apart, dividing parents against children, neighbors against neighbors, women against men, and even workers in the pro-life field against each other.

In the confusion, we may lose sight of the positive factors. The New Brunswick debacle shows several things.

(1) Prayer works

(2) God only helps those who help themselves

(3) There is an enormous upsurge in popular support for pro-life

(4) A charismatic personality is needed to catalyze it. (e.g. Joe Borowski).

(5) We must work together if God's will is to be done (Matt. 12:25, Jn, 17:23)

The pro-life movement is now on the verge of a historic breakthrough. God wants it. The people in this country want it in large numbers. All that is necessary is for everyone to work together and pray. And we must not give up too soon.