

LOVE *unleashes life*

September-October 2015

“When I was still new to the Pro-Life movement, I watched some of your speeches that were put on Youtube and they greatly inspired me to get more involved.”

Dear Friends,

I recently received that encouraging message from a student in Texas. It’s so important to me that when people hear a presentation, they leave changed in some way—**changed by new knowledge and changed by a conviction to act on that knowledge**. Since I have had more requests to speak this year than I could respond to, it’s helpful to know that through social media the message can reach people even when I don’t come in-person. In light of that, I loaded some talks to a new Youtube channel, so check them out here: www.youtube.com/c/stephaniegrayloveunleasheslife

As for in-person presentations, September was a very busy month of **“influencing the influencers.”** On September 11, I spoke to **1,100 teachers from the Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese**. My 45-minute presentation was a personal testimony of my faith and work journey, through the lens of their theme, “Proclaiming Jesus with Loving Hearts.” One teacher said, *“You left me with a lot of food for thought! I heard many others say how much they enjoyed it as well.”* Another declared, *“Wonderful message!”*

A week and a half later, I flew to Toronto to train chastity missionaries for two days, through the program Re:Generate. They will be travelling to high schools throughout Southern Ontario, and I had the opportunity to train them in pro-life apologetics, the art of public speaking, and the right disposition and tactics for effective communication. One of the missionaries said,

“Stephanie taught us to apply pro-life apologetics in a very compassionate and clear way. Through the method of effective questioning, I really learned to engage with others. She is a wonderful educator and is really building a Culture of Life.”

Next up on the agenda was flying to Miami to **speak to Archbishop Wenski and 250 priests from his archdiocese at their annual convocation**. Fr. Vigoa, priest secretary to the archbishop, said, *“You were excellent! The feedback to the Archbishop on your presentation has been very good.”*

Then, I was driven to the Diocese of Venice and met with Bishop Dewane who had me speak at three of his Catholic high schools, thanks to the organization of his respect life director Jeanne Berdeaux. She drove me around to speak to over 1,000 teens in 2 ½ days! One principal said, *“Stephanie’s talk may have been*



▲ One of my former high school teachers, Michel Gloanec, organized the Faith Development Day I spoke to the teachers at.
▼ That’s me, left, with the Re:Generate missionaries (Chai, Lisa, Desiree, Stephanie, and Dominic).



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one of the best – if not the best – Respect Life talks I have ever heard.” And a student said, “I loved her talk, very good metaphors in her speech and things we can use in our everyday life.”



▲ Left photo: That’s Bishop Dewane, me, and Jeanne of the Diocese of Venice. Middle photo: That’s Archbishop Wenski and me at the Miami Archdiocese priest convocation. Right photo: That’s me with Sr. Pat, the principal of St. John Neumann, one of the schools I spoke at.

It was a very fruitful trip overall, and I left particularly encouraged by such holy and wise leadership in the churches of Southern Florida. Both bishops are doing wonderful work building a Culture of Life in their (arch)dioceses. Oh, and one final, encouraging note: Bishop Dewane circulated to all his priests a 5-page document I prepared with tips for communicating a pro-life sermon in a compassion way! With Pro-Life Sunday approaching in Florida, the timing was perfect and hopefully the message will have a far-reaching effect.

Thank you for supporting this ministry,

Stephanie Gray, sgray@stephaniegray.info

P.S., I have been doing more writing on my blog, especially regarding euthanasia, so please check out the reflections here: www.stephaniegray.info/blog/

Book Update! I told you last newsletter that my book would be released this October. Unfortunately the publisher and I have had to push the date back a bit, and now it will be released in January. But the good news is its timing fits well with that month which marks the 43rd anniversary of the legalization of abortion in the US. Part of the reason for the delay is that, in consultation with my spiritual director, I am going on a 40 day retreat from October to November, and will be away from technology, leaving final book details to be wrapped up upon my return. I believe the fruit from this time of spiritual growth and renewal will make the book release delay worth it, especially with so many exciting speaking opportunities coming up next year—which I’ll write about next time! Please be assured of my prayers for you on retreat.

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