

Hello to my friends,

It feels like a really long time since the last issue of Broken Branches and much has happened since then. I began having withdrawal symptoms after the fifth week and kept looking at my computer thinking that maybe I should be writing something. Going bi-monthly has had both its positives and negatives although at the moment I don't know which is which especially as I started to be anxious about not writing. Maybe it's something that I have to acclimatise myself too.

Much indeed has changed since the last issue. I don't think that the world will ever be the same again after the September 11 terrorist attacks. As I sat glued to the television set seeing the events unfold, as they unfolded (during the night) I could not help thinking that the violence, evil, and horror that we were observing and no doubt what will ensue as a result of those attacks, has its genesis in a society which condoned violence at all levels. Beginning with the film industry and their pushing the boundaries to the highest limits and succeeding in desensitising humanity to the pain of the other. To death and destruction, followed with all other nature of violence, including the holocaust called "abortion." This with its immeasurable physical pain inflicted on the child and psychological and spiritual pain inflicted on men, women and society, we have built a society in which horror is part of the accepted norm. Approximately 50,000,000 million babies a year die through abortion. Infanticide is practiced. Euthanasia (overt or covert) is practiced. Pornography has a roaring trade. Human rights abused. Child rights abused. Drugs abused. Family breaking down. Children abandoned, rejected, unwanted, disposed as nothing more than rubbish., or material for research, or worse still as medical waste. Child prostitution and child slavery. Wars and rumours of wars in some or other corner of the globe. The list could go on and on. The barbarism of September 11th will leave its imprint as a day when "things" began to change. How that change will affect all of us is still to be seen. What we can know is that at the moment we all live in a kind of fear. The kind of fear generated by the unknown plus the kind of fear generated by the knowledge that whatever the decision made, there will be few (if any) winners. However, we cannot go back into "Egypt" We cannot look back and murmur and say or think that we have left behind something marvellous- because we haven't. If all were marvellous this would not have happened. In this instant of time we have an opportunity to acknowledge our terrible sins against God and one another., Beg God's forgiveness and vow to amend (with His help) our lives. We can also begin to acknowledge that unless the debauchery of our society is roundly condemned and acknowledge that the agendas of the past 30-50 years have failed all of us, we can be sure that not much else will change.



John 15

I would also like to draw attention to *other* possible victims of that “day of infamy” (Pres. Bush – in interview) and that is, infants who will have died in their mother’s wombs. It is quite conceivable that of all the women killed in the attacks some surely would have been pregnant even in early stages and some may not even have known yet that they were pregnant. These children will never be known. Only God in His love and mercy knows each and every one of them. He has given them a name so secret and so holy that we cannot *ever* be privy to it.

Can we make sense of the carnage we witnessed that day? Only in so far as we begin to seek the answers using Godly wisdom. Godly wisdom would suggest compassion for those victims who are hurting, indeed even their nations, and condemnation of the wickedness which sought to destroy innocence and maybe even a firm commitment to defend all life from destruction, including those destined for abortion. We can be certain that God always hears the cry of the innocent and if this is so, then the cry of those working at their place of employment that day, *and also* the cry of the millions and millions of aborted infants, abused others, must be crying out to Him for justice. *There surely must be a wail in heaven.*

Perhaps as a final thought concerning the above, I was heartened and encouraged by the world wide cry of outrage over the carnage yet more encouraged still at the human response to the carnage, that is, the turn to God in prayer. In all nations around the globe, people who would never turn to prayer... prayed. People were seen to turn their hearts heavenward.. In trying to make sense of that episode of evil, the most oft resource was God. *This is good.*

PORNOGRAPHY:

The relationship between pornography, and abortion has many similarities. Both are violence against women and children. In both pornography and abortion a crime is committed against women and children and desensitises human beings to violence and prepares the groundwork where “the flesh” is nothing more than a disposable commodity.

It must be understood that both industries, that is, the abortion industry and pornographic industry are multi billion dollar industries and because this is so are strongly protected industries. Pornography and abortion victimize the abuser and the abused and are not victimless crimes as is the belief of their supporters.

Today we understand that there is a strong link between abortion and pornography and other crimes committed against women and children, and that both abortion and pornography are not victimless crimes but crimes whose victims are the very weak. Indeed both pornography and abortion are about domination and power of the stronger over the weaker. An abortionist who easily empties a woman’s womb of her baby, is not doing this out of love for her but out of greed and perhaps more importantly because of his /her own perverted sense of power over life and death. A purveyor of

pornographic materials is not interested in the enhancement of understanding of the human body and the beauty of sexuality, but is only interested in greed and perversion and power, which come with the abuse and diminishing of it. It is about humiliation and use, abuse and misuse of the generative and creative faculties of the human person. It is about the deadening of the soul and the ease with which then follows the promotion of rape, sexual abuse, incest, prostitution, abortion, infanticide, and other spirit destroying activities. Both abortion and pornography exploit women and children and indeed see both as objects to be dealt with as convenience demands.

Exposure to pornography (in whatever form it takes whether soft porn or hard core porn) is most dangerous especially in the young because it perverts the psychosexual development of the child and renders the child incapable of wholesome development of beliefs about him/herself and about human sexuality. Further, too early tampering with sexuality (especially pornographic material and sexual abuse, child prostitution) results in the failure to integrate into the developing personality values attendant to healthy understanding of sexuality and thus leading to subsequent behaviour, which will include amongst other things abortion and sexual crimes.

We should perhaps not be so surprised at the rise in the anti-sacred, anti-God, anti-life activities and the violence inherent in a society where such activities exist, because these can only exist and grow where there is tacit approval by way of silence. Abortion exists because of the silence brought about by the humiliation shame, guilt, of those who submit themselves to the procedure. Pornography, prostitution, sexual abuse, exist and grow because of the culture of silence brought about by humiliation, shame, guilt. Indeed the culture of silence ensures its stability and growth and more importantly because of the pervasive growth of these industries the very nature of relationships between men and women and children has changed.

We know that a woman who experiences an abortion will be affected in her dealings with other children and we understand that the abortion has tampered with her mothering instinct however, it is my contention that where there has been pornographic infestation or early childhood sexual tampering, this will also assail the mothering and fathering instincts. This is so because the area affected and damaged is the same area where mothering and fathering find their genesis. Pornography, abortion, prostitution, sexual abuse, subtly dis-able human beings and render them vulnerable by devaluing and depersonalising sexuality and introducing the belief that sexuality is simply something instinctual and animalistic. Therefore the intrinsic worth of women and children and men is reduced to zero. Central to abortion, pornography, prostitution, sexual abuse, incest, is violence. Violence against life and ultimately violence against God and the *Imago Dei* (Image of God) in the human person.

Through pornography there is a devaluation and depersonalisation of women and children and of course we know that through abortion there is depersonalisation and devaluing of the infant in order to be able to abort it and the devaluing of motherhood and womanhood. Her role of “mother” will then become compromised because as a “mother” she took her child to the abortion clinic with the full knowledge that it was to be killed.

Today, as we look backwards we can see that over the past 30 years there has been a marked change in our acceptance of both pornography and abortion. Indeed both these activities were once considered so unwholesome that they could only be spoken of in hushed tones. Today society is proliferated with pornographic materials. All manner of goods and services are sold through the medium of near nakedness and suggestive situations. “Adult” videos, movies, posters, games etc. assault the eyes. The visual impact of these no longer offending blunted sensitivities and amongst the plethora of flesh for sale or display are to be found signs outside of abortion clinics which clearly and unambiguously declare that “Abortion is Legal” therefore, if it is legal it must be acceptable. The harmfulness of both abortion and pornography is only beginning to be felt and seen by society. No longer can pornography and or abortion be seen as the realm of the sleazy or the wanton but these are to be found within the normal home in the normal suburb in the normal school, church, family, married or single. The proliferation of both abortion and pornography cannot but be linked. Demean womanhood, demean motherhood, and children who need a woman and “mother” to be conceived and to be born, will no longer be born. Demean the male through a diet of pornographic intake and fatherhood will not have any meaning. This then opens new doors for other perversions and more soul death.

It is perhaps important to understand that pornography like abortion leaves in its wake lives which are forever marked. Those who have been touched by either abortion or pornography or invariably both, live with the memory daily and every time these issues confront them (which is all the time because of the ease with which these are advertised) their own experience is replayed and whilst it is possible to remove the sting and ease the pain, the memory is the “scar” which remains after the pain has gone.

I have written about this issue because for some time now it has confronted me in my office and it is important to understand the importance of guarding the innocence of not only the young, also but the not so young. Pornography like drugs leads to addiction. To self-loathing. To hedonism. To promiscuity. Finally leading to seriously self-destructive behaviours, abortion and finally for the women almost the final assault, post abortion trauma, a lifelong grief, not only for the child that they aborted, but also for the mother that they might have been. The person they could have been, the man or woman they should have been. The loss of innocence is unappreciated until it is gone and like the human person a society’s innocence is also gone forever when it permits itself to be subtly and

insidiously changed. A society's ethos is changed when it countenances its own self-destruction.

NICK'S COMMENTS

Greetings people,

I am writing this to inform you of the Human Life International conference I recently attended with my mother, and more specifically the youth day put on by Human Life International's Youth Group Next Generation.

The Pro-life youth day took place on Friday 28th September and about 55-65 young people attended; it was conducted in Banyo seminary. The day opened with an hours Meditation in the chapel accompanied by a commentary by Fr Barry Leech who then led us into Eucharistic Adoration. After a time of prayer and reflection then we had a morning tea break where we started to talk and make friends with new people. The first talk, an amazing one at that, took place at 11:00am as Louise Altham gave a very passionate talk about "God's Plan for Love & Life" which mainly centred on purity. Louise introduced us to St Maria Goretti (not literally) and how she came to be a Saint. Next came the very loud Fr Rizzo who gave a strong talk on "The Joy of God's Mercy" focussing on Confession which everyone really enjoyed. With elements of comedy throughout, his talk was a great way to enter into lunch after a morning of informative talks. After Lunch we were pleased to have the honour of hearing John Tucker talk on "The Great Challenge of Life" and oh boy, he can talk! The group was next split up into males and females as Suzie Savage talked to the girls on "Modesty" and Bill Burns gave an excellent talk to the males on moving "Towards Christian Manhood" which gave an insight to young males as what we should aspire to. Mass in the chapel followed this, and then lastly, Jane Instance gave us a detailed talk on "Prayer & Pro-life Activism" which was quite informative and left us with some knowledge to process. All up, the youth day was a complete success with many friends being made and excellent talks so I would personally like to thank Next Generation for putting on such a useful event, and I would also like to thank those who funded my trip, thankyou.

Mums face looks content at the moment, and her headlock isn't so tight anymore, so I will end my piece here on a riddle. "How do you keep a Pro-lifer in suspense?" Answer in next issue.

Laterz.... Nick

BITS OF NEWS AND VIEWS

As I have noted above our society has changed its ethos insidiously. Quietly and surely. Only in today's era could an article of this nature appear published. We have climbed on board that so called slippery slope and the slide is fast downwards.

Article One:

CWN news reported Sunday 30 2001-10-09

Court: Doctor should have warned mom baby was handicapped.

This story occurred in Paris where a “French court said that a doctor Should have warned the mother of a handicapped girl before she was born so that the mother could have had an abortion.

The appeals court in Boudreaux made its ruling under a new law And said that because 10-year old Alicia was not killed before being Born the doctor was negligent and should compensate the family.”

The parents were awarded 600,000 francs (\$85,000) compensation.

Article Two:

CWNews reported on Sept 20 that

“Planned Parenthood of New York City (PPNYC) has put out a press release indicating it is offering free abortions for a limited time in the wake of the terrorist attacks on the city.

Following the example of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) which over the past few years has used tragic events to target stricken communities with “reproductive health kits” including abortifacient drugs and devices-PPNYC is offering complete reproductive health care from September 18-22 free of cost The press release by PPNYC lists among the “services” they Provide “birth control: emergency contraception; medical and Surgical abortion.”

Article three:

CWNews reported October 2, that:

“The Canadian Supreme Court has agreed to hear what is believed to be the first “wrongful birth” suit to hit the high court.

Pam and Murray Krangle of Maple Ridge British Columbia are Demanding their doctor pay for their child’s care since the doctor Did not advise her to take an amniocentesis test to determine that Her child had Down syndrome. Mrs Krangle says she would have aborted her son had she been made aware of his condition before birth. The son, Mervyn, is now 10 years-old and according to doctors needs a lifetime of constant care. The case does not deal with the “wrongful birth” issue directly however, since the court has been asked to rule on whether payments from the doctors insurance company should continue indefinitely or whether Mervyn would be placed on welfare support. In an attempt to reach the moral high ground in the case the Krangles argue “In the end no parent should be able to pass his or her financial responsibility to the state.”

Article Four:

*CWNews reported on Sept 3. that
A mother who aborted her seven and half month old unborn child
Testified that following the procedure she and her husband took
Part in a baptismal ceremony offered by the abortion clinic.
Women's Health Care Services, run by abortionist George Tiller
Promotes a "remembrance ceremony" as an additional service to
Late-term abortion customers. With the dead aborted baby the clinic
offers "Baptism of your baby, with or without certificate,"
"certificate of premature miscarriage: and "footprints and hand
Prints of your baby."
Referring to the aborted child, the clinic's advertising says, "we are
grateful to allow her to pass from our lives without pain." Former
abortionist Dr. Bernard Nathanson says this is untrue. According to
Nathanson's research many late term abortions cause pain to the
unborn child."*

Thank you to my friend John W (Hampton) for sending me these articles and I included them because of the horrific nature of them. We are scandalised over terrorism and rightly so and it should be stamped out. Yet we condone terrorism in the womb and terrorism against children disabled and non-disabled, tiny foetus and wholly viable babies. Unless we become alert and arouse ourselves out of apathy and into righteousness the next step will be legalised infanticide.

Human Life International Conference:

I think Nicholas spoke eloquently about the HLI conference at the Banyo Seminary held 28-30 September 2001 so I won't say too much. However, I don't feel that I can let the opportunity pass without saying what a wonderful experience it was. This is the second time that I have attended (as speaker) the conference and each time it has been better than the last Beginning with Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett newly appointed Bishop of Lismore, Lord David Alton (banquet speaker) Dr. Paul Byrne who spoke on ethical issues of organ donation, Linda Watson from W.A. and all the other marvellous and inspiring speakers, it was indeed a really worthwhile experience. For me it was also really lovely to meet some of my readers of the newsletters and my special friend Br. Con who came especially so that we could catch up. Thank you. Thank you also to Veronica, Angela, Wanda, Fr. Rizzo, Liz, Paul, Gail, Christine & lovely daughters and everyone who made our stay really happy. We were looked after well. For those of us who work in this "death" industry it is important to meet regularly so that we can encourage one another. At times it seems difficult to continue but gathering over several hundred like minded people together for 3 full days and nights and to share experiences and time and meals together does much to make up for the really difficult and trying times. To the person who paid for my fare and Nicholas's fare thank you –I really did learn a lot and in some small ways I think I also contributed a little.

SPECIAL LETTER:

Dear Anne,

Just a short note to say hello and to let you know how I am. Its been 18 months since we last met. I have got that new job I spoke to you about and I love it. However I have to tell you something else that I love even more and am happy to leave the job for in a little while. I AM PREGNANT! And we are so happy. The baby is due in February and we couldn't be more excited especially as we had resigned ourselves to never having any children. We are over the moon. Thank you, thank you, and thank you because I truly believe that it was your help with all that sadness that in the end helped me. Today we know our first daughter is safe with Jesus and we will never ever forget her she is our first but now I can let her go. Now we can start to prepare for this new baby. We both thank you that you worked with us and didn't give up on us. We also thank God that He can forgive us and has given us another chance. God Bless you and your work.
Love Peta and John. (will let you know when baby comes)

There have been many times of late where I have found it difficult to keep going with all the difficulties with the newsletters and other skulduggery, but it is letters like the above, which really help me to keep going. I worked with this girl for nearly 8 months and at times I worried that there would not be a resolution but slowly and with much prayers the Lord found a way to touch them both. ***This is good.***

As I conclude this issue please pray for Marcelle, (New) Julie, Carole, Maggie, Teresa, Valentina, Stasy, Rosemarie (new) Sharon, Roger. Sandy, Leah, Kristie Mc., Nadia, Naomi, Phillip, Vincent, Kurt, Martin,
As the last two issues have not been well supported (financially) I really need to ask for your help this time. Thank you to those 8 people who did respond from the last request.

May the Lord bless and keep you

Anne Lastman.



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