

# A newsletter of *Victims of Abortion*

*"Take courage! God has healing in store for you; so take courage" (Th. 5:10)*

*Issue No 28 – Aug/Sept 2002*

Editorial,

When I typed the above date I panicked. Past mid year and I still hadn't noticed. I am either getting older or we are orbiting around the sun much faster, but whatever it is the time seems to pass much quicker than the past.

At this point I think it is important to make comment on the recent and ongoing scandals, which have beset the Church, and the suffering, which has emerged and is being experienced as part of these scandals.

Why would someone involved in post abortion grief counselling make comment on the issues re sex abuse by clergy? Because I feel disturbed by the portrayal and media frenzy which has surrounded the issue. At last the media have found "something" with which they can harpoon the Church (at this time the Catholic Church). This particular church which has consistently spoken out uncompromisingly against contraception, homosexuality, abortion, embryonic stem cell research, euthanasia, indeed on all anti life matters. It has at times stood alone in its stance. Now the media feels "justified" in its attack of the one and almost only bastion, which stands as a defence, between disintegration and society.

I do not intend to protect, lessen or justify the abuse by a minority of the clergy and indeed it should be rooted out and dealt with in the most thorough and appropriate way because sexual abuse, like abortion, simply destroys all in its path. However, sexual abuse of minors or others must not be deemed or portrayed as a "**Catholic clergy**" issue only. Sexual abuse of minors is rife within society (fathers, brothers, boyfriends, uncles, grandparents, friends, neighbours, babysitters, group leaders, pastors of other religions, people in high places, teachers, doctors, accountants, cults, sects, and any work where children are aplenty) and the cover up of this abuse abounds. The cover up is there because it is such a shocking type of abuse, and because it is perpetrated against innocence. I think this reason in particular, is the most shocking aspect and the reason for the attempted cover up. The violation of innocence. And yet violation of innocence is found at all levels from and including the greatest attack on innocence (abortion) and yet this is considered a "right."

Whilst I can appreciate that those hearing about the abuse are scandalised and I know the victims to be devastated, it is not far removed from the abuse

BROKEN BRANCHES



John 15

an infant in the womb experiences when its mother, father, grandparent, aunt, friend of mummy, boyfriend, neighbour, etc. takes it to be killed because it has inconveniently implanted itself and taken up residence in a hostile host body. That of its mum. An abortion does that.... kills an infant and leaves behind other lifelong devastation. Sexual abuse, whether by clergy, parent, relative, sibling, person of trust does the same, kills.... kills the spirit. At times it also contributes to the killing of the body and definitely kills its relationship with God. Both sexual abuse and abortion abuse kill. One does it immediately (body while leaving lifelong consequences) the other (sexual abuse) kills slowly with all its lifelong consequences.

The media which rejoices in bringing the lurid details of offending priests to public attention and for public crucifixion is the same media which brings “feel good” stories about the need for the destruction of infants in the womb citing “rights” as the reason. Or because of necessity. Or because of saccharine type compassion. It brings “feel good” stories about the necessity for embryonic stem cell research (that is the destruction of living embryos for experimentation and supposed future cures of existing illnesses). Where once upon a time rats and mice were experimented upon, society has moved up the ladder (or is it down the ladder?) and now demands humans to experiment on so that other humans might live longer and the media lauds this progress. The same media also brings “feel good” stories about its compassionate stance on the euthanasia debate. Of course it knows and shows all the compassion in the world to anyone who wants to die and of course this should be made public circus and legal. The media understands that it must support through coverage this particular stand to enact laws, which would enshrine “death on demand” first for some and in due course for .....

As I said previously it is not my intention to belittle or demean the pain and hurt of those who have been wounded by the sexual abuse. The wounds, I know, will be lifelong and life changing. Trust gone will be difficult to recover. The image of God as “father” will be damaged and fractured and sexuality will be compromised. This I know because I deal with these issues (sexual abuse and abortion – not clergy abuse) in my office every day of the week. However, what I do intend to protest about and so should we all protest, and that is the pillorying of the whole Church because of the actions of a very small minority. As in all areas of society the Church(s) has sinners within its ranks but that does not mean that ALL the members of this body are guilty just as ALL fathers, brothers, etc.etc. do not sexually abuse their children. There are the most wonderful, devoted and devout priests, pastors, rabbis, fathers, brothers, grandfathers, teachers etc.etc. and these because of the sins of their colleagues or mischief makers must ontologically suffer.

As a society it is important that we a remove the blinkers called “selective outrage” and stop being deceived and in truth and justice be outraged over *ALL* morally outrageous actions and activities. Why should our outrage over sexual abuse, and or other abuse be considered sincere when the utmost abuse of children, (and women) **abortion** is considered a “right” and

morally acceptable. Wrong doing is wrong doing irrespective of the appellations. Sin is sin irrespective of how it's termed or by whom it is committed. Hatred of children is hatred of children irrespective of the type of violence committed against them. it is a violence and hatred against their very beings. Sexual abuse and/or abortion both spell death. Both are committed by those who are meant to protect. Abuse of all kinds occurs because of the moral inconsistencies which society accepts.

We need to understand that the media has focused on the “**who**” perpetrated the crimes and this has made the crimes **appear** more horrific because of the “**who**” specified. Yet the same media would not report with the same sensationalism the crimes committed daily in abortion facilities and hospitals. The media does not sensationalise or report the anguish of mothers who have realised and regretted what they have done and cannot undo the death of their child. The media does not report or support the notion that once conception occurs, a new human person is created with all the rights and dignity inherent in all of us. The media chooses which hobbyhorse it will mount and ride with. This is the great tragedy; that the media ultimately does not give a hoot about anyone or anything. it just agitates public hysteria.

### ***MULTIPLE ABORTIONS:***

Multiple abortions are perhaps the most difficult thing to deal with because I am dealing with someone who has not only decided against life once because of certain difficulties but in a number of instances the decision to abort has been made up to 7 times.

Whilst I have heard and read that in Eastern countries women of childbearing age have undergone up 7-8 abortions each, it is difficult to actually be sitting across the desk and listening to someone who has had multiple abortions here in Australia. At the present time I am seeing four women who have experienced multiple abortions (3,3,4,5) and as I listen to their stories I sense not only a fear for them and for their sanity but also feel a sense of horror, a sense of loss and my own deep sense of regret. Imagine 15 children should have been alive and are not! I think I feel this sorrow for them, if this makes sense. The repeating of a trauma inflicts so much pain and yet this is what is done in order to try and compensate for the original decision or find the answer to the “why”

Continual re-enactment of an original trauma causes a re living of the trauma and a re living of the trauma would suggest a continual self punishment and this indeed is the unconscious desire of those who repeat the same violence.

As I listen to my “girls” and I hear their stories I cannot but understand why it is that they continually re traumatise themselves. It is their need to have the “why me” answered. And they will continue on this road even if it leads to their own death.

The common factor amongst the repeat aborters is their attempt at aborting their own life. The life of the girl/woman up to and including the abortion

decision/s has been one of immense suffering and the decision to abort can be seen as almost the final straw. Here is something that makes possible the end of their own life whether physical, spiritual, psychological or all three. Repeat aborters seem to have a compulsion to self-destruct. All actions, behaviours, activities are inclined towards failure and loss. Relationships are bound up with others who also have the need to self-destruct. Activities such as careers or even behaviours like drug addiction, promiscuity, substance abuse, and alcoholism are also the cry of someone who has set out to “finish what was started years ago” (Cheryl)

Another common factor amongst repeat aborters is childhood abuse, sexual, physical, and psychological. Abortion not only is an abuse against the self but is similar to the original abuse. It “feels” the same. The same impact is felt. There is a resemblance. There is a sense of remembering a past and in the remembering it might be possible to recover a meaning. Reliving a past trauma I believe is needed in order to make sense of what happened and perhaps why it happened. Abortion of one’s own infant and making the decision to abort in many ways exercises a power that was missing when the “other” abuse was being done to her. And perhaps repeating a trauma not only brings with it some relief from past powerlessness but also learns to incorporate traumatic experiences into their being. An abused individual can never return to a state pre abuse and in due course cannot even remember the time pre abuse and so must learn to adapt and incorporate a new dimension of understanding...abuse. This new schema then holds all matter of information relating to abuse and any future abuse or difficult life experience is made part of the new dimension and serves to rest of life.

The psychology of the human personal is fragile and perhaps the defence mechanisms, which are employed, are wonderfully and strategically placed so that they can protect the fragile mind. Intrusive images, memories, and anxiety feelings all manner of warnings and alarms serve to protect the human being from disintegrating.

For the repeat aborter, I suspect that the action becomes external to the “self” in its need to find a semblance of peace. The serial aborter goes on this journey of repeating a past trauma, until external intervention is encountered. Where this does not happen all manner of mental health illnesses are diagnosed and all manner of medications prescribed and all manner of theories for the problems suggested however, the heart of the difficulty is never plumbed. Abuse. Neglect. Abandonment. Rejection. Violence. It is in the naming of the problem and the accepting of the problem and in the commitment and desire to heal that the problem is beaten. God is faithful but He is not an intruder. He cannot intrude and demand goodness, reconciliation though I am sure it is His desire for us. Multiple aborters have unconsciously set up pattern of behaviour, which appears to work for them, but ultimately serve to damage more. Mastery over their pattern of behaviour is possible however over and above mastery over behaviour must be facilitated with a compliance towards the Mercy of God and a desire to return to the place of pain and be healed from that time

onwards. It is possible. Not easy but possible and as we know there is nothing impossible with God.

### ***NICK'S COMMENTS***

Greetings once again beautiful people.

I hope this newsletter finds you all healthy and happy. This is just a small article this month as mother is getting a little jealous about my recent excellent past efforts, so I thought I'd be nice and keep it short.

About a week ago, my year level had its once-a-term RE Day in which the students were lucky enough to hear talks from 2 speakers on various ethical issues, and then were presented a "Hypotheticals" panel of which I was a part of, and where I had a chance to argue about Stem Cells. Anyway, one of the speakers we were privileged enough to hear talk was the brilliant Reverend Father Norman Ford who spoke about Stem Cell Research and other various topics. A key point emphasized in his talk about Stem Cells was the phrase, "Begotten, not made." Until this time, I had never really taken much notice of this phrase, but after Reverend Ford put this into perspective with the egregious situation facing us with Stem Cells, it seemed to make more sense. Apart from the obvious reasons against Stem Cell research, such as the deaths of many innocent babies, and the experimentation occurring, Stem Cell research has removed any concept of the creation of life as being a holy union between two people and God in order to create a new human being, and given all rights to the scientists to go ahead and manipulate these human embryos as if they (scientists) were children playing with Lego. Human beings are now being manufactured, and instead of being Asian, African, Italian, English, Irish etc, we are now being made into Kelvinators, Fisher and Paykells, Sonys, Pioneers, Panasonics, Pentium's, and any other electrical machine brands that humans are being brewed in. "Begotten, **not made**," the creation of life is a sacred ritual in which a new life is begotten through one of the many everyday miracles which God performs. In the days approaching, we face a reality more terrifying than any past, because life has been turned into a tangible and disposable object. Something that can be mass-produced. This flagrant abuse of human life must not continue, for we are not production line items, we are human beings, each of us a unique creation of God. We are "**Begotten**" by our parents and God, "not made" in laboratories. This is an abomination; life has been turned into an object up for manufacture and sale, and all we can do is ponder our fate as we remember what happened after the horrific events that took place at Sodom and Gomorrah.

"**Begotten, not made.**" This is the way it has always been, this is the way it should always be.

Anyways, I shall leave you fine people here to peruse mother's newsletter in peace. Take it easy, keep well, and enjoy life; we're only here once!

Laterz.....Nick Lastman

*LETTERS:*

*Dear Anne,*

*Thank you for your wonderful newsletter I look forward to its arrival every issue and I think it is one of the most informative and well written newsletters out. You not only share your thoughts with us but inform us and help us to understand that abortion has consequences which none of us would wish for. I hope that your work continues and is blessed. I am sorry that I do not live in Melbourne so I cannot help with the folding and the collating but still I can help with prayers. Keep going and God Bless you. Mrs. M.M. (NSW)*

As I conclude this newsletter I really need to ask for your financial help again. The kitty has only few drops in it especially after the sending of this newsletter. At the present moment I have produced 1100 copies and send out between 1050-1100 pm. Then added to this is the envelopes and postage so you can imagine its expensive. I have had to temporarily stop the sending to Priests and Pastoral workers because it wasn't possible. The last several issues have not been well responded to so now I need to ask again. Please if you would like me to continue I need help.

Please pray for Sue, Susan, Judy, Lee, Leighanne, Andrew, Jane, Sally, Michelle, Marie, Anne, Simone, Linda, Maureen (Cancer) Helen N. (Cancer). Robert (new) Fiona (New) Sherrie (new) Jodie (new) Josie (please, please, tons of prayers) little in utero baby boy with kidney difficulty now born. There will be future difficulties but not insurmountable. Keep praying please.

May the Lord bless and keep you.



*Anne Lastman.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ P/C \_\_\_\_\_

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