

BROKEN BRANCHES



John 15

A newsletter of *Victims of Abortion*

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Welcome to Anne's Page!

We have entered the New Year, a new century and new millennium. Praise God. We actually made it. There were many moments in the past half-century when perhaps it was doubtful that we would make it. I hope that you all had a wonderfully happy, and holy Christmas and New Year and for those who had holidays that they were restful ones. For me it was quiet and restful. I needed it!

I have some wonderful news to start the year with. Perhaps all the stress and anxiety over the past year has been worth it.

NEWS ITEM 1.

On the Feast of the Holy Innocents (December 28th) here in Melbourne was opened up a permanent Memorial to aborted infants. The memorial is located in the Gardens of Sts. Peter & Paul Church, South Melbourne. This is a beautiful memorial, surrounded by greenery and walkways and a statue of Our Lady. The memorial has facility (wall) for name plaques to be installed and indeed the first names of babies who have been aborted are already put in place. It is very important to try and understand why a memorial to aborted infants is necessary for healing. Every individual who lives and dies is remembered. There is someone who remembers that that person has existed and has meant something to someone. Even miscarried and stillborn children are remembered and this is usually because a miscarried or stillborn child is a "wanted" child and therefore when it dies there is much grief experienced. For the parents of a "wanted" child the loss is intense and incomprehensible and the infant is assured of a permanent place in the home, hearts and minds of its parents and family.

For the aborted child the story *is supposed* to be different. This child's story has a beginning a small part of the middle and definitely no end. Its existence is expected to be hidden as if it never was. Of course this, we know, cannot happen because it was a human being that came into existence, who knew of its own existence and who died. The memorial garden affirms that a very valuable human being, came into existence, lived for a time and died.

Indeed for the child that "never was" the memorial and name plaque ensures that they will never be forgotten. This child who was destined for oblivion will be remembered long after the society that has condoned its death has passed from the face of the earth. The name plaques for aborted infants are the "last things" that a parent can do for his/her child. These plaques speak a language of love, regret, sorrow, forgiveness and ultimately they speak words of reconciliation. *The memorial garden says this I will always remember you my baby.*

LET US PRAY THAT MEMORIAL GARDENS FOR ABORTED BABIES WILL BE ERECTED THROUGHOUT THE LAND. LET US CONFOUND SATAN AND SAY THAT THOSE HE HAD WISHED INTO OBLIVION NOW STAND TO ACCUSE HIM OF DECEIT. FURTHER, THAT THE INFANTS WHO DIED BECAUSE OF HIS LYING, WHICH CAUSED A BARRENNESS OF SOUL IN THE LIVES OF THEIR PARENTS, NOW STAND AS WITNESSES THAT THEIR BLOOD HAS WATERED THAT BARREN GROUND AND BROUGHT FORTH NEW GROWTH. FOR PARENTS TO HAVE REACHED THE NAME AND PLAQUE STAGE, THEIR FACES HAVE BEEN TURNED TOWARDS GOD AND THEIR BABY.

NEWS ITEM 2.

On January 18, 2000, I received the keys to new premises from which I hope to set up complete Post Abortion trauma counselling and information services. Negotiation for these rooms had been in progress for some time and therefore I was unable to say much because I was unsure of the outcome. The rooms are located in Albert Street, East Melbourne (directly opposite St Patrick's the Cathedral) and I have three rooms. Indeed I think its more like 5 rooms because one of the rooms is absolutely **huge**

For these rooms I have to thank His Grace Archbishop Pell, Father Anthony Fisher, and Dr. Michael Casey whose support and encouragement of the work that I do has always

been forthcoming and generous.

It is my hope that over the next few months and year I will be able to set up proper counselling rooms which specifically deal with post abortion trauma. Also I hope to bring in resources from overseas (books, articles, videos, tapes and at later stage speakers) which will help all of us to understand that post abortion trauma is not just a woman's problem but indeed it affects all of our society. Abortion and abortion trauma leads not only to breakdown of the individual but breakdown of families and society. When the value of life becomes diminished then all values also become diminished.. It is only when we understand that to kill a child even a very tiny one, diminishes the human race then it is easy to see how and why today we live in a society that appears at times very heartless. Perhaps we need to reach a place of despair before we allow ourselves to be helped by God. Perhaps we need to see that we can't do it before we ask Him for help.

It is my hope that with these rooms I will be able to give glory to God through simply being able to help those that come to me to turn back towards God and toward their baby. It is also important to let the word out that abortion is not something small and something, which will pass, but it is the killing of a child. We have to try undo the damage done due to language manipulation. We have to return to the understanding that abortion means "violent death" not "human right." This can be done best when aborted mothers, fathers, grandparents, siblings, friends speak out against the lie and speak about the pain that that moment of weakness has caused them.

I have great hopes for these premises and I will speak more about these and keep you informed of the progress in regard to these rooms. Needless to say funds will be required to maintain these rooms as no funds came with the premises and a small rent is applicable. However, I know that God will provide because He provided the best rooms. I had actually asked for rooms near a Church somewhere and He gave me rooms with the Cathedral at my front door! So now I know that He will continue to provide. At the moment I need to furnish the rooms and set up the office. The resources will happen during the coming year and thereafter. For now I would like to set up beautiful restful rooms for counselling. This is important because the state of mind of the aborted woman is most often in much turmoil and the surroundings are important. A serene atmosphere can be a reflection of the peace of God. This peace is the counterfoil for the inner turmoil, which is the legacy of sin.

NEWS ITEM 3

Last week I had an experience of how God is able to work miracles even when all seems lost. Let me explain.

On Australia Day (Jan.26) a grandfather called me. He seemed in a desperate state. This grandfather was doing everything in his power to save the life of his pre-born 18-week grandchild. He had reasoned, talked, pleaded, and bargained with his 20-year-old daughter not to abort the baby she was carrying and he had not succeeded. He rang me as a last resort, having found "Victims of Abortion" in the Yellow pages. I spoke to him for a while and we decided that he should bring his daughter to Melbourne (from the country) for further talks before she went in for the abortion the following Monday. In the meantime I contacted Anne O'D from the Pregnancy Counselling Aust. (It was difficult because it was a public holiday). Anne O'D volunteered to go in to the pregnancy Centre (that day) and speak to the man and his daughter (who thankfully agreed to come) and I would see them the following day at 1.00pm. Anne O'D would speak to the girl about fetal development and other issues and I would speak the next day about post abortion issues.

The next day I met up with Frances McE. From Wagga (visiting Melbourne) who offered to say a Mass for this family and the baby (Mass was being said during my interview with the girl). During the interview with the 20 year old girl I spoke to her about the trauma that guilt and regret can induce and the reality that she would have to live (for the rest of her life) with the knowledge that she had killed her own baby. We spoke together for about two hours and then I had to go to another PAS appointment. It seemed that there was to be no breakthrough and I left feeling despondent. Feeling that there was more that I could do and something that I had missed. That afternoon after I arrived home I returned a phone call to Kath A and asked her to pray for this young girl and her child because we still had time (3 more days) before she went to the abortuary and Kath offered to pray for the mother and the baby and to offer a Mass for them on that particular evening. I was beginning to suspect that this baby actually had a big chance because I was talking to very prayerful people and as far as I knew two Masses were being offered for the life of this child.

My actual encounter with the young girl and the counselling session with her really went well and we remained that even if she decided to abort that she would at least see me again (Monday morning) before going in. I don't know what I hoped to achieve but at least I would give it one last try. However, this was

not necessary because on Friday early afternoon both Anne O'D and myself (independently) received a phone call from the young girl informing us that she had talked at length with her family and thought about what was said in the counselling rooms and decided that she would keep the baby. It was amazing because she had been so insistent on aborting. It was also very amazing for me to hear the difference in her voice. During the counselling session her voice had been lifeless. Her language had been desultory, uncooperative and emotionless. In fact there was a deep pain trying to surface. Today her voice was the voice that of a young mother excited about "my baby." During this call was also the first time that she actually called her baby "my baby," (owned and personalized) because during the counselling session it had been a depersonalized "it." When I heard the language she now used, "my baby" I knew that everything would be all right. Further, this young girl was delighted that she was able to tell her parents (who absolutely didn't want her to abort and battled valiantly to save the baby) that she was having their grandchild.

Throughout all of this I was able to see how in God's economy all things work together and well for those who love Him.. I know that Anne O'D spent over two hours with this family and I spent about the same time and others spent time praying and offering sacrifice for this young woman and her child. With our combined effort we now know that in approximately twenty weeks there will be a new infant born to a young mother called Mia. Perhaps the Lord God has a marvelous plan for this child because satan surely tried hard to dispose of him/her.

I would ask that you please keep the young mother and her baby in your prayers. Please pray constantly for them because it isn't always easy with a new child

but with all the family support and the heavenly support that is coming their way, I am sure the Lord will make their paths less difficult to walk.

As I thought about this case I remembered the times that I complain about the difficulties I encounter in this job and the stresses about money to fund what I do, and I realised that as the commercial on television says that if it saves one life it has been worth it. Well! truly it has been worth it!

Finally, welcome again to this New Year and remember those of us living during this time are living in a privileged time. We are the generation that saw out a thousand years and saw in the beginning of another thousand years. We are a generation that celebrates a great Jubilee. We will not be here to celebrate another great jubilee, We are the generation that saw the end of a century and the beginning of another one. We will certainly not be here to see another century. So let us thank God for His greatness and His mercy and let us each in our own way contribute to making this a society that lives in a perpetual jubilee.

Please continue your support both financial and spiritual because I know that together we can achieve much.

More news next month about the rooms and how we progress. I say "we" because I know that this has come about because of your prayers and encouragement therefore what is mine is yours. What I achieve, you achieve, and together we achieve for our God.

May the Lord Bless and Keep you.

Anne Lastman
Founder Victims of Abortion.

Name _____

Address _____ P/C _____

Donation/Newsletter _____

Yes/no I would/would not like to be on your mailing list.

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