

## For My Friend

*This issue is dedicated to the loving memory of my beautiful long time friend Caterina who passed peacefully away after a long struggle with cancer. This young mother (41 yrs) of 7 children ranging from 15 years down to 9 months fought a valiant battle and in many ways won. Perhaps in the eyes of the world her death appears like a failure but in reality in death it was clear to see the words of the "Magnificat" being fulfilled "He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of low degree." Caterina was someone who thought that she had not done much or according to world thinking achieved much, but at her funeral Rosary and Mass it became apparent that indeed she had quietly touched the lives of very many and achieved much. Both Rosary and Mass were attended by so many people that they filled the whole church and spilled outside. Her Mass was celebrated by her brother, Fr Joe and eight other Priest friends.. Whilst it was a sad occasion for her much loved family and friends it was possible to see that God was much honoured in the life of His faithful daughter Caterina. Eternal rest grant to her Oh Lord and let your light shine upon her and may she rest in your peace ... Amen.*

*Please continue to pray for Frank her husband and the children and her immediate family. If any of my priest friends would like to offer a Mass in her memory and let me know I will send the details to Frank and the children. Thanks.*

Welcome to 2001 the serious start to the new millennium. My hope and prayer is for a year of special graces for all of us. Please.

I recently saw a slogan, which said, "One dead one wounded." About four years ago, I would have agreed with this slogan. I would have said "yes" (like a militant feminist) in an abortion there is one dead (child) one wounded (woman) however, today I am loathe to suggest that it is only the woman (mother) who is wounded. After nearly four years of doing this work I now know that there are more than two victims of abortion. Indeed the ripple effect is so wide that it is terrifying.

The immediate victims are the child and mother. These are the two participants in the actual procedure itself. However, these are not the only two involved in the creation of a child. There is a father involved and there may be siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. There are many others involved in the life of this child and its death will adversely affect overtly or covertly nearly every other person within that family and spill onto society. As I said four years ago I would have said that the mother is the other victim in this sorry and sad affair, however, today we know and I personally have encountered the other victims of abortion.

During the break, I was called to and have worked with two sets of grandparents who had just been forced to stand by helplessly and watch their grandchild being aborted and unable to do anything about it. As I spoke (separately) to these genuinely grieved people, it occurred to me that the one dead one wounded is really a misnomer if not an unintentional feminist slogan which deflects attention from the enormity of the problem. As I spoke to these really beautiful, gentle peoples, I realised that something has happened with our acquired abortion mentality, which is slowly removing the humane ness from us all. These people were apologizing! for feeling the way that that they did. In our gallop towards political correctness and acceptance of what society considers right, those who do not agree are left behind and made to feel wrong. Let me explain; Abortion is becoming so that it comes almost as a surprise that someone would suffer as a



result of that experience. This would suggest that we have or are losing our understanding of what it means to be a human being. Indeed we are slowly being programmed to respond in a particular manner and when this manner is challenged then the fault is not thought to be with the system but with the individual. The two sets of grandparents were behaving in a human way. They were not behaving in an automated manner but in the way a grandparent would feel at the loss of their grandchild. These people would have been comforted and supported had they lost their grandchild through death, miscarriage or stillbirth, however they were made to feel idiotic and they were not permitted to grieve over the death of their grandchild by abortion. The tears rolled on and on.

As I spoke to these people I was reminded that within each and everyone of us there is a law written on our hearts (Jer. 31:31-33) and this law does not permit us to behave in a way that is contrary to it and get away with it. Apart from my reviewing and changing my position on “one dead one wounded” I felt really glad that these people responded the way that they had because this shows that indeed as long as people like them remain, we still have a chance to be called authentically human.

### ***ANOTHER WILL BE BORN.***

Again during the so-called Christmas break I had an opportunity to work with several others to convince a young mother not to abort her second child and thank God as a group we can say we won. In this instance we were very fortunate that the young mother had the support of her parents and family who were already supportive of her and her first child so it was perhaps easier than in another situation. There was also a sense that she did not really want to abort her baby but having been involved in a domestic violence situation and in some fear for her and her little boy’s safety it was possible to see why she may have resorted to an abortion in order to resolve an immediate problem. Thank God for people like Kevin and Helen, Lucy, and others who persevered and today we know that a new little one will be born in about 25-26 weeks. Please pray for Barbara and for her unborn child and her existing little boy. Also perhaps it would be a good thing to pray for her husband. Much healing is needed there.

When I went to Perth for Caterina’s funeral I had an opportunity to speak to a young lady who had an abortion some years back. We spoke at length about the abortion issue itself and more specifically about abortion trauma and how insidious it really is. In her experience as recounted to me she said that there has never been nor will there be anything else, or any other decision which she believes will be as bad, as difficult or as devastating as the decision she made when she was 17 yrs of age. In her words “there has not been one single solitary day in these past 15 years that I have not thought about my baby and my involvement in its death. Today I would have had a beautiful daughter but I took her to be killed because she was an embarrassment to me. It was more important at the time that people thought well of me and my family than my baby’s life. I also can’t and don’t want to like my mother. In fact I haven’t liked her since the day she took me in to have it. She didn’t take her babies to be killed but she took me in to have mine killed.” (Susan 33 yrs).

As I sat and spoke to Susan and the work that I do and I spoke about God’s Mercy and forgives I was reminded again of the damage which is done to a mother/child relationship when a *mother* takes (willingly or unwillingly) her daughter to have an abortion. Much, much more than the abortion pain is at stake here. The stakes are

much higher, for when a mother takes in her daughter to have her baby aborted she introduces into the mother/daughter relationship a terrible enemy, an invisible demon made up of lies, mistrust, judgment abandonment, and a violence previously not existing in that relationship. Into the mother daughter relationship enters a barrier that will never (I believe) be totally removed. Whilst there can come a time of healing and forgiveness, the knowledge and memory of that experience will follow their relationship throughout their lives. As I sat and pondered on what it is that is destroyed when a mother takes her daughter in to be aborted of her child, I came to the conclusion that she in effect destroys her own and her daughter's mothering instinct. In that single decision will be destroyed what she herself is, "mother," and her own daughter's emerging motherhood. The mother cannot in the present or future compassionate with her daughter because she could not compassionate with her daughter's "motherhood" A new dimension is established in both her life and the life of her daughter and this dimension is not one filled with grace. Into this dimension is now inscribed failure and abandonment and it is into this dimension that at some time in the future is needed to be found the where-with-all to establish a connection with "life." It is at this point that the groundwork is established for similar anti life actions especially in the life of the daughter.

Whilst I can appreciate that when a mother takes in her daughter to be aborted she in fact thinks that it is the best thing to do to protect her daughter from scandal, and from future difficulties. And indeed to protect the whole family from the scandal of an unmarried pregnant daughter however, the destruction of the family is begun by the destruction of the children.. Indeed when a mother and or father take in a child of the family to be killed they are sounding the death knell to the structure of that family and when we consider the rate of family breakdown over the last twenty years, why would we be surprised! It is easier to look for family breakdown in politically correct areas and lay blame there, however, unless we can see that a family structure that has abortion in its blueprint cannot survive we will continue doing more of the same. A family is called a family because of its structure, that is, mother, father, children, and the extended others. Abortion introduces a "hate" of children dimensions, which children themselves intuitively feel but cannot understand. Susan reminded me of the many grieved grandparents I have seen over the past four years, however, I have seen many many more mothers who insisted on taking their daughters in to be aborted. Cheryl's mother insisted she (Cheryl) abort when she was seventeen years of age and in fact drove the daughter to the facility. This began a life for the daughter filled with more abortions, drug addiction, broken relationships, instability, and at forty years of age on her own without a husband, partner or children and so depressed that suicide is always a possibility with her. Years and years of psychological care have not really helped her daughter and there is a deep sense of abandonment by all including God. Cheryl and her mother. Jane and her mother. Sharryn and her mother, and the list is endless. These women are not only caught in the grip of an odyssey of pain but are also caught in a vice like grip of attraction and repulsion. A peace and wholeness is desired by them but elusive because of their own designed self-punishment regime which has been put in place not only by the abortion itself but by the reality that someone of inestimable worth (parent) took the daughter to abort her own "motherhood" and in effect by this action instilled the message that the daughter could not be a "good mother" now, and or in the future.

As we enter into this New Year could I please ask that you support this work. As I venture deeper and deeper into this world of very real and unique pain I can see that we are only scratching a tiny bit of the surface. Could I also ask for some dialogue with the readers (not a hundred at once please) to let me know if the

newsletter is acceptable? Is it too heavy? Too light? Off the mark? I would like to professionally print the newsletter this year, however, this costs lots and lots so I will have to wait and see. Please pray much as difficulties often arise from the least expected quarters and at times it feels like it would be easier to quit but I know that this is what the Lord has asked of me. Financially I also depend on you for the running of my office, newsletter, postage (lots and lots), petrol and parking in the city and car related costs. 4 phone lines (lots and lots of Telstra costs) and other related costs. Already in this past week since I began have seen 4 new people so I don't see it abating.

Also I have had an extremely irate individual contact me during the break (she had read an old issue of my newsletter) to ask me with what authority and what degrees and what expertise do I write and speak and counsel. Perhaps some of you may also wonder if I have any training in this area. *So just this once* I will explain (please let me know if there are difficulties). Relating to studies I have a *Bachelor of Psychology* with a second Major in *Religious Studies*. I have a *Diploma of secondary education* (I can teach psychology and religious education to yr 12 level) I have a *Masters Degree in Religious Education*. I have done a 12-week course in *grief and loss studies*. I have done *5 units of a Pastoral care diploma*. And at present I am half way through to a second *Masters Degree in Theological Studies*. I have also attended ongoing seminars relating to grief and loss and *two seminars related to Post Abortion Grief*. I choose not to put all the letters after my name (only this once, see below) because in my type of newsletter I don't think they are necessary. I understand my newsletter to be a dialogue between friends and supporters of my work, and in some way I hope that I can educate and help you to understand the enormity of the problem of abortion. Together with the educational aspect, I offer nearly four years of hands on, face-to-face experience of talking and comforting men and women who have been wounded by their abortion experience. Involved in this is also the hope that I have been able to lead many of them back to God and to a relationship with their baby. This is my résumé.

May the Lord Bless and keep you.



Anne Lastman  
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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