

Broken

Issue 66

Oct/Nov 2008

John 15

Branches

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

Dark Day for Victoria; Shame on Our Members of Parliament

Dear friends I have delayed sending out this newsletter, in order to be able to bring to you the outcome of the debate and voting in our State of Victoria on whether to or not to decriminalise abortion.

It is a dark time for this State of Victoria especially following the passing of the Bill after the first reading and voting, in the lower house of parliament on September 12, 2008. This was the first stage in the decriminalisation of abortion thus removing it from the Crimes Act. Under this new proposal abortion is to be allowed to 24 weeks gestation without any questions asked, that is, no reason needs to be given and 24-40 weeks permitted with the signature of two doctors. We always bear in mind that all it requires is the signature of two abortionists and a baby up to birth is aborted.

I feel a great sadness and heaviness of heart in bringing you notice that the Bill was finally passed today, after its third reading (10/10/2008) by 23-17 votes in favour of the Bill with all the amendments defeated also.

The Bill was passed with a larger majority than we had anticipated, which obviously means that some members were deceitful to begin with. We are living in a dark moment in the history of Victoria as indeed for the country Australia and the world. Indeed I would suggest that we have returned to the paganism of ancient Rome where

an infant in the womb and even early life survived at the mercy of its father. Today, perhaps it's more sinister because it is the infant's mother who has been given all rights and power to kill her child without fear of any retribution.

Imagine, the Government of a State of over 4,500,000 citizens legislating for the "murder" of its own infants in the womb, and its future citizens, and no repercussions will be felt!! You and I are protected by laws from being hurt, assaulted or killed, even accidentally, but a child in the womb (practically to 40 weeks) will have no protection at all.

Even the horrific partial birth abortion, that cruel procedure whereby an infant is pulled out feet first till only the head remains in the birth passage, and then the base of the skull is pierced with surgical scissors, the child's brain is suctioned out and the birth completed with a dead child. Even this gruesome procedure is to be permitted and the amendment, to prohibit this was defeated.

Perhaps the Lord is saying that if we want to live without Him, then so be it. Lord have Mercy on all of us.

The devastating part of it is the number in favour of the Bill (23-17) is quite strong. That Ministers who profess their Catholicism and have their own children in catholic schools, can be permitted to call themselves a catholic after publicly supporting and voting for the Bill is beyond anything we can understand. His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne, Archbishop Denis Hart, should now exercise his leadership and pastoral roles and publicly excommunicate them

A newsletter of Victims of Abortion

Name _____

Address _____ P/C _____

Donation _____

I **would/would not** like to be on your mailing list.

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immediately and then proceed with the other threats he made to close Catholic hospitals and birthing facilities. Our very good and strong Archbishop needs to make his stance felt. So that it can be seen that he is serious.

That other so called Christians can avow that they are Christian and followers of Christ and that their beliefs do not conflict with these new cruel abortion laws is also difficult to fathom and a joke. Indeed there is a cabal of Judases within the camp and some even spineless and hidden until the last moment.

Closely scrutinising the Bill is an exercise in shock and disbelief. To 24 weeks no questions asked? To 40 weeks with the signature of two doctors (abortionists?) and it would be done.

Imagine this scenario, on one floor of a women's hospital doctors and medical staff labour to save the life of a premature infant because its parents want it. This one is human, because it's wanted, and on another floor an infant of the same gestational age is aborted because its mother/father doesn't want it.

Imagine a government which removes from the human infant all its rights to protection against harm.

Now that this Bill has passed into law it will mean that a lobster has more rights. A dog has more rights. A rooster has more rights. A chicken cannot be made to suffer in the wrong pens, and has more rights; a kangaroo has more rights; a crocodile and animals have more rights, whilst an infant had all its rights removed and has had its life made available to predators.

Now that this bill has passed into law (awaiting signature) it means the possibility of bubble zones around abortion clinics so that women entering clinics cannot be offered help to keep their child. Pregnancy centres will have their hands somewhat tied they will have to offer abortion as an option. There will be an increase in abortion numbers. This absolutely because it is now lawful and when something is lawful, it is interpreted as "good." There will also be no protection for the babies or mothers if life agencies/centres and life groups are not there to protect them or be advocate for them. Women and children will have lost all their protection and support under the law. Coercion will become a reality much more so than now. Because it's lawful and therefore OK. Boyfriends, husbands, others can force a woman to have an abortion up to 40 weeks.

It has been a really difficult few weeks, I have spoken to so many new women whose own abortion memories were triggered by the media coverage of this debate, some are tabled at the back of the newsletter, and these I have taken on, whilst others have just needed a place to speak and someone to speak to. I remember I spoke to a young girl 20 years old for 2 ½ hours one day, I was totally exhausted, wiped out, but I couldn't let her go because she sobbed so much. I sat and held her in my arms for the duration.

During the announcement that the Bill had passed the reading and was now a certainty, I was counselling one of my girls (Jenny) and I received a call from a friend who was keeping me informed and immediately I told Jenny the result, she burst into tears, as so did I.

...closely scrutinising the bill is an exercise in shock and disbelief...

As I listened to the news on all channels on this day, I kept hearing the term “Black Friday,” this due to the financial market and its plunge lower than at any time in recent years ... I would have said that “Black Friday” was more related to the passing of this Bill authored in hell.

Who and how they voted

FOR the new Bill: 23 Votes

Mr Greg Barber (Greens), Candy Broad (Labor), Andrea Coote (Liberal) Kaye Darveniza (Labor) David Davis (Liberal) Phillip Davis (Lib). Khalil Eideh (Lab) Peter Hall (National) Colleen Hartland (Greens) Gavin Jennings (Labor) David Koch (Liberal) Shaun Leane (Labor) Wendy Lovell (Liberal) Justin Madden (Labor) Jenny Mikakos (labor) Martin Pakula (Labor) Sue Pennicuik (Greens) Jaala Pulford (Labor) Johan Scheffer (labor) Brian Tee (Labor) Gayle Tierney (Labor) Mathew Viney (Labor).

AGAINST the Bill : 17 Votes

Bruce Atkinson (Liberal) Richard Dalla Riva (Liberal) Damian Drum (Nationals) Nazih→

Elasmar (Labor) Bernie Finn (Liberal) Mathew Guy (Liberal) Peter Kavanagh (Dem Labor Party) Jan Kronberg (Liberals) John Lenders (Labor) Ed O’Donohue (Liberal) Donna Petrovich (Liberal) Inga Peulich (Liberal) Gordon Rich Phillips (Liberal) Bob Smith (Labor) Adem Somyurek (Labor) Theo Theophanous (Labor) John Vogels (Liberal).

Dear friends, it is a great tragedy and scandalous that five members of the Liberal party and several Nationals also voted for this Bill from hell. Friends I don’t usually get involved in politics but dear friends especially those who live here in Victoria please remember the names of these members who voted for the legalised death of infants, in fact infanticide, and when the next elections come please, please don’t forget. Please remember we cannot ask God to bless our families and land whilst there are rivers flowing with the blood of infants.

Please remember how the members voted and those who voted for life please support them and even write them a short note and thank them for the stand and those who voted for the culture of death, also remind them that they held a position of honor and respect which they have now bloodied with the blood of innocent infants. Also

... remember the names of these members who voted for the death of infants ...

remind these that the next elections are not that far off.

If they can vote to kill innocent infants, I personally don’t want to respect them as speakers for me in Parliament or to have them represent me on matters of government. They are not honourable. I hope the same for you.

Shame on all the “Labor” members they used to represent workers and family. Now they represent death.

Shame on Liberal members. And shame on the greens who care more for the old gum tree at the back of beyond than infants. →

Please deal with them at the next election.

Some Good News

Early in September welcome news came via the news medium that the Lancet Journal, the most prestigious journal of medical thought had reported a need for counselling after abortion. This report stated:

"The fact that some women do experience psychological problems after a termination should not be trivialized. ... Women choosing to terminate must be offered an appropriate package of follow-up care, which includes psychological

counselling when needed." *Lancet Sept 2, issue.*

This report is good because it challenges the American Psychiatric Association's (APA) reporting that psychological trauma is not present following abortions. Indeed that there is no meaningful connection between abortion and psychological sequelae. This report (Lancet) says that "some women do experience psychological problems after termination should not be trivialized" and indeed post abortion grief and trauma is trivialized and because of this it has become possible to push the barriers to the ultimate degree. full term abortion. At last some important peak medical body has said "some women do experience trauma" (Lancet Sept 2).

Death Watch

Recently I had a very upset young lady in my office who showed some distress that outside the abortion clinic she went to, 4 months earlier, there were "protesters" and she felt that they shouldn't have been there because it upset her more.

As I listened to her I realised that she had been "primed" by the abortion clinic staff before being told to enter through the back because the "protestors" outside were "awful" "violent"

Of course I sat and listened and could hear how Nikkie had been "distracted" by the clinic and blame for her "future distress" directed to those praying outside the clinic.

I heard her completely out and then asked several questions, eg whether she had spoken to the people outside "No" she responded. "Then how do you know that they were protestors and not people praying for you and your baby and offering help if possible to help you not have the abortion and save your baby?" This seemed to surprise her. She seemed not to have even thought that those "protestors" might have been there to help her so that she would not have to endure a life of pain.

I then suggested to her that it was a good thing that those people were there and had prayed for

her and her healing and been present for her baby as he (it was a boy) died. They kept vigil with him so that he would not die alone. I said to her "we would not let someone we love die alone and as much as possible we would be with that person during their final moments, and accompany them to the end. And this is what those people outside the abortion clinics were doing, keeping "Joey" in their prayers and hearts as she, his mother, could not do so at that time". I also explained that to be present with someone when dying is the most intimate moment in our lives Because the motive for this final accompaniment or companionship is compassionate love.

We stand in solidarity with those who are dying and ensure that they do not die alone. I also said that it is my hope that one day I would be able to do this again, as I feel this is a charism of Mercy. I also like to do this because no one was there to keep watch for my babies when they died.

Letter from Jenny (one of my beautiful girls) to Marie

Dear Marie O,

I read Anne's newsletter Broken Branches issue 64 and saw your letter to Anne which referred to me.

I wept when I read that my poem for my son made you cry. I wept because I realised that someone, other than me, has cried for my baby and cried for me. It was so important.

Your tears helped me to feel less alone. There is such deep loneliness in my journey.

Sharing your tears for me and my baby, has contributed a little towards my healing. I thank you.

I promise I will not cry forever, but forever I will remember.

Thank you also for supporting Anne - quite honestly, she's saved me.

With love,

Jenny.

A Mothers Letter To Her Daughter

To My Sweet Debra

Today is the day you could have been born and today just like many years before, I'm thinking of you.

Every day you are in my heart and please believe me when I tell you that I love you so very much and always will. This is the day you would have turned 35, that's 35 years I have missed having you here with me and it still hurts.

No matter how much I would want you with me I know that cannot be, but I know that Mother Mary will be taking good care of you until the day we meet and when that day comes I will be so happy to see you.

The tears flow from my eyes every time I think of you with love and sometimes I think that they won't stop, but when we meet they will turn into tears of joy.

So until we meet always remember that I love you with all my heart.

With a love that will never end

From your Mummy. (Heather)

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Please continue to pray for Heather, it's difficult.

Anne

Emily's List

One of my supporters brought to my attention an entry on the website of Emily's List Australia which horrified me and left me shaking my head in utter dismay.

Emily's List is a group of feminist politicians who have boasted of getting (stacking?) the parliament with like minded females for the purpose of bringing about the decriminalisation of abortion in Australia. This group of women includes women from all sides of politics and its aim is to ensure that the death of in utero infants is facilitated without hindrance.

Amongst them is our former Premier of Victoria Ms Joan Kirner, who stepped out of the Parliament today with a gloating grin on her face and boasted that they have worked for 30 years for this decriminalisation of abortion. She went on to congratulate an abortionist (J Wainer) and wife of the man who began this horror the late B Wainer for maintaining the pressure all these years. Imagine striving for over 30 years to kill babies in the womb up to full term.

This media release begins with praising of the minister for Women's Affairs Ms Morand and the minister for Health? Mr Daniel Andrews for delivering a "Bill which will modernise in the way which abortion is regulated in Victoria"

Further, the Bill seeks "to remove abortion from the crimes act thus clarifying the legality of abortion for women and medical practitioners and the community. It respects the woman's right to control her body"

What sinister, cold hearted, comments from the sisterhood.

Clarifying the legality of abortion for women? How many women entering the abortion facilities throughout Melbourne and Victoria, Australia or anywhere in the world think about the legality of the abortion they are seeking? I can assure the "ladies?" of the Emily's list that those entering abortion facilities to procure an abortion are NOT thinking about the "legality" of the procedure. The only ones thinking about the legality of what

they are doing are those performing the abortion and they want to be totally protected in their child killing business. To this date they have flouted an existing law which protected in utero children like the law against murder protects all other human beings, but now they want to be really protected in case of litigation.

“Clarifying the law for the community? “ Since when is killing legal? Since when does the community need to determine or clarify if and when killing of a human being is legal or needs clarifying? Is it perhaps since the flouting or turning up its nose at the law and the law turning a blind eye to the goings on at the abortion facilities for many, many years has led to an increase of abortion in unmentionable numbers and also the slow increase in abortions of higher gestational ages?

Indeed what turning a blind eye to these deaths in Victoria over 40 years has meant the death of at least 3-4 million human beings in Australia alone.

Imagine the whole population of the state of Victoria gone...dead. Aborted. I suspect that there is fear by these child destroyers that one day someone might just call the law into question.

→

That is the problem. The law will have been found compromised and in order for this loophole to be closed and safeguarded lets make all abortion legal. All baby killing whilst in utero, legal. What wickedness has overcome our society?

Again I would ask how many women or abortionists are in jail for having had an abortion or having procured an abortion.

It has nothing to do with clarifying law; it has more to do with wickedness and overt wickedness

I suspect it has also to do with “guilt.” Some fight guilt by depersonalising the victim, others by doing “penance” through never permitting himself/herself to experience joy and life’s happiness whilst others still by taking up a cause at a punishing rate. e.g. the feminist cabal whose aim was to stack the parliament in order to bring about this wickedness.

Day at Frankston

One recent Saturday, I had the great pleasure of being invited to give a short talk to ladies

...Imagine the whole population of the state of Victoria gone...dead. Aborted ...

involved with the new Pregnancy Centre opened up in Victoria.

The new Pregnancy Assistance Centre (03 97706226) has been the dream of my dear friend Denise Den Bakker for many years and together with other of her friends especially Liz Ransome and others, it has been brought to birth.

This centre is available to help the local community women (or anyone who needs help) to keep their child instead of the first thought/option-abortion. Though mind you I don’t know how their hands will be tied now that this Bill from hell has been passed.

→

I remember Denise speaking about this dream many many years ago and through many prayers and her unwavering belief and the unwavering belief of those around her it was officially opened by His Grace Archbishop Denis Hart of the Melbourne Archdiocese on October 7th 2008, appropriately a beautiful feast day (Our Lady of the Rosary) and in God’s timing perhaps a forewarning of the need for this facility because this was the day that the parliament met to begin the debate into the decriminalisation.

On this day that the politicians would turn their backs on infants in the womb, the centre is opened

Letters

Dear Anne,

Peace in the Lord! Thank you for your wonderful newsletter. What wonderful information about the father's innate role to protect his own from the moment of conception! If men knew that; if they could really understand what a beautiful gift is theirs, they could not help but be warriors for life. Ah, how much of life goes by without reflection...

Dear Anne God has truly gifted you, a woman in His Grace. Thank you for all you are and do for life. May God continue to bless you abundantly. Enfolded in our prayer

Bill and Ida.

Cheque enclosed for book and donation.

Dear Anne,

Congratulations on your book "Redeeming Grief" and the work you.

God certainly writes straight on crooked lines. May he continue to bless your efforts.

Sincerely

Judy and John.

Vic.

Dear Anne,

I encourage you in your great work with victims of abortion.

I totally agree with you regarding young children being violated by the onslaught of sex education. They are robbed of the very beautiful gift of innocence which is a most precious gift given by God. Innocence on the face of a young child is so beautiful to see. Innocence, spontaneity and trustfulness are things of beauty which occur naturally if a healthy childhood is allowed to develop.

To rob children of these things to take away their natural inner beauty born of innocence. Teaching adult things such as sex education robs children of joy. Spontaneity is also beautiful in a child. Bog them down with sex education and this too will be lost. Let us love children by letting them be children! Let us then nurture these most precious gifts of innocence,

spontaneity and trustfulness, belonging to children. Anne I feel very strongly about these things. Enclosed is a donation towards your work and a request for 2 copies of your book, "Redeeming Grief"

God Bless,
Shirley.

Dear Anne,

I was looking at The March of the Penguins last night, the thing that impressed me was the hardship and pain the male & female suffered to make sure that the egg had a chance to produce their baby; they had long treks over the ice to the sea to obtain food - starving themselves. They did their best to be gentle when transferring the egg from 'Mum' to 'Dad'. All the penguins nurtured and cared for their precious ones until they could fend for themselves. One scene showed the grief of the mother after her little one died because of the harsh conditions. If only all human hearts could have this compassion and love for life. Prayers are with you.

Sister Mirin.

Dear Anne

Thank you for the newsletters you have sent me for quite some time now. I enjoy them very much. Each month we organise 2 pro life prayer hours for your work, in two different parishes. The Legion of Mary also keep you in their personal prayers, your work is very important. Enclosed is a small donation and an order for a copy of your book Redeeming Grief. I look forward to reading this when it arrives. God bless you and your family and all those you work with.

Love
Betty B.

Thank you Betty, now I know why every time I say "Lord is it time to quit?" He sends me more people to see... Betty!!!! it must be your fault !!!! (laugh). Thank you and dear ladies Betty and please, please keep prayers going, I can't do it without prayers.

with an enormous amount of visitors and guests and beautiful commissioning, and blessing ceremony by the Archbishop.

Congratulations to all involved, well done good and faithful servants.

As I come to the end of this newsletter I do so with a heavy heart. I had with held writing it and had hoped that the news I brought would have been marvellous news. That at the last minute there was a divine intervention and those merchants of death would have had a miraculous change of heart. Or they would have had a massive defeat, but it was not to be.

At the moment my heart is broken over this dreadful decision on this Black Friday. A decision which has legalised infanticide. A decision which has made a mummy's womb the most dangerous place on earth.
How we go on from here...I don't know.

Again I have to ask for your help/support. From the last issue of the newsletter there were less than a dozen responses.

I understand that the financial insecurity with the markets is strong at the moment, and I can understand that it is affecting everyone but I depend on you completely for the work I do. So if you would like me to continue please help.

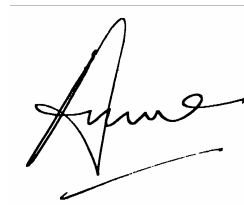
I have commitments which must be met, rent of city office, two phone lines, electricity and newsletter, and at times its hard. Thank you to

those who remember, I appreciate your care for me and the girls and the work.

Please continue to pray for Heather, Jenny, Helen, Maria, Peter, Melinda, Fran, Jackie, Claire, Suzie, Sarah, Stephanie, Annemarie, Petra, (new) Linda,(new) Mary(new) Heidi, (new) Abby,(new) Theresa(new) Nikkie, (new) Joy, (new) Sharon, Rosemary, (new) Erica,(new) Sheryl,(new) Caroline (new).

Thank you to my little friend Luke (from Qld) I appreciate his support a lot. He raided his money box to help me.

God Bless.



Anne Lastman

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Broken Branches - By email!



Dear Friends,

In an effort to help reduce the costs and time put into preparing each newsletter, I am now able to email it out to you in Adobe Acrobat format (.PDF). So if you would prefer to receive Broken Branches electronically, please email me at annevoa@bigpond.net.au with a request to be added to the email list.