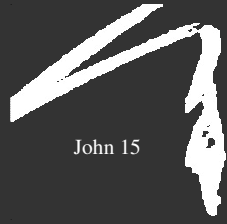


BROKEN BRANCHES

Issue 76

Jun/Jul 2010



John 15

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

This issue of the newsletter is dedicated to two special people in my life.

Rest in Peace my precious Mum and my friend Fr Denis Ward.

RIP.....My Mum

On return from conferences in Lourdes and Bratislava I was confronted with the news that my mother had passed away in Perth Western Australia. It was very difficult to fly to Perth with the knowledge of what I would find.

Thank you to my beautiful Mum and rest in peace.

Please pray for my Mum and my family and myself during the coming times. It has been difficult trying to get back into grief counselling.

RIP..... Fr Denis Ward (Cap)

A dear and precious priest friend who has supported me for many years. He has at times been available for me to send my girls to him and further he has been there when I needed someone to comfort me. It has been hard seeing him ill. Rest in Peace Fr Denis and thank you.

Dear Friends,

What a time it has been since we last met via the newsletter. So much has happened.

Since then we have heard of the scandalous report that an anaesthetist working at one of the largest abortion clinics in Victoria (they specialise in late term abortions) is being investigated by police because he is believed to have infected many many women with Hepatitis C whilst working at the clinic last year.

This particular doctor was an alleged drug addict whose own medical registration had been restricted by the Medical Practitioners' Board some years ago. The Medical Practitioners board again suspended the anaesthetist as soon as it discovered that some of the patients he attended were infected with the same strain of virus which he is carrying.

Health authorities cannot explain how the virus could be accidentally passed on to so many women/patients and police investigation is proceeding.

It is believed that this doctor passed the virus onto women attending for an abortion procedure between 2008 and 2009. How interesting that the new horrific abortion laws were passed in October 2008.

I believe that this investigation by police is ongoing so I won't say more on the matter.

Name _____

Address _____ P/C _____

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

Send to:

Victims of Abortion, National Office

PO Box 6094, Vermont South, Vic, 3133, Australia.

Email: anne@victimsofabortion.com.au

Late Term Abortions

In a news item on Saturday 17 March on Channel 7, there was the news item that we in the pro life movement knew would happen. It was confirmed that there has been an upsurge in late term abortions following the new abortion laws. It was reported that the Royal Women's Hospital is doing many more late term abortions since the law change and midwives and doctors are getting traumatised by having to participate in these abortions.

We said it would happen. And markedly so. It was reported that as much as 3 late term abortions per week are being performed since the law change (2008) whereas it used to be one per fortnight before the law change.

It was even reported that one 32 week child was aborted because of harelip. I have a very dear friend, His Excellency Bishop Andreas Laun, Auxiliary Bishop of Salzburg, who had the same condition, repaired, and is now a fabulous man of God. If he had been aborted we would have lost such a tremendous pro life Bishop and beautiful prayerful man.

A harelip!! Imagine aborting an infant because of such a minor issue which can so easily be repaired. We in pro life work knew this would happen and said so.

The irony is that the same week here in Melbourne, Australia, we rejoiced when we heard via the same news medium of an infant of 23 weeks was born prematurely and lives and is thriving.

What a beautiful and heart-warming story about the unusual birth of baby Kian (name of premature baby) and the love and efforts done to help him live, and yet how tragic that other infants in womb are aborted at the same gestational age under the guise that at that stage it is "not a baby".

We can see that it is a baby and the only difference between this beautiful infant and one destined for abortion is that this one has parents, who want him and are willing him to live, and fight for him to live and the other does not, and yet the other is also very much an infant who would be loved by doting parents and siblings if he/she were permitted to live

and be adopted out, if its biological mother could not raise him/her. All that the child destined for abortion needs is a mother with courage to fight for his/her right to be born and live.

How wonderful is the human spirit and this little one's fight for life (Kian) and how tragic that others are so carelessly and brutally killed.

When the new abortion laws came into being I remember saying many times that we have just legalised infanticide and I remember being taken to task as being too melodramatic.

I wasn't melodramatic it has come to pass.

The legalisation of infanticide. The killing of living, viable infants because they are not wanted and the law says that this is acceptable.

Three late term abortions per week mean 156 per year and perhaps more. Children born who could be saved with a little help by the medical profession and lots of love by those attending to them.

In an another and different report in one of our daily newspapers (Herald Sun, 20th May) it was reported by the journalist Padraic Murphy that "almost one late term abortion is performed in Victoria every day and 54 babies survived the procedure to die post-natal" and these figures can be accessed in 2007 annual report of the Consultative Council on Obstetrics and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity.

This information can be accessed on internet.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/national/healthy-babies-aborted/story>

We have finally legalised infanticide and its being reported openly and without rancour.

Heaven help us please.

Conferences in Lourdes and Bratislava

Since the last issue of the newsletter I have attended the FIAMC (Federation of International Medical Associations) conference in Lourdes, France (as a speaker).

The conference was attended by over 450 doctors/psychiatrists/ psychologists/MDs from around the world and further by theologians, Priests and dignitaries from the Vatican and there were over 300 other attendees.

I had the great pleasure of meeting very briefly SE Mgr. Zygmunt Zimoski (President of the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care) . Prof Josef Glasa (Bioethicist from Bratislava) and many other fabulous pro life workers including Prof Rob Walley (President of Matercare International) and many many more.

It was a beautiful conference with themes of God the Creator, Jesus Christ Suffering and Healing, The Spirit of Life and a special Pro Life Session with speakers from Bratislava (Ethicist) Dr Mary L Davenport (American Association of Pro Life Obstetricians, and Gynaecologists). A paper on “An authentic renewal in catholic Healthcare” and myself. I was requested to deliver a paper on “The Holy Spirit the Lord and Giver of Life” I believe the paper was well received and I have had many requests for the hard copy of the talk.

Apart from the Pro Life section there were some magnificent papers delivered on God the creator, Jesus the Healer and the Holy Spirit and Re Creation and sanctification. Indeed it was a magnificent conference and I would like to thank the President of FIAMC Prof. J.M.Simón for his invitation to me to speak. Indeed it was a great honour.

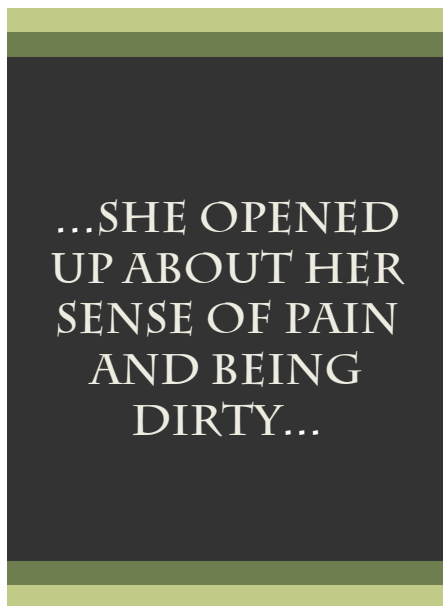
The Tears that Gush Forth.

A very interesting episode occurred to me whilst at Lourdes; I can see the Hand of God in it. As I was just meandering and looking outside the Holy Rosary Basilica on my last day there, I happened upon a young African girl deeply weeping. Unable to contain myself I ask her if she was OK and could I be of help. Between all the tears and wet face and runny nose I was able to discern that she

doesn't believe that she is loved by her family and especially her sister who is so much better than her. Everything (apparently) goes well for her sister but for this your girl (Mirelle) nothing goes well and no one understands her. She further added that she doesn't know why she came to this place because she is such a bad person.

My experience when I encounter these things is that somehow the self esteem has been battered and her own belief in her goodness is absent.

As I listened to this young person, I encouraged her to sit with me for a while and we would talk. I could see that she needed to talk. As we sat on a seat nearby she continued to talk about her “wickedness” her “badness” and not “being a good person”.



Because I did not have much time and I could not invite her to come to my office for ongoing work, I knew that I had to cut through the preamble and try and go to the source of what was hurting her. I was getting the thought that there was some incidence in her life which she was ashamed of and which had hurt her much.

Not being able to ask her directly what the incidence was I decided to use my experience of pain of abortion and my former belief of my unworthiness, self loathing and sense of worthlessness and how God had come looking for me when all others had given up. My mention of my abortions brought a gasp from her and I knew that I had been on

the right track.

She opened up about her sense of pain and being “dirty” and her sister was right not to love her especially after what she had done. I spent quite some time with her speaking about my experience and the work that I do, and how much God has loved us and how much God has loved her to bring her to such a beautiful place for healing, and also to bring her in contact with me. I promised her that I would add her to my newsletter prayer list and pray for her because we would not be able to meet again.

As I continued to speak I could see that she was calming down and I was able to gently guide her a little. Eventually we were joined by the sister who was supposed to hate this girl and the two sisters embraced. I said a quiet goodbye and slipped away.

As I turned back they were still hugging so I knew they would be OK.

Vienna

Following the conference in Lourdes I went to Vienna where I was based for next 6 days. Thank you Dietmar Fischer, Human Life International Austria, for picking me up, giving me hospitality, and taking care of me and driving me to Bratislava (for the second conference) and supporting me through this time.

Before I went to Bratislava I had the pleasure of meeting Janet Morana, Executive Director of Priests for Life with Fr. Pavone, and Co Founder of Silent No More Awareness Campaign. And together with Janet and Dietmar Fischer we had a really good meeting with Austrian Politician Norbert Hofer Member of the Austrian Freedom Party.

It was both rewarding and interesting to meet such a politician who was willing to listen to the abortion after effects and hopefully will take them on board and act on the information. Both Janet Morana and Dietmar Fischer and myself considered the about 1- 1 ½ hours spent with him as very very worthwhile.

Thank you to the Honourable Mr Norbert Hofer MP for the time he spent with us and the interest which he showed. The following day Dietmar and I began the drive to Bratislava for day conference scheduled there.

Bratislava Conference

This conference was attended by over 30 individuals of various professional capacity, that is, psychologists, psychiatrists, psychology students, priests and several pro life workers.

I did a PowerPoint presentation on post abortion grief followed by question and answer time.

It was interesting because most of the attendees could not speak English, but I had a lovely interpreter (Maria) who must have been as exhausted by the end of the day as I was but also very pleased with the outcome.

The conference went for about 6 hours and I believe the information provided by the PowerPoint presentation was well received. It is my hope to return sometime next year and perhaps do more there. The people are genuinely interested and want much information.

Thank you Maria for the invitation and hope we meet again sometime.

Men Cry too.

It never ceases to amaze me that when I speak to people about the fact that men cry when a tragedy befalls them, they don't seem to think that this indeed is so. They seem to think that men are muscular, strong and are hard of heart and they can control their emotions. The truth is that many men do cry, but it may not be visible to the eye, because they cry inwardly. It may only be visible in their body language or by their behaviours and reactions such as intolerance, violence or short temperedness.

Why do I tell you this? Because over the last 20 years or so, counsellors involved in post abortion counselling have become aware that men are also seriously affected by the after effects of abortion. This of course should not surprise us because men contribute 50 percent of the DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid). DNA is like the hard wiring in a computer it determines who we are and what we are. It pre programmes us with our traits such as eye colour, hair colour, whether we are Caucasian or Asian or Negro. In total disregard of this fact, men are ignored in the situation of abortion. Somehow it seems that the only rights that exist in the abortion debate fall to the woman on the basis that it is her body that is of concern only.

This short article is not about the arguments for or against the abortion debate. This article is about the effects of abortion on men who seem to be the silent and forgotten people in this debate.

The father of post abortion research related to the male was Arthur B. Shostak, Ph.D. who himself was a victim of the abortion industry. He was against his partner aborting his child and tried to seek redress in court, to have a say in what was to be the abortion of his own child about twenty years ago.

It seems to be that about half of the women seeking abortion are accompanied by their husband/partner/boyfriend. Dr Shostak has done the first extensive research on the man accompanying his wife/partner/girlfriend to the abortion clinic, and also the long-term effect of abortion grief on the man.

For example it was discovered that approximately 70% of the males who wish to offer love and comfort during the 15-minute abortion procedure are commonly barred from doing so. Those 90% percent or so who wish to offer comfort during the hour-long post-procedure recovery period are commonly told no.

Also the long-term loss and grief is as prevalent in males as in females. Dr. Miriam Grossman, a psychiatrist at UCLA's

student health service wrote, "Men's reactions to abortion have been ignored" by her colleagues in the mental health field. "There is a significant number of people who do have those scars and that painful," she says, "and if we are going to be open to victims of every sort, then we in mental health need to be acknowledging them even if they don't advance a particular ideology."

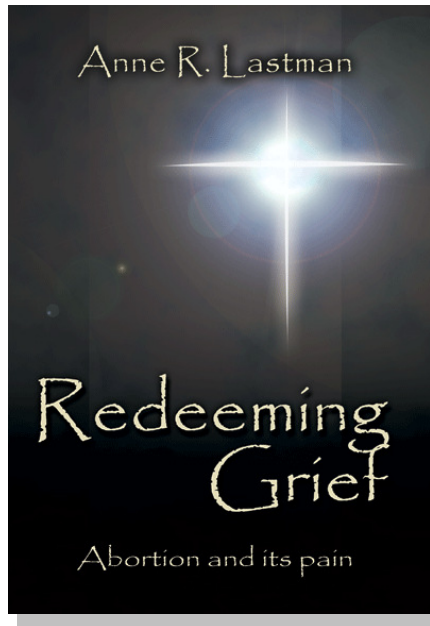
In fact, commenting on his research, Dr. Shostak has suggested the professional counselling community adopt what he calls a "pro-couple approach to the abortion challenge" that can help those who have abortions recover from "an experience from which they are never quite the same."

So the question needs to be asked, why is it that the male is left out of the abortion question? Why his pain, his grief, his sorrow, not recognized? Why cannot he have a say in the life of the child he helped to create? I think the time has come to give a voice to the voiceless man who is not listened to and comforted in his loss. It is time to wake up to the reality of what is happening and say, no more.

It's time.....Cornelius

Thank you Cornelius for this article. I have pondered much over the question of male post abortion grief and indeed am presently dealing with the issue with "John".

However, I think it will be some time before we see a male come forward and speak openly about his grief and pain at loss of the child. This I think is related to the idea that the male is supposed to "not want the kid" or is supposed to "support whatever you decide to do" (says he to his partner/wife/girlfriend) or is supposed to be thoughtless and heartless or indeed at times he is all of the above. However, from my experience not all males want to have the life of their child terminated



Redeeming Grief is a reflection of and study of abortion grief, which is experienced by some women who choose to undergo this elective procedure. These reflections are the result of listening to over 1000 personal stories and listening to the expressions used by the women as they spoke about their decision to abort the life of their child. These reflections then attempt to reconstruct the meaning that this procedure has had for the aborting woman and how this one procedure has been the catalyst for life changes.

Redeeming Grief looks at abortion trauma and grief from the spiritual and the psychological perspective. Its influences on the individuals involved and society. It is hoped that the language used is reader friendly and the concepts (both spiritual and psychological) are also reader friendly.

AUD\$29.95 (inc GST)

Plus postage and handling

To order your copy of Redeeming Grief, please complete this order form, detach, and send with Cash, Cheque or Money Order to:

Victims Of Abortion,
PO Box 6094,
Vermont South,
Vic, 3133, Australia.

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Number of copies _____ @	AUD \$29.95 each
P+H (per book)	AUD \$3.45 (within Australia)
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and when this happens they feel enormous pain and helplessness. Very often this very decision (even against his desires/will) will serve to change his own understanding of manhood, husband and fatherhood. In his failure to protect the life of his child, he senses in himself a failure as a man, father and protector. He senses a loss of self in himself and a loss of his opportunity to put into practice what innately his manhood has meant. He senses in himself a sense of loss of the opportunity to protect his young, grow his young and then teach his young how to be the total human being.

He senses a loss of meaning in his own life “what’s it all about Anne?”

He senses that in not fighting harder for his child and his wife/partner he has failed in his role as male and failed to bring to fruit a new and better part of himself.

He has failed to father past the engendering. He has failed to father by being the living manual for his child to learn from. He has failed to protect and then prepare his child for life. Indeed he has failed because he has taken his child’s life and so he does not fulfil his role of man/husband/father/protector/lover.

So very often I hear that a father has no role in the early life of his child, that he is distanced from child because of the child’s need for the nurturing by its mother. But this is not so, a father has a huge role to play from the moment of the child’s conception and then for the rest of the child’s life.

A father doesn’t stop fathering with his donation of genetic material for the formation of the child (23 chromosomes of the x or y type) but a father to the end. The end of Fatherhood is not a certain time limit but fatherhood is for life.

A father’s role is not terminal, it is into eternity and thus how he father’s his child determines how he feels about himself and how the child will feel about herself/himself.

A son, who is fathered well, will grow into the man that his father is. A son who is not fathered well will not only stray but will spend a lifetime looking for something unknown but still desiring that which he has not received.

A father who fathers his son well teaches him physically, spiritually, and visibly how to be a man. A father is his son’s living instructional manual.

A father who fathers his daughter well and honours her and her femininity will teach her and prepare her for the future

and the respect that is due to her because he has taught her to respect herself as he has respected her.

A father who father’s his daughter well teaches her that she is to be honoured in her femininity and as she learns this she learns to distinguish and discern those who do not honour and respect her and stay away from these because her father has taught her that she is to be honoured and is precious.

This is why it is such a huge tragedy when a father sexually, physically, or emotionally abuses his child. The child cannot believe in honour because the one who was supposed to honour him/her and guide her femininity and respect her has himself violated that very thing. The boundaries of honour which the father should have grown around his precious daughter have been violated and lost and thus sets his daughter out unprotected and alone so that she becomes a target for those who would also dishonour her.

We see this when we see that a sexually abused woman will often continue the abuse by the lifestyle she chooses. She continues the abuse through her own loss of sense of who she is and her failure to distinguish those who will not respect her. Her barriers which should have been honoured and respected by an honourable father have been brought down, thus leaving her vulnerable for future abuse.

A father who fathers his daughter and son well prepares the child for the future. A father who fathers his child badly or even abandons his child through absence will prepare the child for a future filled with longings and searching and bad choices. This child does not know her/his right or her wrong because these are taught through presence and time and love and strength and courage.

A father who fathers well brings these attributes to his fathering and fatherhood and with these is able to teach with his living instructional manual. Himself.

.....A FATHER’S ROLE IS NOT TERMINAL, IT IS INTO ETERNITY.....

Letters

Dear Anne,

Praised be Jesus Christ. May this Easter be a very blessed time for you and your family and also for all those to whom you are such a wonderful support and encouragement. We pray that the Lord continues to fill you with great strength and courage to continue in the work to which He has called you.

It gets tough, Anne, but continue gazing upon Jesus and keep smiling-not always easy in the face of fierce opposition.

Love and many blessings

Deacon Frank Feain and Lu.

Thank you dear friends it is getting harder and harder but I will keep going as long as the Lord permits.

Dear Anne,

Congratulations on your amazing article on “pornography” the best I have ever read-and I’ve read heaps especially from overseas in my work as President of..... (name of organisation). You are amazing! I pray that the Lord will continue to bless you and your ministry,

Peace Love and Joy

Alfred S..... Vic.

Thanks Alfred for your kind words of encouragement I appreciate your words and your care.

Dear Anne,

Many thanks for another terrific newsletter. Your vocation is certainly not an easy one, dealing with such pain and sadness in lives.

May God bless you and yours now and always,

Maureen W....Vic.

Dear Anne,

I am amazed at how you manage to keep going with your wonderful but I am sure very depressing and stressful work. I pray every day that God will continue to give you strength to go on with it. I hope this donation is of some help.

With Love

Judy R.....Vic.

Thank you Judy for your kind thoughts and donation. Yes it is getting harder and harder.

Dear Anne,

Your article titled “What is Pornography” was spot on. Where you mention with victims of pornography it can lead to incest, abortion and prostitution, had me thinking of my own past life. You are also correct when you mention that the victims can be of any gender and the perpetrator is the only one who gets real pleasure from the act.

Also I agree with what you say about sex being used in advertising for companies to try and sell products.

One example is women in skimpy wear washing cars or windows.

I could keep on and on about the article in your newsletter but I will just say that I agree with the message you are trying to put out there.

Anyway another great article as usual.

May God keep blessing you in your work. Take care.

Margaret E. (Vic).

Thanks Margaret for your support.....Anne

Dear Anne,

While I was reading your article “pregnancy Too Soon” I could not help but remember with sadness a time in my life after my abortion, that I had this doll and I would do things like feed it, change its nappy, get up in the middle of the night and sit in the dark nursing it. I would dream that I could hear the doll crying and that’s why I would get up and nurse the doll for at least an hour.

When my youngest son first left home about 8 years ago I began to start pretending my doll was a baby all over again. Things got so bad that if a friend rang me and asked me to go somewhere with them I would tell them most times that I couldn’t because I was babysitting.

My neighbours would sometimes see baby clothes on the line and I would just tell them that I was doing some washing for a friend.

Anne I just want to tell you that your article reminded me that I couldn’t stop being a mother even after my abortion.

Heather. (Melb).

Heather is lady I have been seeing for several years (see issue 71) and I wanted to print this letter to show you dear readers that abortion grief manifests in so many ways and is managed in as many ways as the human spirit is permitted to manage it.

Heather is coming along beautifully but please continues to pray for her.....Anne

Dinner for Life

Live Music..International Speaker...Auctions

Life Dinner 2010

A fundraiser for defending life.

Guest Speaker: Dr Alan Carlson (USA) Chairman World Congress of Families.

And Pro life Musician Robert Galea.

Venue: Melrose Receptions. 14th August 2010
Cnr Melrose & Carrick Drive
Tullamarine Victoria Melways Ref: 15 K2

Time: 6.30pm..Pre dinner drinks

Cost \$75 for 3 course meal (including drinks) pp
\$50 students.

RSVP 6/8/2010

To Phyllis Restall (03) 98160800 or 0429336053

Cheques to be made to Australian Family Association
(AFA) PO Box 251 Balwyn Vic 3103

Remember dear friends that you can request that a portion
of your funds for this dinner to go towards the work of
Victims of Abortion.

The more attend the more \$ will be sent (portion) as
donation to this work.

Dear Friends as I come to the end of this newsletter I thank you for your ongoing support and I especially thank 2 anonymous donors who sent a donation after the last newsletter. You helped to pay the rent. It has been a really difficult time financially.

And I also thank those whom I rang for help and they responded. Thank you.

It again has been suggested that I use funds from Victims to travel to conferences, this is not so, the conferences (fares etc) are usually paid for by either those who invite me or a supporter who is asked to support this particular endeavour. (Thanks Fr Ray).

Again support for this work seems to be waning so may I again ask you for your support, there is so much work to be done and I can only do it with you behind me and lifting me up.

Please continue to pray for

Marlene, Heather, Helen, Maria, Robyn, Victoria, Juliette, John, Sue, Tina, Kerry, Paula, Erica, Theresa, Lillian, Camille, Dianne, Ann, Monica, Roger, Lynda, Sarah, Patsy, Kate, Karen, Rosemary, Jenny C, Jacquie, Helen (2) Mirelle (from Africa) Chris.



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 anne@victimsofabortion.com.au to be added to the email list.