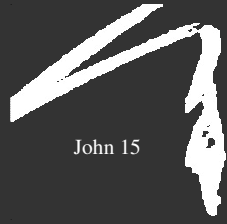


# BROKEN BRANCHES

Issue 88

June/July 2012



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

## 7 Youth Suicides per day in Australia Why?

At a recent meeting I was handed a leaflet “Go the Extra Mile” put out by Focus on the Family, which gave some disturbing facts about youth suicide in Australia. This is not an old leaflet but one which was released in May 2012.

As I read this leaflet which spoke of 7 Australians who will take their own lives this very day as I write this newsletter, I wondered why this remains silent.

Imagine 2155 young people taking their own lives in a land like Australia. A land that is beautiful, clean with good social services and no one should go hungry, so why do young ones find life so onerous that they want to end it all? Australia ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the world with its suicide of the young rate? How is it possible?

Of recent times we have heard on news services of suicides because of cyber bullying, peer group bullying and perhaps this needs to be attended to not only within the education system but also within the legal system and the family system. Bullying is a symptom of something else happening in the life of the bully and the one being bullied. Systems should be put in place which deal with this and the systems should be foolproof. Bullying is a sign of psychological problems in the bully and all efforts made to redress the problem.

Perhaps there are many reasons for the suicides apart from the bullying but no one wants to speak or cannot speak about these because of the taboo which surrounds suicide. The copy-cat aspect of suicide and the further added pain

to those left behind. But we have to discuss this because 2155 will again end their own very young and what should have been beautiful hope filled lives.

Apart from the first issue that is often touted, that is the drug issue, I would also like to suggest issues like abandonment can underpin suicide, issues like parental absence (absence of father). Issues like loss of strong mores, loss of or absence of knowledge about how to see the future. Loss of knowledge of how to cope with difficulties because parenting styles have changed, that is, either both parents at work and children in day-care so who will teach them the finer things of life. Or alternatively loss of or fractured parenting. That is, children brought up in households with many changes of partners and at times abuse, and loss of stability, so that a child does not know or learn how to cope with future life difficulties.

There is also loss of learning how to make friendships because of technology (texting, Facebook, skyping,) isolation becomes strong. At times not even to hear a human voice throughout the phone in a whole day. This is destructive and with much of this aloneness then suicide becomes a way out.

We know that children learn incrementally, so have children who have not had a stable household not learned how to progress and overcome difficulties? Have children not known or learned how to cope because of their own grief at the losses they have experienced?

Or Maybe according to Professor Priscilla K Coleman in her recently study published in *British Journal of Psychiatry*, Nov 2011, abortion increases risk of attempting suicide and suicide ideation (musing/thinking) by 155%.

<http://bjp.rcpsych.org/content/199/3/180.abstract?sid=f3a640ac-1664-489e-9f34-2ecc688a6d52>

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

Email: [anne@victimsofabortion.com.au](mailto:anne@victimsofabortion.com.au)

I wonder if abortion or the loss of value this society attributes to human life has spoken to the young of the valuelessness of their own lives.

If the young have grown to believe that life in the womb is of little value so why would life out of the womb be more valuable.

As I speak to the young in secondary colleges or young as they come for counselling and hear their ideas about abortion then I am not surprised that there is a sense that "life" doesn't mean much.

Youth suicide as with any suicide, leaves behind so many unanswered questions. Why? Ask those left behind? Was there more I could have done? Why didn't I notice the signs? Was it loneliness? Was it disenchantment with life?

Perhaps we need as a society to see that the message we have given to children is that their lives are "conditional" to being "wanted" and under such circumstances perhaps their ability to fulfil the demands of being "wanted" becomes too difficult. Or perhaps still teaching the young that there is no reason for being here, no reason for their existence instils into their very being an existential nihilism. Or perhaps abandoning children to other carers so that their development is overseen by others than their parents and perhaps abandoning children to mechanical babysitter (television, computer games, etc) or perhaps instilling into children material which should not be there and "stealing" their innocence.

When I read this leaflet I felt sad that perhaps more fallout of abortion is that those permitted to live, actually unknowingly mourn and grieve for their lost siblings and siblings of others and at times cannot continue with the heaviness of heart. Our interconnectedness surely makes us feel a grief for the millions of infants killed annually and this must demand sacrifice by others.

**Youth suicide? Why? The answer is needed quickly**

## *Women's Health Issues Paper*

Recently I had a 2 hour space between appointments and because it was pouring and cold I curled up sat on my couch in my office and began reading an article which I'd meant to read but kept putting off. I knew that it would keep me awake. This article was called "Women's Health Issues Paper No.6". Put out by Women's Health Victoria dated May 2010.

### *It's on Women and Abortion.*

In the silence of my office without distractions I read a paper that surely must have been authored in a place like hell. It began with "Termination of pregnancy, or abortion, is one of the safest and most common medical procedures when performed by a qualified medical professional" I thought yes tell that to the young mother who died in November, 2011 after having an abortion at Marie Stopes abortion facility in Croydon, Victoria, by a "qualified medical professional." this then goes on to say that all women should obtain accurate information about abortion. I wonder if they told this young woman that there is real risk of physical health issues, mental health issues and even DEATH which in her case was the reality. The paper then goes on to say that all women would be able to make their own decision about abortion free from coercion and pressure. I wonder if these people have ever sat and heard the story of a young person (18 years of age) whose mother and boyfriend coerced her to have the abortion and now she cannot sleep, work, is depressed, cries wants to die? Was this abortion free from coercion?

This paper then follows with the idea that the decision "to terminate the pregnancy" by those closely involved with the situation. Who are these people? The father of the child? The grandparents of the child? What about the child?

This continues with abortion decision is difficult for many women and women should not "be made to feel guilty or judged for the decision" Who has made the "women" feel guilty or judged? I haven't gone into anyone's home and

pointed a finger and certainly I have not judged anyone their action, I have enough sins of my own without looking at the sins of the other. So is the “feeling of guilty and judged” a self judgement? a self reproval?

Further, this paper says that the best outcome is when women are “in control of the decision about the pregnancy termination” What happened to the other 50% of the equation in the life of the child, the father? And followed by the nonsense put out by Public Health Association of Australia “control of fertility is crucial to a woman’s ability to maintain her health.” What utter nonsense. So the woman’s health is maintained because she can abort her baby in the womb? Does that mean that women who continue with their pregnancies are not maintaining their health?

This paper then goes on to explain the need for such a discussion in this paper in order to dismiss attitudes, myths about abortion and the availability of services that deal with “termination of pregnancy”

In a grisly language, the paper explains that the abortions can be carried out in first trimester (up to 12 weeks) the second trimester (12-24 weeks) or, in rare circumstances in third trimester (24-36 weeks) but according to this author most of the terminations are carried out in the first 12 weeks in a “day procedure using vacuum aspiration” this is supposed to “remove the lining and the contents? of the

uterus (or baby using my words).

A D & C can also be performed up to 14 weeks gestation. This means the splicing of the baby and removing him/her in bits from the womb.

“Medical abortions” induce abortion through the medium of chemicals and this author says that this method has been proven to be safe and effective (using RU486 and other abortifacient chemicals) this method induces miscarriage and thus avoids surgical procedure. This method can be used up to 24 weeks gestation but is preferred in early 7-8 week pregnancies. I wonder if those women who have died because of RU486 would say that this is a safe option. Or their families. Or the babies.

Imagine the poisoning of the infant in the womb and its painful dying. And these women care for women’s health? We are told that “many women” prefer the chemical abortions because they are more “natural” less medicalised and of course less expensive. Imagine “more natural” Can there ever be a “natural” abortion? Does that mean that it

can be pretended that it wasn’t an abortion but a “miscarriage.” At least this thought for now?

We are also told in this paper that “terminations after 20 weeks are rare” too bad this was written before the child in Darwin who was born alive and left to die. Too bad about the 24 week boy who died in October 2011 and his mother shortly after. Too bad about the 32 week twins who died in November because of a mix up. Too bad about over 50 who we know were born alive and left to die and whom the politician Peter Kavanagh tried to raise the question in Parliament about the neglect of these born alive infants who were left to die. What duty of care for these little ones was given? They were no longer in the womb so all out effort should have been made to save them, even if the mother had not wanted them, they were born alive and now “patients” and not “foetal matter” (words used with one of

my clients). . Abortion rare after 20 weeks? Yeah right!

Interestingly the reasons that late term abortions are considered acceptable are for “psychosocial reasons” that is risk to the mother’s mental health or for foetal abnormalities. But there is also a long list of other reasons for terminations after 20 weeks, financial, psychological, social.

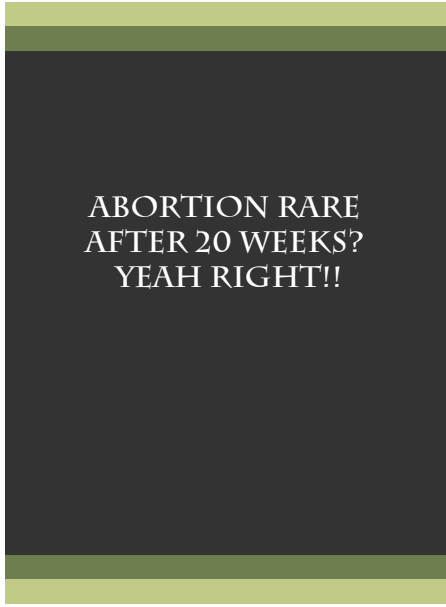
Then this paper went on to speak about the social stigma which still surrounds abortion. And I had to ask what stigma? If its true that the research done by

Women’s Health organisations found that abortion is “broadly supported” that surely must mean that there is no

stigma otherwise it would not be supported.

Or perhaps could it be that whilst certain women think that abortion should be readily available the reality is that availability does not make a conscience free. Does not make a woman’s design forget her special charism of womanhood/motherhood and violating this then must surely feel like there is guilt and judgement and sense of having done something wrong.

The part of this paper which had me seeing red was a section called “Myths about Abortion” According to this illustrious paper the grief of the post abortive woman/man is myth. All studies done which show deleterious effects of abortion on women are discredited. Faulty in some way and studies show that poorer mental health is associated with having the baby and parenting the baby. It continues that unintended pregnancies can have negative consequences for the “mother and child” (look at this! mother and child-humanised and still they don’t see) in



terms of education and employment and financial security. This paper actually calls the baby a “child” and still continues with the idea of abortion.

As I said at the beginning, this paper could have been authored somewhere in Hades. The authors cannot see the contradiction. The authors cannot see that they are saying “terminate the life of a child” the life of a human child and this said with cold calculated words. How did we get to a place where such a paper is possible? Such ideas are possible? Such thinking has become possible and actually carried out? Where were we while this was going on. How did it get past us?

Now having read the above paper those of you has a computer please look at this magnificent article and then perhaps we might weep. Even the word “divine” comes in from the speaker.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=fKyljukBE70](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=fKyljukBE70)

For my readers who don't have a computer this is a short film called “From Conception to Birth” presented by Associate Prof. Alexander Tsiaris, from Yale University, department of Medicine, and shows from the beginning fertilisation, cell division, development of heart chamber, the development of what will be arms and legs and cornea at 32 days. At 36 days the primitive streak or spine, 51 days development of retina, nose and fingers.

And the speaker says that the most development a child does is in the first 12 weeks because if it continued to grow at this rate it would be enormous, nearly 2 tons in weight by the time of birth so it knows when to build and when to slow down. And at the birth time, the child begins the contractions, sets forth dialogue with its mother in preparation for its separation from her. It expels itself from the womb with the help of the contractions.

And how amazing that by 9 months there will 60,000 miles or 96,560.64 kilometres of vessels in this new baby's body.

So where does all the information to do this by itself come from? Where does the intelligence to self regulate come from? Where do the knowledge and instructions to grow and form its own limbs and brain come from? How does the woman's body know how to do the things needed to sustain the child?

And yet the feminist lobby have declared that it is a “right” to terminate the life of this self creating being and even at times called the child a parasite.

Why is it that we can see murder, slander, soft porn, violence on prime time television (5-7.30pm) and not a 5 minute film that might help us stem this awful tide of abortion?

Why cannot we see the beauty of creation? And the answer surely has to be the politics of “woman” who is again really against herself.

And then I think it's no wonder that there is a new grief experienced which can only be experienced by an aborting woman. A grief unique because of what has gone on between the mother and child from the very instant, very instant of conception not three months or 12 months after birth but from the instant of conception there is a new mystery begun which if uninterrupted will conclude with a new human being.

All the dialogue which went on between the mother and the child in the first twelve weeks during its most intensive time of formation and the collaboration which went on so that the child would complete its formation, its building of its own structure and we are then expected to believe that intentional and deliberate severance or even unintentional severing of the relationship will not leave its mark on the woman? How is this possible that we have lost this sense of connection? Of knowing?

#### **And then I remembered this tribute to Mothers:**

*The most important person on earth is a Mother.  
She cannot claim the honour of having built Notre Dame  
Cathedral. She need not.*

*She has built something more magnificent than any  
cathedral –A dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny  
perfection of her baby's body.*

*The angels have not been blessed with such a grace.  
They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new  
souls to heaven. Only a human mother can.*

*Mothers are closer to God the creator than any other  
creature. God joins forces with mothers in performing this  
act of creation...*

*What on God's good earth is more glorious than this: to be  
a mother? –*

Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty

29/3/1892 – 6/5/1975. R.I. P.

Did we women allow ourselves to be cheated with objects made of fools' gold? I think so.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Consoling the Post Abortive Woman

Long before a post abortive woman or woman experiencing neonatal loss is referred to professional counsellors there are those around her who need to be aware that there are acceptable behaviours which she manifests and needs support with and failure to express grief can then lead to abnormal behaviour itself.

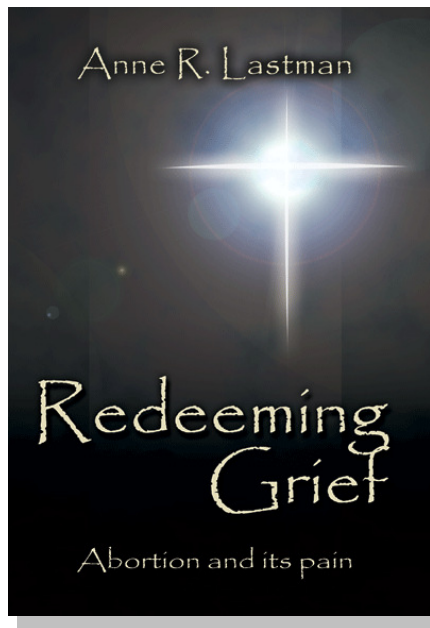
Following the abortion or neonatal death it is so important to watch for the onset of pain. Watching for the expression of pain means watching in love and not in judgement. This is not the moment to ask why or to even speak. This is the moment for consolation for her very self as a woman and not her decision. She cannot grieve because she was not present, consciously aware at the time of the death. There was no ceremony-no remembrance- no goodbye a fantasy world about daughter or son.

But there is sadness and grief and to those surrounding the abortive woman I would say please consol her but wait for her to be ready to make the decision to seek help.

Very often I get emails/calls which ask how to "make" someone go for professional help, but we cannot "make" anyone go for help, they have to want to do so, but be gently available for a time when it's possible to suggest that special help is available for abortion grief.

The only thing though that I would suggest is not to become her "counsellor" this grieving person needs her Mum, family, friends, husband, boyfriend without judgement before it is possible for her (if needs be) to seek professional help like myself or others.

Let her know it's OK to cry, it's OK to mourn for her special loss. These are normal emotions, but that a professional counsellor can help her/him cope with the other negative aspects, e.g. guilt, shame. How to process these.



**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:

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## **. A Great Concern**

Recently (may 13/2012) another article in our daily paper (Herald Sun) set my thought processes working hard and overtime again. This article was about a Psychiatrist Speaking against same sex marriage was demanded to explain his position and then defend his role on the board of the states equal opportunity agency.

The Psychiatrist who has a high position within the mental health authority of this state (Deputy Chief Psychiatrist) signed a submission to the senate inquiry calling for ban on same sex marriage especially for the welfare of children and the health of society and nation.. He has to justify why he should remain on the Equal Opportunity Commission and Human Rights Commission especially given his views on the matter.

He is not alone in this, other medical professionals also have done the same but it appears that Professor Kuruvilla George now must defend his stand and job.

Normally I don't get involved in other issues because there are enough post abortion issues to keep me going for a while yet, but this particular article frightened me because it has the "aroma" or is it "stench" of the same tactics used when the decriminalisation of abortion was being fought for. The tactics used are the same. That is intimidation.

It appears that Prof. Kuruvilla George cannot have another opinion without having to defend his right to that opinion. So where is his right to think as he does? Or has he lost it?

"We submit that the evidence is clear that children who grow up in a family with a mother and father do better in all parameters than children without," the Doctors for the Family group says.

It appears according to politicians and others that Dr Kuruvilla George as a citizen of this state must be forced to accept the forceful views of the gay and lesbian lobby groups in order to be able to make a judgement in his role on the Equal opportunity Commission. It appears that they believe he is unable to divorce his views on health with views/judgements of alleged discrimination against homosexual and lesbian individuals. How convenient to accuse him of this

At this moment Parliamentary inquiries are in progress into three private member's bills that aim to change the Marriage Act. Therefore as a senior member of this state his views are a threat and therefore his forced removal.

Dr Kuruvilla has since resigned his positions

What a tragedy that we are being bullied into accepting and changing something that has been the cornerstone and strength and civilisation of society marriage between a man and a woman and together they bring forth new life and a future.

As I said at the beginning of this short piece I don't like to get involved in many issues but this is serious and sadly I don't see that changing of the marriage Act will not succeed, as I saw that liberating abortion laws would lead to late term abortions and very possibly euthanasia of infants found unwanted because of some reason.

## **WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES VI MADRID MAY 2012**

Attending such a congress on family issues leaves in its wake many questions. Listening to eminent speakers whose topics covered many themes, this congress first of all gathers to celebrate "families" and what it means to be the "natural" family and the family which God designed for the welfare of all. And these meetings, whilst seemingly speaking to hearers who already know this are in these days needed to further strengthen each other in what is becoming a successful attempt at re writing God's design and the most important bastion of society. Family.

Public policy on the know how to protect "natural family" is discussed, shared, talked about and re confirmed.

In a period or era when natural family between Mum, Dad and children is considered "unnatural" the World Congress of Families gathers to say "NO" to anti family voices, laws, choices. This gathering represents organisations of all religious beliefs and denominations which believe in the unity and holiness of man and woman and children family and from this a springboard to the future.

The World Congress of Families and its affiliates promote marriage in its original design and cannot promote as "natural" other forms of coupling. It seeks to reverse the post modern utilitarianism, secularism, nihilism which the anti life anti family lobbies actively promote.

The promotion of anti life global abortion policy with its many partners (Marie Stopes International, IPPF, population controllers etc), its demand for abortion as a "right" of the woman, thus destabilising marriage because the "fruit" of marriage a child is rejected, and a change in her feminine genius affected..change and destabilisation of marriage is highlighted.

...THE WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES GATHERS TO SAY NO TO ANTI FAMILY VOICES...

# Letters

Dear Anne,

I am humbled by the work you do on behalf of all of us, you are an inspiration and a wonderful example of the difference that one person can do when they “do God’s will.” You are also a fine example of our ability to turn adversity and hardship into a “blessing” and we are all grateful for your obedience to God. May he keep you safe in His arms. Protected and secure and may He bless you every day of your. My support and prayers are with you

Love

Sandra L

*Thank you for your kind words Sandra they are lovely to hear and thank you for support. I think it was Mother Teresa who said “Everyday some miracle happens” I see these miracles when nature of the tears change from guilt and shame to acceptance and Mercy. It’s good.*

## **From a Reader**

Something light from one of my favourite readers and friends, or one would want to end it all. Thanks Father Paul C.

*A man walking along a deserted beach at sunset noticed a young child in the distance. He watched as the child picked up small objects from the sand threw them back into the sea. As he drew near to the child he asked what he was doing. “I’m throwing these starfish back into the ocean. Its low tide now and they have been washed ashore. If I don’t throw them back into the water they will die. Somewhat amused the man pointed out that there were countless thousands of starfish stranded on the beach. “you can’t possibly get to all of them. What you’re doing won’t make the slightest difference.” The young boy smiled as he bent down and picked up yet another starfish and threw it back into the sea; he replied “well I made a difference to that one”*

Reading all the literature I read about abortion and post abortion and sexual abuse, and other manner of abuse, I sometimes feel the same as the man who said “you can’t possibly make a difference” and then I think about the number of children who are alive because I spoke with their mums, and the number of women who have been reconciled with their aborted infants and I know that I have made a difference. Let’s all try and make a

difference.

Let’s all pray for one infant about to be aborted. Let’s all pray for one mother who made a decision to abort because she couldn’t see a way. Let’s pray for those working against the abortion industry and work in the front lines and who are constantly confronted with abuse and negativity. Let’s pray that this culture of death which has overtaken us will be overtaken in turn by a culture of life and love.

Let’s pray for a New Pentecost, a new outpouring of Holy Spirit for Life. Let’s pray that the Lord and Giver of Life will pour out His Mercy and new understanding on our culture so that it can begin to slowly change. Let’s pray that the Holy Spirit can bring the turn around and the upward climb to a place of not one abortion.

Let’s pray for a new and renewed appreciation and understanding of the Holiness of Life and the Author of Life. Let’s willingly return to God His authority over life and not try wresting it from Him.

Dear Anne,

Hope all is well with you and thank you for the little book of prayers. There is certainly a prayer for every situation in it.

I also hope you are coping with all the stresses that come your way. May Our Holy Mother hold you in her love and protection now and always.

Love

Maureen W. (Victoria.)

*Thank you dear Maureen for your ongoing care and support. I prayed for all my supporters and readers especially in all the churches I visited in Madrid and Garabandal. I especially prayed in Garabandal for all those in my care and those who continue to help me and of course my family and families under attack.*

Dear Frs. Paul C., Fr Ray, and Fr G. (Caulfield)

You are precious to me.

Anne

Unitarianism's value of the human person whose value is determined for its purposefulness alone leads to the mentality of eventual euthanasia both at the infant and the "useless" end of life.

World Congress of Families monitors these areas and brings to bear some weight to resist these attempts at dethronement of God and the Sacred Image. Indeed to reverse what is a new attempt at the "Tower of Babel"

The World Congress of Families meets annually to bring together experts who can speak about the new ideologies and then bring these ideologies to their readers and alert their population to these attacks on humanity. They meet to first strengthen each other and then "strengthen the brethren"

From the opening ceremony through to the many plenary sessions eg Case for Marriage, (Dr J Crouse) Family Future of Society,( Rabbi Moises Bendahan Chief of Spain) to the value of natural family, the Natural Family and Revolution against the family (Cardinal Antonelli-Holy See) and such notable figures that it is impossible to mention. Figures of so many various religious beliefs that only for the family we can all get together and not allow our differences in belief to interfere with the battle ahead to protect family.

Demographic Winter, pornography, abortion, post abortion, loss of respect for life and love these were all covered in a three day marathon of speakers and marvellous talks.

Perhaps my greatest regret was that there were so many speakers that one needed to have the gifts of Padre Pio and bilocation to be at many places at the same time, but as I am not holy I couldn't bi locate so stayed at booth allotted and went and heard only specific speakers.

Dear friends this **World Congress for Family VII** is coming to **Sydney Australia** next year. Please consider attending we will all need to hear what is happening in order to be able to help and be ready to defend family.

Thank you to Babette for invitation, Andrew (husband) and Fr Ray for making it possible for me to go and after have a week in Madrid for a short break. I needed it.

## Third and final announcement of dinner of:

**Pro Life Dinner For 2012  
to be held @**

**Melrose Receptions on 23rd of June 2012 cost \$80 pp  
(still a third of takings to go to each pro life group made up of supporters).**

**So my people please get in early by contacting Phyllis Restall at [phyllisrestall@hotmail.com](mailto:phyllisrestall@hotmail.com)  
Or at 35 Whitehorse Road, Balwyn Vic. 3104 and ask to be placed at my table. Last year there were 14 at my table let's make it more. Love to see you there.  
*Remember this is a fund raiser for Victims of Abortion too.***

Dear friends as I come to end of this packed newsletter I ask for your help again, I don't ask much anymore because I you know that I depend on you to keep functioning. The trip was made possible not by donations to VOA but by gifts directly to me (husband, my precious friend Fr Ray and Babette who gave the Conference entry Fee). Now I need to ask.....

Please continue to pray for Heather, Marlene, Sarah, Cathy, Debbie, Merrilyn, Alyce, Jodie, Hope, Carolyn, Terrie, Vicki, Alex, Susan, Cathleen, Phillip,(new)Josephine, Susan (2) Mary, Lisa, Mary (2) Kathleen, Michelle.

Till we meet again in God's care I leave you.



**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](mailto:anne@victimsofabortion.com.au) to be added to the email list.