

Broken Branches

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

Issue 94 - Aug/Sept 2013

RIP Magaly Llaguno

In memory of my dear and precious friend Magaly who bravely fought cancer until the end. Please read the tributes in her honour on link below.

Today a Mass of Christian burial was celebrated in Miami for our wonderful departed friend, Magaly Llaguno, who established the first international pro-life network in Latin America for Human Life International. It was impossible not to be moved by the many stories we've heard from friends and collaborators about the times that Magaly, on a first meeting, took time out of her busy schedule to share the Gospel of Life, and to invite new acquaintances to get involved.

So her circle grew, and more and more were brought into the fight for life before the now-established political divisions were even in place. These same friends would see Magaly suffer persecution and ill health, troubles to which she responded with joy and gratitude, asking Our Lord to make the most of them, and for His will to be done.

We thought it appropriate to share with you Magaly's last letter to the Vida Humana International network upon her retirement earlier this year, as it helps give a sense of her tireless efforts to defend the most vulnerable, and to give hope when times are dark. Thank you for your support of Human Life International and our work in Latin America and around the world for more than three decades. Thank you also for your prayers for Magaly, for her family and closest friends and collaborators, and for our mission.

<http://www.hli.org/news/magaly-tribute/1169>.

Rest In Peace.

With great sadness I heard of the passing away on the 18th July of a young priest Rev. Fr. Dr. Amin Abboud while he was at a priests retreat in NSW (Australia). It appears that he died in his sleep, and at this time thought to have been from a heart attack.

Fr Amin was 48 years of age of the Opus Dei Prelature. He was also a registered medical doctor, had a PhD in Moral Philosophy and had a book on the moral philosophy of Peter Singer pending publication. What a sad loss to the Church, to us all and his family and friends.

Rest in Peace dear Fr Amin and thank you for your strong witness to life. Surrounded by the babies you were escorted home. Read this link please.

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/australia-horrified-by-infanticide-but-willing-to-give-our-highest-award-to>

Anne

Report in the Age May 25 2013

Dear friends, the report below came just after the last issue of the newsletter had gone to print so a little belated and some will no doubt have read about it but others may not so please bear with me if you have.

The report went on to say that Australian women who might be seeking late-term abortions may be left helpless (helpless?) after late term abortionist and specialist in this particular area was struck off the medical register for inappropriately prescribing patients with drugs of addiction for ten years.

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

Struck off the register for prescribing drugs but not for carrying out late term abortions. Abortions where the baby would have been viable if wanted and permitted to live.

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal cancelled Dr Mark Schulberg's registration for one year from July after finding him guilty of serious misconduct. *One Year wow!*

Between 2000 and 2009, the Croydon-based doctor prescribed multiple patients with more than 25,000 Xanax tablets and 9000 Valium among other addictive drugs. *I wonder why his patients might need these sedatives and anti depressants?* He certainly appears to have been making it from both ends, first the abortion and the \$\$\$\$ that went with that and then the anti depressants and the \$\$\$ and rewards from pharmaceutical companies, that went with the after effects of abortion.

I have not met one post abortive woman who is grieving and hurting who is or has not been on anti depressants. To use what I think is an Australian colloquialism "he certainly was on a good wicket"

In the words of the senior member of the tribunal, Noreen Megay, who commented on his conduct which represented the "most serious and grave lapse" of professional standards. "His conduct was consistent with poor practice, it endangered the patients, it continued over a number of years and we viewed the pattern of prescribing as reckless," she wrote.

The tribunal heard Dr Schulberg was the only doctor in Victoria, and potentially Australia, who continues to perform late-term surgical abortions on women between 16 and 24 weeks gestation. (is this his badge of honour?)

While Dr Schulberg's lawyers urged the tribunal to maintain his registration to practice for this reason, (so that he could continue to terminate the life of viable

babies?) Ms Megay rejected this and said she was concerned late-term abortions were being carried out in a day surgery clinic without a specialist anaesthetist and intensive care services nearby, so not because the babies were viable and could be saved but because there were no other services nearby, how charming. However, I guess we have to take even that little as a blessing!

Dr Schulberg is also known to have supervised anaesthetist James Latham Peters, who is serving a 14-year jail sentence for infecting 55 women with hepatitis C at the Croydon Day Surgery. He infected patients by injecting himself with pre-filled syringes of fentanyl - an opioid used in general anaesthesia - and then administering the remaining drug to the patients.

Read more <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/doctor-struck-off-medical-register-20130524-2k6x4.html>

Indelibility of Emotional memories

The phenomenon known as indelibility of emotional memories, that is, that certain memories are indelibly etched into memory stores.

The implication of this is that certain memories can never be forgotten. Ameliorated yes, forgotten no, this because at time of encoding of these memories, the fear, ambivalence, uncertainty, terror, regret, pain, was encoded also.

Perhaps the idea that these are indelible memories could possibly explain why some women say that they feel "nothing" regarding their abortions for all their lives, because at time of abortion no fear, shame, guilt, was encoded. Only a numbing nothing and this was encoded so deeply that "numbed nothingness" has continued to be the reality.

If it is a fact that emotional memories cannot ever be fully extinguished, this might explain why triggers act

as cue for the sudden flashback to the time of pain or even to the memory of the event with the same intensity as the original experience.

Returned or recovered memories especially those with suffering encoded in them are embedded into the psyche and resist every effort to dislodge.

Habituation, or the getting used by repetition, can work to reduce the impact but not the imprint and this is

where the German word “Sehnsucht” (German Pronunciation as ze:nzuxt) might help us understand the indelible memory. “Sehnsucht” is a German noun with a possible translation as something like we English speaking might say “longing for” or “pining for” or “yearning for ” or more broadly as something which is deeply

missed. It is difficult to describe because it is an emotional state so embedded in the heart that it would be like trying to explain the word “love.” There are a million explanations for “love” but it resonates only with the one reading or experiencing or having known “love.”

We can say that “God is Love” (Ps 103) but what does love mean? How to explain love? Yearning for, pining for, longing for, desire for. *Sehnsucht* has encapsulated within it thoughts and feelings about life and its unfinishedness, its imperfections or even sin, and this parallel with a yearning for an ideal alternative experience. Like “I wish I had never done it”

This beautiful word been referred to as “life’s longings” or an individual’s search for happiness while coping with the reality of unattainable wishes, and this dear friends is the experience of the deep and profound grief of the post abortive woman even I would say sexual abuse victim because this victim yearns deeply for the loss of primal innocence, and for the abortive woman it is when she realizes how much she longs to hold that child, that particular child. The child she didn’t want aborted but later longs to hold. She loves all her children (if she has any) has held all her children but “Sehnsucht” is what she feels for the one she aborted. “Longing, pining, yearning”

She longs for the day she meets the child, “I want to be a mother to her. I want to go and be a mum to her.” (Chris).

This beautiful German word has formatted within it love, a profound and intense love something out of the ordinary and extraordinary. Indeed life’s longings. The sighs followed by tears. These are the healing waters of love longed for and lost and still hoped for in the time to come.

Jesus Forgive.

Jesus you know that I cannot forgive by myself nor can anyone else.

Please help me to want to forgive

So inside, my spirit can live.

You’ve forgiven me for my indifference to you

Plus all the times I’ve ignored and sinned against you.

The times I caused you pain

When I’ve fallen into sin again and again.

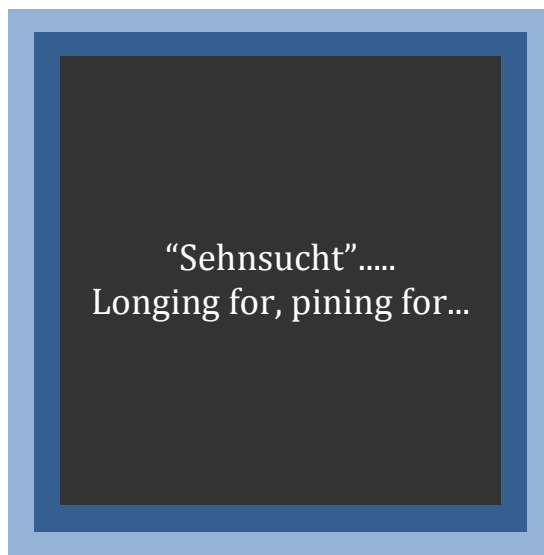
I guess you ask me “will you forgive like me? The way I forgive you from the tree.

Lord help me to have the will to forgive, so that I can be set free and will walk each day closer to thee.

Help me to make a new start after you have helped me to forgive from the heart,

So that I can love myself and others too,

The way our Heavenly Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit do.



Thank You. Mary Price.

Article in Sunday Herald July 21, 2013

Miss Bindi Irwin, famous for her being Steve Irwin’s daughter came out with a comment which horrified me and should horrify others. She would like to see very young (11 year olds) third world girls implanted with birth control implants so that from years 11-18 they will not be fertile and have children.

Does Ms Irwin know that WHO has declared contraceptives as the number one carcinogens over and above everything else. Who on earth is advising this young person, who could have good influence on the young, to speak such utter nonsense. She needs to understand the word “carcinogen” and perhaps look up the WHO website. Perhaps then she won’t speak rot.

“Broken Branches”

Author unknown

Sent by Nadine Mansour.

The wind came through my life today,
Taking branches along the way.
Some I've had for so long I felt,
They were so very strong.

But the wind stripped them from me,
Taking them far from the tree.
Scattering my life like broken branches,
Without thoughts of the damage.

To a life that is so frail,
That sometimes hangs just by a nail.
Never knowing how the wounds will leave me,
Scared, alone, and forever weeping.

The broken branches of one's life,
Comes from living and taking chances.
For if we dare not to stand in the wind,
We would grow weak from within.

Even the storms of life feed the soul,
And help us to live and to grow.
Storms remind us that we are not the ones,
That are in control.
But that we are just to live,
With what God gives us here down below.

Have you ever seen a tree,
Long after the storm has had its way?
In many ways it may have changed,
It will not look the same.

But God still takes the broken tree,
And makes it more like it should be.
Shaping the new branches here and there,
As it grows under His care.

The storms of life may rip and tear
Taking things that we feel are so dear.
But this void is the place,
That God's greatest work,
Can most take place.

When God's work on us is done,
We will be as perfect as his Son.

Romans 11:17-18

A beautiful story.

The Saturday Age, (one of our two dailies) dated 13th July, 2013, ran with a beautiful story. A story which would have touched heart of anyone reading it.

“*Letting nature take its course*” By Julia Medew Health Editor, was a story of parents who were told that the baby they were expecting was severely disabled. The mother said that she received a call from her obstetrician when she was 18 weeks pregnant, and told that a screening had suggested that her child had trisomy 18-a chromosomal disorder which is fatal for most infants in womb or death in the first year. Further tests confirmed that this was a reality and added to this the infant had Spina Bifida.

The mother of this child says that she “knew that most women terminated such pregnancies but as her baby moved inside of her she couldn’t bear the idea of ending it all. My heart told me that what was best for us all was to love this precious baby and give him or her every possible opportunity of life.”

This report further goes on to say that this mother’s obstetrician was surprised and for her it showed a “gaping hole” which existed in the Australian health system for people like her who wanted to keep their baby and bring it to birth and “let nature take its course.” That is allow the infant to be born or even to go when it needed to go, without violence done to the integrity of his/her body but to go in peace and to experience love even if only for a short time.

This report further stated that every year in Australia about 7000 women receive a diagnosis which indicates that their baby has severe conditions and while some women choose to abort, there appears an increasing number of those who want to wait and allow the baby to live to its own natural lifetime and indeed to meet the child, and hold the child and tell the child how much it is loved and give the child the dignity it deserves.

This mother once she advised the medical people that they would continue with the pregnancy found little support, no information. When she requested a caesarean section to minimise the distress for her baby boy, the idea was dismissed.

Then as a final piece of news and more pain, no palliative care was offered so that the infant could die

peacefully, the hospital's legal advice was that the infant could not be born there.

However, no decision had to be made because the little boy's "Liam" heart stopped beating at 36 weeks and delivery occurred the following day.

I (Anne) loved the following words "*For hours Mrs Thiele admired her tiny son and whispered words of love to him.*" In contrast to the images she had seen of babies with his condition he looked perfect." The paediatrician who attended the birth also cradled the infant and spoke words of comfort to baby's Mum "If Liam could feel stress in utero, he must have also felt love as well."

And for the grieving mother "those words made the whole experience worth the heartache."

There is now to be in Australia (Adelaide) a first conference at which Mrs Theile (mother of Liam) will speak and the conference will be on the changing demographics including the trend towards older motherhood and support systems for mothers/parents who are given a diagnosis of pain and choose to continue with the pregnancy.

Dear friends and readers of this newsletter, you know that I have for years spoken, written, counselled, advised, that where there is a diagnoses for foetal anomalies, it is always better long term for the pregnancy to be continued till its appointed time to end. In this way mother, father, family, get to hold, love, cherish, the infant even if for a few moments that life she and her husband have created. God does not make mistakes; the infant is always perfect and leaves a lasting memory of its presence here on earth.

It can either be a guilt fuelled memory (abortion) or a grieving (for loss) of precious child. There will



REDEEMING GRIEF

ABORTION AND ITS PAIN

ANNE R. LASTMAN

REVISED EDITION

FOREWORD BY HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP BARRY J. HICKEY

NEW REVISED EDITION!

REDEEMING GRIEF is a reflection of over 17 years of counselling 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 1500 personal stories and listening to the expressions used by the women as they speak 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, and 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.

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be grief but the grief is different. One is healing the other is guilt, shame fuelled and so wounding to the spirit.

In my book *Redeeming Grief, Abortion and its Pain*, I have two personal stories (Joshua and Thomas Michael) on this topic, one which speaks of carrying the infant to the end and the love shared with the child and his family and the other story by a grieving mother who aborted on medical advice grieved enormously.

This present story can also be found here.

<http://m.smh.com.au/victoria/letting-nature-take-its-course-20130712-2pvpv.html>.

Texas House passes late-term abortion ban amid wide support

Dear friends this report arrived in my email box on July 10th and I have been ruminating, pondering, arguing with myself over this since then.

The report said that Pro lifers nationwide (USA) applauded Texas legislators for passing a bill banning abortions after 20 weeks gestation on the grounds that unborn infants can feel pain at that stage of development.

(Doesn't Dr Schulburg know that?).

The bill passed 96 to 49 (July 9th).

Now why would I be ruminating, and getting agitated because the outcome appears good, doesn't it?

"I do think it is what the people of Texas want, it is what the people of the nation want," Marilyn Musgrave, vice president for government affairs for the pro-life lobby Susan B. Anthony List, told CNA.

On July 9, Musgrave delivered a petition signed by over **20,000 pro-life activists in favour of the legislation, telling the legislators it was a great "opportunity to do something of such significance."**

"You can just feel the tide turning in the country," Musgrave said of the bill's passage. "Polls are showing it, but even more than that, you can sense it." The bill includes several pro-life initiatives, including a measure **that bans abortions past 20 weeks gestation in order to protect unborn infants who can feel pain**, and regulations that require abortion physician supervision of all abortion procedures.

So dear friends and readers of this newsletter you can see where I am stumbling to get it right. A petition signed by 20,000 pro life activist was delivered and

these pro life activists Okayed abortion to 20 weeks? Does that mean that a pregnancy at 19 weeks and 4 days can be terminated but 19 weeks and 7 days it can't be?

But most of the abortions occur under 20 weeks gestation. Mostly 10-16 weeks does this mean that these abortions are OK and pro lifers have to deal with it and move on? Does this mean that we have compromised with "Caesar?"

I am not a political person I am a political troglodyte; I am a person who recognises grief, trauma, pain, wounds and know some strategies for healing so perhaps I am missing something big here because I don't see a "win" for the pro life movement when we negotiate/bargain in this way.

Since when are babies under 20 weeks negotiable?

"The final day of argumentation before the House bill's passage was met with ardent support from pro-life advocates from around the state and the country, in contrast to clashes between pro-life and pro-choice supporters earlier in July."

The demonstrations have become "more calm," said Abby Johnson why? Because really there was little win? And Abby Johnson noted a strong rise in pro-life support for the legislation in the state capitol, Austin. Why? Because there was little won? Abortion to 20 weeks to keep the pro choicers and pro aborts happy?

Johnson noted that the demonstrations before the state capital building were calm, and that pro-life advocates demonstrated a "sense of peace" during a potentially confrontational period. ***Pro lifers showed a sense of peace? What planet have I been living on?***

"Being there was overwhelming" and "such a blessing," Musgrave said, noting the "humility and compassion coming from the crowd" as she presented the petition to the state legislature. **"Humility and compassion?"** It was one of the most powerful expressions of the pro-life movement in this country and in the state of Texas." So abortion to 20 weeks OK! And the pro life movement did well. **I think I am ready to accept that it's me who is bit strange.** I remember a long time ago another pro lifer saying to me she was prepared to sacrifice some for the sake of another. I couldn't talk with her any more.

<http://www.ewtn.com/vnews/getstory.asp?number=12>

Letters

Dear Anne,
I have just read Redeeming Grief. I found it encouraging. I would be grateful if you would send me several business cards. I wish you well in your work helping people after abortion and with its pain. May God bless you.

Annie SA

Dear Anne
Thank you for the latest Broken Branches. As I “consumed” I kept thinking-if only this rich and forthright “telling it as it is” was thrown at the Catholics in Tasmania last month (April) while I was there reading the headlines in the daily press re the “abortion OK “ Bill was going through the state parliament.

With my daily prayer for you.

Love
Fr Paul.

Hello Fr Paul I did contact a particular member of the lower house with an article I specifically wrote for polities and she very generously said to email all her colleagues in upper house, but I have not heard a whisper back.

Thank you for “stamps”

Dear Anne,

Your latest BB is quite sobering. Thanks for your research and insight. However, in the article 'Sex Selection Abortions', I was puzzled and confused by your opening lines of a paragraph around the middle of column 2 on page 4: "Whilst the bill before the parliament on funding for gender selection abortion *should not be supported* or even considered....." Has a new bill just been introduced to reinforce Medicare funding for abortions? If so, I'm obviously rather slow in picking up any report on it. The only bill on this issue under current debate in parliament I'm aware of is John Madigan's bill to stop Medicare funding for sex selection abortions. As his bill blends quite appropriately with section 73 in the encyclical

"Evangelium Vitae" of Blessed John Paul II, I'm confident you are not referring to John's bill. I certainly don't want to take any of your statements out of context, so would you please clarify this for me ASAP.

Hope to catch up again soon. Cheers and prayer,
Peter P, Melbourne

Thanks Peter.

Nobel Laureate economist Gary Becker spoke well when he said that “the mother at home raising her children contributes more to the economy than her husband out in the work force” (thanks Fr Leo).

Dear Anne,

A short note to say thank you for the many years which you have sent to me your excellent newsletter. I await it with much anticipation and it's the only one which I read from cover to cover. When it arrives I make myself a cup of tea and sit down and read what you write.

I love what you write. You do not disappoint and you must have so much knowledge to be able to continue writing for so long and to present the topic of abortion pain from the many perspectives. Please find enclosed a small donation I hope it helps you to keep going.

God Bless you dear

Marie K.
Vic.

Thanks Marie and I am glad that you like the newsletter. Thank you also for \$ support. I must admit that it has been stressful in this area for some time now. I don't know if I am getting a message. Keep well and keep reading and I will keep writing as long as I can.

The language of an abortionist Dana Kusnir (USA). Late term abortionist.

Dear friends in a chilling interview an abortion doctor used words like this saying abortion is merely a gentle removing of the “contents” of the uterus and in her words, or the words of this young doctor who says she became to a doctor to be able to perform abortions, “abortion it’s always struck me as one of the most important rights that a woman can have.”

One of the most important rights that a woman can have? To take her child to be killed? That’s the most important right she has fought for?

What does this say for the woman except that she hates her design and her unique ability to be able to create a whole new human being and instead is seduced into believing that to take her child to die is the ultimate of her rights.

OH Lord the slippery slope is so steep.

This infamous young doctor then went on to say “We basically use a series of dilator rods and then we use a suction **to gently remove** the contents of the uterus.” “Gently remove?” What deceit!

Saying “it” (abortion) is merely a gentle removing of the “contents” of the uterus is a travesty and blasphemy and that “gentle suction” comes back to haunt the post abortive woman every time she puts a vacuum machine on or a blender or any noise that reminds her of that “gentle suction”

I am tempted to say “OH foolish woman what a magnificent gift (medical) is wasted by you.

For anyone who may want to hear the interview.

<http://www.valleycentral.com/neighborhood/story.aspx?id=9>

Support by buying of book.

Dear friends as I come to the end of this issue of the newsletter, I would ask for your support. It has been a bit difficult \$\$\$ (lot actually) and I still am working Monday-Saturday.

Another way you could perhaps support me is to buy a copy of my book **Redeeming Grief** (see the ad in this newsletter,) eventually I will get some royalties, but more importantly it will get the story out there. To my Parish priest friends please consider bringing to your parish 10-20 copies and sell through piety stall. To Pastors of all denominations it is friendly to all including those who do not profess religious belief. Thank you Fr Brendan Dillon for doing this already.

As I conclude I would like to ask that you continue to pray for me (health) I have some tests coming up and for strength. I would also like to ask that you pray for my people, those in my care Denyse, Marlene, Chris, Anna, Christine, Steffi, Laura, Natasha, Greg, Tendi, Margaret, Liz, Lynne (much) Melissa, Anna, Kristie, Terri, Sue, Cathleen, Debbie, Alyce, Joan, Irma, Daniel (much) Nikki, (new) Phil, Marilyn, Lena (very very much please)

Till we meet again

God Bless your life.



Anne Lastman

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Broken Branches – By email!

Dear Friends,

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

