

Broken Branches

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

Issue 96 - Dec/Jan 2013/14

A Nazareth Creation

How sad it is that we often hear that “it was an unplanned pregnancy” and therefore its destiny is abortion. What would happen if we all started to look at all “unplanned pregnancies” as “unplanned blessings” by the Lord? This “unplanned” child has a magnificent role to play in life, which is why it is unplanned. It is not in the concepts, designs, and ideas of the parents of the child. It may even look ridiculous that such a pregnancy would occur but this is because we only see the immediate issues. Imagine if Mary of Nazareth had thought “unplanned pregnancy” and did what is done today, what would have happened!

Every new pregnancy is a “Nazareth creation” because it is a creation which has the breath of God infused within it and if this is so then before the infusion God has a plan for this so called “unplanned pregnancy.” (Jer. 1:5-before I formed you in the womb I knew you). Have we become so distant from creation, so absent from the holy that we can no longer see that “unplanned pregnancy” can be the beginning of the new journey of life not only for the “unplanned child” but for the parents of this “unplanned child.” Could perhaps this child “unplanned” be the beacon which will call the parents, grandparents, siblings onto a road of joy?

Sitting on a public transport recently I was “eavesdropping” (yes I know I shouldn’t have! But I did) on a conversation going on behind me between two ladies and one was telling the other about her own daughter’s “unplanned pregnancy” and of course she and her husband helped their daughter make the best decision,....to abort ,and assured their daughter that

when she was settled in her career and financially stable, (already married)of course they could try again but now wasn’t the time for this “unplanned pregnancy”.

I of course sat seething, not quite sure whether to say something to the “grandmother” of this inconveniently “unplanned” grandchild which she helped to dispose of but I kept sitting and listening with the hope that the other listener to the story might have had something to say in favour of the unseen, “unplanned” inconvenient child but all that happened was that the other woman offered commiseration and words like “poor you.” I could not help myself and as I got up to alight at my stop I turned and said rather loudly, “what if in the future your daughter cannot have any more children because of the abortion. You have helped to dispose of your only grandchild.”

And I walked away with both women staring at me.

But I felt I needed to say something. The talk between the two women was so blahhhh that it felt like the baby they were discussing who was killed was nothing more than an inconvenience. Not a brand new human as beautiful as the one born in Bethlehem and lived in Nazareth. Not as beautiful as the young mother who was encouraged by her own mother to dispose of her child. Not as beautiful as the listener to the story. This disposable baby was an inconvenience and disposable because career and other things could not be interrupted. An inconvenience and the ultimate indignity, being discussed on a train in the hearing of others as if it was some rubbish to be thrown away and I remembered one of my friends who cannot have a child and the tears came. Mine.

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March for the Babies October 12, 2013

My view on the march.

Dear friends belatedly I write on the events during this year's *March for the Babies 2013* and the behaviours of the pro abortion/choice lobby and other groups. It's belated because as you know the newsletter is issued every 8 weeks so this is the next issue after the protest. October 12, 2013 *March for the Babies* and the ensuing craziness and behaviour of pro abortion lobby gives grave concern not only for the freedom of all of us in Victoria but sets precedent for other states to be brought into disarray by those who would have a different opinion. My right to march/protest quietly and show support for babies who die daily at the hands of so called doctors has been compromised forever I believe.

Our police commissioner, our chief of police, and law enforcement officers should hang their head in shame for not thinking that those of us who value babies have a right to be protected from violence. Had they (and underlings) respected our rights, and the right of those of us who believe that the Abortion Law of 2008 is wrong, there would have been open and strong protection of those of us who were pelted, shoved, pushed, sworn at, abused. The reality was that the very few police who were there were just a "token" effort. Imagine not one arrest made of those who shoved, pushed, pelted, felled, abused (children and elderly included) the silent pro lifers, and this atrocity in "the world's most liveable city." A precedent and fuel ensured for the coming years.

This annual march is in protest against the abortion law of 2008, which has seen Victoria have the worst abortion law in the western world. Imagine legal abortion to 40 weeks when we know that infants who are wanted and are helped can survive as premature as 22 weeks.

This law needs to be repealed immediately because it's a law which legally mandates the killing of the "future." It needs to be repealed because we are now hearing of the next step of the pro abortion lobby who are beginning to speak about "4th trimester abortion" or even "post birth abortion" that is death of babies up to 3 months after birth. The Slippery slope has indeed been rewaxed and made more slippery.

Further to the chaos which was the *March for the Babies 2013*, we have in the new abortion laws a removal of right of conscience of doctors and medical staff to refuse to participate in any way in an abortion. Imagine the Government telling us how *they now* are formators of our conscience and this formation must be adhered to with threat of severe punishment e.g. deregistration of doctor. My own barometer for decision making (conscience) removed because the Law says so. That is what Sect. 8 of the new abortion laws does. A doctor or nurse or perhaps even other health professionals cannot refuse to participate in an abortion without threat to his/her own career and livelihood as we have seen with Dr Mark Hobart and several others who have been targeted by Medical board.

This year the *March for the Babies October 12, 2013* was the worst show of vandalism, contempt, hatred by the pro abortion lobby against the pro lifers, than anything we have seen in Australia. It was pure violence perpetrated against marchers for life who had rightfully applied for a permit for the march and had a right to express their beliefs as much as anyone else.

Well, it was a different one than any of the other marches over past years and the over 3000 marchers who were intimidated, harassed, spat upon, harangued, bravely continued to do what they set out to do, as they stood up against the vile abuse and stood for the right of every child to be born. It was interesting because from what I saw there appeared to be less than

200 protestors and yet they were able to totally disrupt a peaceful march for life.

It was particularly interesting because from my observation their aim was to “attack” those who appeared to be elderly by yanking placards from them, pushing and shoving. Ramming bicycles into them. Their swearing would have made wharfie proud, raw egg missiles thrown violently into the crowd where children were also walking. The yelling and banging noise makers to disturb the quietly praying.

Again how interesting! These are the people who are fighting for the “right” of women to freely abort. They are fighting for a “right” but those who do not agree have no “right.”

They showed their hypocrisy when their intentional interruption of the peaceful march said that there was no other “right” but their own. The only “rights” were those that they deemed were the right “rights.”

The pro lifers have no rights. The very thing that they accuse the pro lifers of doing. The intolerance and lack of civility was so strong that it was impossible not to see their contradiction. On the steps of Parliament House (where the abominable law was passed 5 years ago) where the march was to conclude there were less than the 200 screaming, and now agitated protestors there. Tearing down pro life signs and tearing at audio-visual equipment, cameras, etc. What seemed to me very strange, as I observed slightly from a distance because I couldn’t afford to be hit in breast area so I stood back and observed, was that the police who were meant to keep order and see that the march and marchers were safe and permitted to proceed seemed to either have no control over the rabble or alternatively couldn’t be bothered.

The protestors blocked the path of the march and marchers and the police seemed unable or unwilling to do anything about it. And of course there were all the usual suspects: the rent-a-crowd like students, the socialist green left brigade, Campaign for Women’s Reproductive Rights (Melbourne). MSA (Monash Student Association) Women’s Department., Socialist Alternative., Freedom Socialist Party., Radical Women., Socialist Alliance., Melbourne Feminist

Action., and of course Australian Sex Party. There were other equally “colourfully named groups” but not for this newsletter.

As you can see dear friends a veritable group of saints!

One handout discussing the aims of the protestors said “The rally is demanding free, safe and unrestricted abortion on demand for all women across Australia; full reproductive freedoms for all women; free contraception.”

Indeed what is demanded is free abortion on demand to full term and the “right” to have the abortion funded through the tax dollar. As for safe? Their idea of safe is so superficial and base that it is laughable. Safe, for

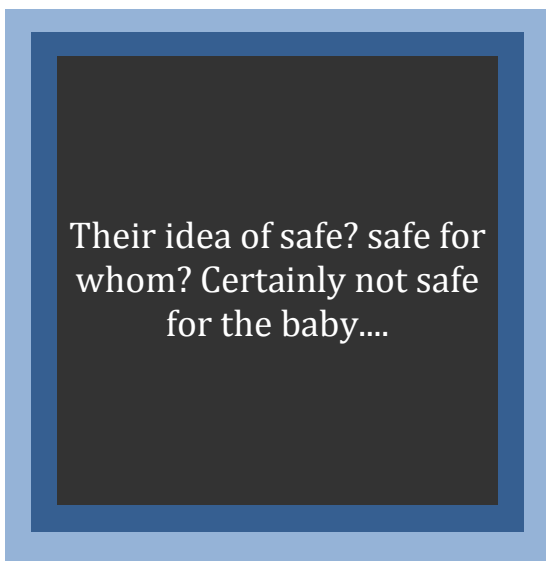
whom? Certainly not for a baby who is being dismembered or is being slowly burned, or has a partial birth abortion procedure carried out on it and of course safe from after effects of abortion? Not likely.

Abortion, as I keep saying is situation specific and sometime in the future the pain of this decision will haunt even till the end of life because women are not designed to take their child to die and as a result of such a decision there is much psychological, emotional and

spiritual harm experienced. In the afternoon and twilight years of life the memories return and the regret is strong and the “what might have been” brings flood of tears and deep regret.

I would like to conclude my observation of this year’s *March for the Babies* by saying thank you to those who took part. I took with me one of “my girls” (Anne M) whom I had counselled that morning, just prior and I asked her did she want to come and together we walked down towards the marchers

However, as we neared it became apparently loud she became agitated hearing the rabble, hearing the noisy and aggressive activity and what appeared to be breaking out violence, so we decided to go and wait at Parliament House (in between we had a sit down and coffee and talk). I was proud of her because towards the end she saw that I had also become distressed so she took control and said “let’s go back to your office for a while.”



We did, talked a bit further, (debriefed so to speak) and each then went home. I must admit that the stress I felt, even though I was some distance away, and the fear of being hit with a missile in the area of breast where there was cancer (and still painful) left me really frightened and unable to settle for a few days. However, it also left me with the feeling of how important this march is. It visibly showed the rage and intolerance of the pro abortion lobby and their insistence that their “rights” are the only rights to be tolerated. I have written to Minister of Police and have since received a reply that an inquiry into the event is being carried out. Thank you for this.

March for Women October 20th, 2013

Dear friends, eight days following the *March for the Babies*, another march was held in Melbourne in the suburb of Brunswick and this march was held in memory of a young woman Jill Meagher who was murdered in September 2012 and a now global movement called “Reclaim the Night.”

This march to reclaim the streets and make it safe for women to walk day and night without fear of assault and even murder as with Jill Meagher and other victims. Again the number of marchers was about 3000 with marchers carrying signs and shouting “no violence” “five, six, seven, eight, end the violence end the hate” was the chant! And I need to ask where these chanters were the previous week? Or were they same ones who hurled abuse at the pro lifers who were also marching for the safety of babies and women. Where were these protestors who are demanding that they have a right to walk on the street without being attacked and of course rightly so?

“We have a right to go out at night and feel safe” said one young lady being interviewed. What about an infant in the womb and his/her right to feel safe? What about the marchers for the babies and their right to feel safe from being abused and harassed by the rent a crowd? There is that word “right” again but it’s a pity that this “right” is only for a select crowd and not for everyone.

What is the difference between this march and the march for the babies? Dear friends the difference is visibility. Jill Meagher and other young victims are visible, known, and media heightened whereas the infant in the womb is invisible and is dependent on own mother and father to want or not want it. The infant is also beautiful. Is also being killed. Is also vulnerable but the media and the rabble have no

respect for the newly created life and so it is up for being killed because “womyn’s rights” say that “womyn” can choose to take their child to die without being disturbed. These “womyn” do not see the “violence and the hate” underpinning abortion.

For the infants in the womb there is no “five, six, seven eight, end the violence end the hate”

The March for the babies clearly showed that violence and hate are alive and well in Melbourne, the “world’s most liveable city” especially when it comes to violence and hatred of in utero babies and those who would march to defend their right to be born and to enjoy their own life.

An anti violence advocate, during the march to reclaim the streets, said in interview that violence against women occurred all the time at the hands of violent men. Indeed!

However, violence against in utero babies happens 50,000,000 times a year globally and over 100,000 in Australia yearly and unless we as a society understand the underlying violence which makes up our society beginning with violence against the smallest and frailest, and this violence demanded by its own parents, then the violence that occurs to other women and men and youth in the streets, in homes, in schools, in playgrounds, in cyberspace, should not come as a surprise.

Violence permeates all our modern society because if it becomes permissible to kill the smallest of innocents with impunity, the frail, the disabled, then the only differences are of size, visibility and perhaps of physical appearance (beauty), then the streets will not become safe no matter how many chants.

The streets will become safe when we as a society begin to honour and respect all life. Until then no amount of chanting “five, six, seven eight, end the violence, end the hate” will end the violence or the hate because to have killed an in utero child is to commit violence and have hate for life as the reason.

Book reviews

Dear friends just a couple of links for those of you have or use a computer herewith a review of my book from a reviewer in UK
<http://www.crisismagazine.com/2013/god-man-and-abortion-a-new-summons-to-hope>

<http://jasmineyow.wordpress.com/tag/anne-lastman/>

And also by Kathryn Lopez in USA

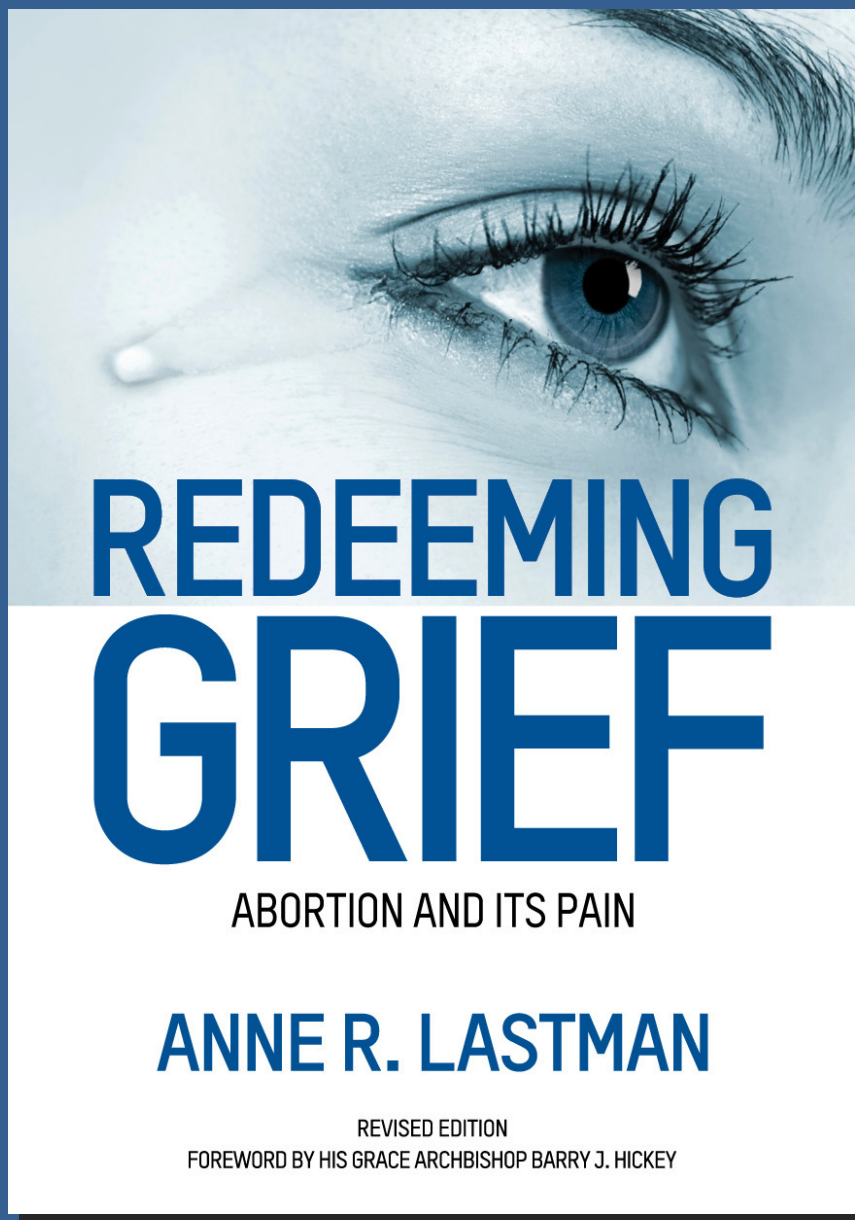
<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0913/lopez.php3>

And dear friends I have just heard that Barbara McGuigan on her radio program (USA) The Good Fight opened her programme with comment about the book. Thank you Therese for letting me know it's good that the message about abortion and its after effects is getting out there.

I have looked up the title of the book on the internet and have seen that there is much "talk" about it. And mostly good "talk" this of course makes me really happy because I have been trying so hard to get message out there and you dear friends know how much opposition I have faced, so these reviews and comments are most welcome.



A member of Anne's fan club! The PM of Australia!!! Yeah...



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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What is worse abortion or contraception?

Dear friends recently a comment was made that contraception has actually prevented maybe millions of abortions. I have ruminated over this and something just kept gnawing away at me, I couldn't let it go so I am sharing some of my ruminations and ideas with you. For my non religious readers please bear with me this time because I am going to speak a little "religious language and thought" though I hope you won't go away from me because of this. I think it's really important.

Heinous is the sin committed against the creative act of God, who through marriage invites man and woman to co-operate with Him in the creation and continuation of the human race. To kill a life after it has been conceived is an abominable crime but to prevent a human life (through contraception) which the Creator has conceived in His heart and mind and desires to bring into being is violence against the Creator God. In the first instance (abortion) the body is killed, however, the soul of the baby lives on. Through contraception, not only a body but an immortal soul is denied existence in time and in eternity.

It has been reserved to our day to see advocated the legalizing of contraception and abortion with euthanasia trailing. An operant death mentality.

This is why our society is suffering so much because there has been a forgetting and separation of God's intention for humanity and a forgetting that every child conceived is not "unplanned" as some would say, but "planned" as a blessing from all eternity. "Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being" (Donum vitae 5).

Perhaps another thought could be that contraception is also a death. A different kind of death but a death no less. Even though we as a society would say that abortion is the worst of the two deaths yet contraception leads to death of both created life intended by God and the possibility of eternal life for that intended creation.

Society, the Church and even we pro lifers treat abortion as the 'graver' of the two actions and we are probably doing what the marchers "to reclaim the streets" are doing, that is, we know that an abortion means the death of an already formed baby (something

known to us, foetal models, images etc) whereas contraception means barring the life that God had intended from finding a place to be welcomed. This intended creation cannot look to eternity because its creation was frustrated, whereas the child who dies at the wilful hands of another (mother, father, abortionist etc) is like a treasure returned unopened but returned to live forever with the Giver of the Gift. It only remained a short while on earth, unwanted, but its soul was created and it's the soul which returns to its own Creator to live in eternity. The forbidden conception cannot look to eternity with its creator.

The death by abortion is always against a innocent human being, and the act of procuring an abortion is most often condoned by the mother of the baby, who was particularly chosen to nurture and bring to full life this new thought, new Yes of God.

There is no one more dependent upon another person as a pre born child residing in what is supposed to be the safest place on earth, the womb of the mother. The mother invited and trusted by God with the responsibility of protecting her child. So her consent to the abortion and lack of "fight" for her child constitutes a fracturing of her mandate to mother. There cannot be a graver betrayal than that of a mother who knowingly takes her child to die. Abortion, that is death of her own infant, creates fissure in the woman's being because she goes against all that she is designed to do.

Abortion is a No and kills another human being that God has said YES to. It is a conception. In the silence and secrecy of the womb God has worked to knit the new being "before you were born I knew you" (Jer 1:5).

Contraception is also a NO to God. "I will not allow my body or give my body so that You can create another in the image and likeness of You and your Son Jesus. I will not serve"(says a contracepting couple.) There is a death in this because the creation is forbidden and so life cannot proceed either here on earth or in eternity.

As I said, both are a NO to God. One of them involves already another created human, who now has a right to his/her own life. The other, contraception, prevents "life" and the creator of life from creating both for here on earth and for eternity.

Both, I would suggest, are 'grave sins' because they frustrate the aim of the union in love, which is to unite two people (man and a woman) and to be fruitful and multiply (Gen 1:28). However, abortion is seen as a graver sin because it deliberately ends a life which has come into being as a result of the process of an

Letters

Dear Anne,

I have no idea why the “number of donors has dropped markedly” as you commented in your recent newsletter. However, I have a certainty that God wants you to continue with your apostolate of “Redeeming Grief” for victims of abortion. You are uniquely qualified academically, professionally, experientially and emotionally and spiritually to do what you do.

I would suspect that no one else has the contacts around the world that you have, Remember William Wilberforce and how long it took him to influence the UK Parliament to abolish slavery but eventually he achieved what he wanted to do.

If I were Lucifer I would want to stop you. Some people think that successful treatment of cancer is helped enormously by the will to live. So do I.

(Some private information)

God is love and you embody it for your clients/friends. You give yourself so completely for the good of others that you are an example to all who know you.

Please don't “shut up the shop” unless circumstances give you no other alternative. From the lives of the saints there is a common background of difficulty in achieving their ideals-but it was worth the effort. You will only discover in the next life how much you have done in God's services. You are a credit to femininity.

Affectionately,

Fr. Leo PE.

Thank you Fr Leo for all you do for me most especially re medications. Anne

Dear Anne,

Andrew's story was so moving, thank you for all your great efforts on behalf of the unborn plus all of life's pain.

God Bless,

David B. (NSW)

Thank you David. I appreciate your ongoing care. Anne

Dear Anne,

Your sharing of your overseas trips I liked, sounding as if you'd had quite a few listeners. I also liked Andrew's story. His was a powerful experience. God Bless him.

Hey Melb cup (that's a horse race Anne!) is coming up put 50cents on the winner.

God's love and mine.

Fr Paul C.

Dear Fr Paul, thank you for your lovely letters and support. I know Melbourne Cup is a horse race ☺ but I think I will buy stamps instead. the Big BOSS hasn't given me tips and I am not so lucky so stamps it is. Keep well.... Love you too...Anne

Dear Anne,

Please find enclosed a small donation I hope it is of some help.

I was recently honoured to speak with an abortion victim who had an abortion 9 years ago and for the whole of this time she has not spoken about it to anyone for fear of being judged.

Please keep her in your prayer, her name is Dani and if those your reading list would also pray for her.

God bless your work.

Rose.

Dear Rose, thank you for your kind donation every little bit helps. Thank you for telling me about Dani and above all thank you for being there for her so that she could speak about her experience. That is the most important aspect of the encounter. This is why the newsletter is so important because I can help the readers learn about abortion grief and when in the presence of such grief be totally present to the person in pain without asking “why.” it's the “why” which hurts so much because unintended as it might be the post abortive woman always has a sense of being judged. This is most often her own sense of feeling guilty and self judgement but she deals with it by externalising it, that is, she sees it as someone else judging her. Thanks again Rose.....Anne

Dear Anne,

Your last newsletter moved me so much especially reading Andrew's story. I cried because it reminded me of someone else I know. It was almost a similar story and I know the story to be true because the story I know about is mine.

I came across your newsletter at the back of my church, it was just sort of there waiting to be picked up and I did and am so really happy that I did so. I am also so glad that you are able to get about and tell others especially mental health people about abortion pains and sexual abuse pains. Please try and continue to do this work it's probably one of the most important works that one can do.

Please add me to your newsletter list and I am sorry but I don't have a computer so can I please have it the old fashioned way. Enclosed donation to help.

God Bless you dear

Sara T. (Melb)

Thank you Sara for donation and I have put you on N/Letter list the old fashioned way. It's OK I send out about 980 the old fashioned way. I am also glad you found newsletter at back of your church. To my priest friends please put newsletter somewhere where it might be picked up by people like Sara and who might be interested in reading.

intimate act (in whatever circumstances it arose from), and the Church sees each conception of a new life, as God's own willing for that human being into existence.

The Church also teaches that human life is sacred and holy; this is because humans are made in God's image and likeness and their destiny is to have intimate relationship with Him through His design and grace. Destroying this possibility through abortion is seen as a very grave evil. But I would suggest that destroying the possibility of bringing to life God's desired new YES and refusing it hospitality through contraception is also as serious because the decision to refuse God's intention means that the body He has designed for the woman is designed for "Yes" and not a "NO."

Dear friends I have thought deeply about this and thought I would share with you my ruminations. I believe that we have the abortion mentality that we have because we first accepted the idea of contraception. We first said "NO" to a child via contraception and then "NO" whenever it was thought to be needed and now demanded, abortion.

THE YEAR THAT WAS.

As I looked through my diary I was amazed at the amount of work I have done this year. I travelled, I spoke at World Congress of Families, Sydney, the Asia Pacific Rim (Sarawak) Psychotherapists and Counsellors Conference, spoke two different times in Brisbane, speaker at Voice for Life Conference in New Zealand, attended conference at the Gold Coast, (Qld) spoke in various country Victoria towns, did 2 TV interviews (channel 31), had more surgery, attended book launch in Parliament House Sydney, attended official book launch here in Melbourne and one coming up in Perth. Attended book signings with Koorong books both Melbourne and Sydney, attended breast cancer support network (several times) spoke to several women's groups and amongst this attended medical needs, oncology needs, and continued to counsel my long term clients who have stuck by me through it all and even took on more new ones. And of

course wrote six more issues of the newsletter. I hope you found them informative.

I keep telling myself I am going to slow down but I guess I love what I do so it's not going to happen. I am getting to speak to more professionals which is important because the first point of call a doctor has when sending a depressed patient for counselling is not a specific post abortion counsellor but a qualified mental health professional, so it's important that mental health professionals know about this new type of grief and how to manage it. Slowly I can see change. Early next year I hope to have out the second book on sexual abuse of children. It's an important book because it shows that this abuse leads to death of innocence and innocents, while still continuing to speak about abortion grief and counselling.

As I come to end of this newsletter, I ask you to please read the special appeal I have sent with it. It's the first time I have done an official appeal for \$\$\$ because response in this area has been difficult this year. I depend entirely on you. So please help if you can.

Please continue to pray for me as I have a break with my children and grandchildren in Perth and pray that this uninvited guest called "cancer" goes away. Please also pray for my ongoing people, Chris, Christine, Anne M, Anna, Marlene, Chloe, Steffi, Denyse, Greg, Laura, Ian, Jayne, Jessica, Amy, Melissa, Sarah, Jade, Phil, Marilyn, Tara. Please continue praying for Andrew whose story you have read in October newsletter he needs prayer, and pray for a very special person called "Joe" more on this next year.

Till we meet again in Feb 2014 I wish for you

Blessings and hugs for Christmas and lots of presents too.



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.

