

After a short silence hello again to my friends.

You may have noticed that this month's newsletter is somewhat late, indeed some of you have rung to enquire if all was well and when the next issue would be sent. Thank you to those who rang and thank you to those whose compliments have encouraged me. As most of you have known over the past several months there have been difficulties with the newsletters with cancellations and criticisms. The criticisms were related to the graphic nature of my writings and the close proximity of each newsletter. Indeed a stalwart rang and said "Anne no sooner have I just finished the current one when a new and worse one arrives. I can't keep up. Its too much!" Perhaps it was her comments that led me to take time out and reconsider the nature and content of the newsletter. If it was difficult for her (still a supporter) to continue reading it then maybe others also struggled with it.

The outcome of my time out (and prayer) was that I would send the newsletter out bi-monthly, at least for a while, and perhaps tone down the content. I understand that whilst most of my readers know the nature of abortion and its aftermath, at times it is better not to know too much. There can be such a thing as "compassion fatigue" and perhaps even in my case "donation fatigue" The compassion issue I can remedy, however, the "donation" issue is more difficult because without your support I am unable to keep going. I have chosen not to look for government funding because I do not wish to have restrictions placed on me. I am a *catholic counsellor* and want to remain so. I believe completely that unless Jesus is brought into this counselling all else is bandaid material. My office has some beautiful religious icons which I do not wish to have removed, so in all of this I have to remain independent and whilst *all who suffer grief* are most welcome and helped the result is that I do not wish to become a counsellor constrained by rules and regulations so that I can receive funding. I offer support and love and I speak about God's mercy to those who come looking for comfort because they have aborted a child whom they now miss and who they regret having killed.

Perhaps the reason for my success is that I do not judge success in numbers because we are not dealing with statistics, but success for me is if I have helped to convince the person sitting in front of me that God loves them very much, that He has come looking for him/her in the midst of his/her pain. That He has been waiting for his/her return. That the child they aborted does not hate them. Further, it is my contention that unless this is done slowly then I know that the response is superficial and that the individual will be back very soon. Post abortion grief counselling is unique, it cannot be rushed. It cannot be dealt with one phone call or even a series of phone calls, or even several one on one encounters. It needs to be understood that post abortion grief, and post abortion syndrome are serious and psychologically and spiritually destructive (although Planned Parenthood apparently thinks this is not so- they would wouldn't they?) and need to be handled with care because behind every aborted woman there are multiple issues and any one of the other issues can contribute to her failure to heal and trust and to believe that he/she is loved by God and sought out by Him to be a recipient of His mercy. All the most marvellous intentions in the world cannot "fix" PAS not even with 10-30-50 phone calls and indeed there is always the danger that someone may be tipped over the edge.



John 15

PAS COUNSELLING

Post abortion grief counselling, whether we like it or not, is a fairly new phenomenon. It is only in the last 20 years or so that its reality has been accepted and counselling of this type of grief is also evolving. Whilst grief counselling itself is not new, ***abortion grief counselling is***, and because this is so, the reality is that we are learning more and more about the human person who has experienced this trauma, and indeed the fragility of this person, and how to deal with this fragility. The delicate balance between the heart, mind and spirit of the individual becomes clearly visible when dealing with an individual suffering this syndrome.

Post Abortion grief, in many ways, is a misnomer. Initially the individual rings or goes to a counsellor because of the abortion. It is the abortion response, which is uppermost in the mind and ostensibly causing pain. However fuelling this, are other anti life events in her life, which ultimately contributed to the decision to abort and the ensuing grief. Post abortion grief can be a misnomer because it assumes that the grief is a single issue (abortion) and that once this is discussed at least several times (even by phone) then all will be well. Hogwash and codswallop. Post abortion grief has a genesis and the genesis appears to be the decision to abort and the abortion itself. This is true, but it is my belief that the grief, anguish, sorrows, regret are related to the death of the baby ***but also to the death or destruction of something else.***

There is a new type of personal suffering and communal suffering which I am witnessing on a daily basis yet it is so subtle that it is insinuating itself without effort and we are missing its presence. I have said it publicly and in private many times that there is more to abortion than meets the eye and until we see clearly what that “something” else is then the abortion rate will continue to increase, the euthanasia issue will escalate until it finds its “home” in our laws. Artificial reproductive technologies will become more and more monstrous and in due course we may even begin to question our very humanity.

SHOOTING AT THE CLINIC.

Recently, we in Victoria awoke to a new dimension of violence, the fatal shooting of a guard at an abortion clinic. Because of the legal aspect I refrain from making further comment however, what I would like to comment on was the media’s handling of the event. We understand that the media is for the most part ‘secular.’ We understand that for the most part the media is ‘anti Catholic.’ We understand that for the most part the media is pro choice, however, we must not even begin to understand their biased reporting and visuals used. We must refuse to accept their pack, hunter and destroy philosophy. We must rebel at their reporting with such bias. In the absence of any information regarding the gunman, someone had to be “blamed” and the recipients of such an “honour” were the innocents. It was the pray -ers who were ‘at fault’ Just like the infants (innocent) who are conceived inopportunately and taken to such a facility to be eradicated, so too the ‘innocents’ praying for those infants and their parents were vilified. What became clearly evident during that chaotic week was the reality that truth in that place of death was also the victim. It was not truth that was sought but scapegoats. “Nero” inside the abortion facility was again throwing Christians to the lions. As I watched the daily reporting (television/newspaper) of the incidence I was clearly reminded that Christians will always be called to martyrdom.

In that place of perpetual child sacrifice (abortuary) the innocent (infants) are offered to the god Molech to appease his lust for blood. On the footpath that week, Molech bayed for more blood especially that of the pray ers. A further irony that emerged was the applauding of the two young men who overcame the gunman and were lauded as heroes. What heroes might one ask? What were they doing there? reading the dated women's magazines? or perhaps were they waiting whilst their children were being killed. As the Holy Father has said repeatedly we are living in an age when we call evil good and good evil. This was clear and indisputable proof.

ABORTION AND SUICIDE CONNECTION –REPRISE.

A new study presented at the World Congress on Women's Health in Berlin has shown a clear link between abortion and suicide. This new study found that women who had aborted had above the average suicide rate whilst women who delivered had a much lower than the national average suicide rate. An analysis of the records and death certificates of 173,000 low-income women was carried out. A comparison of women who received Medicare funds for abortion and those who received funds for delivery was made. It was found that the annual suicide rate per 100,000 women was 3.0 for women who delivered their babies and 7.8 for those who had had abortions. The U.S. national average for suicide is 5.2 for women in 15-44-age bracket. It has been reported that this new study will be published within a few months after peer review (*CWN*). Surely when we hear of youth suicide (or indeed any suicide) and when looking into you suicide and prevention measures, the abortion issue should not be overlooked.

The abortion suicide connection has been known for many years yet still all manner of strategies are philosophised about and proposed yet “how do we reduce the abortion rate amongst teenagers and in doing so reduce the suicide rate” appears not to curry favour. Why is it that we refuse to see it? Is it because abortion touches the lives of all of us but suicide hopefully is someone else's problem? *I am not surprised at the connection!* To me it makes sense. The depression is real, the despair is real and if a young person is feeling so desperately low, sad and lonely following an abortion, and is unable to speak to parents who in most cases do not know about the abortion, then her support system is based only on friends who will tire after a time and move on. The abortion suicide connection makes sense because depression is insidious. It can convince a woman that all is lost. That she is worthless. That she is unworthy of living and with this type of thinking it is only a matter of time before suicide becomes an attractive way out.

NICK'S COMMENT

Greetings and salutations to all fans of “Nick's Comments.” I felt mum's newsletter was getting a bit boring so I have decided to put down some more of my experiences as a teenager (on the topic of abortion) down on paper (actually, mum knows karate and has my hand twisted behind my back so I better cooperate). As you may remember from the last newsletter, in which my fine work was in, mother had locked me in the computer room and threatened not to cook if I didn't write, well she's done it again. She told me she left some chocolate inside the room and I could go and get it. As soon as I walked in she slammed the door and started laughing and told me that I would not see any of the known world (or food) again until I had finished my article; some people! Anyway, I better get to the point so I can finish this soon (I am already suffering withdrawal symptoms from a lack of contact with society). Since the last time I wrote, I have added a second “Precious Feet” badge

onto my uniform, this one is a gold one and it stands out on my blazer. This has been very successful in spreading the Pro-Life message as now four other people are wearing the badge (one of them is the school captain) after I told them of the horrific nature of abortion, and another two students also want the badge. (Gail, mum is still waiting for some more!) At the moment in R.E. my class is on the subject of Ethics and we have been focusing upon abortion. It has been quite a battle as most teenagers do not know the truth of what really happens and I have had to explain and argue many times that abortion is wrong. To this day, I have not lost an argument yet (I get my persistent nature and loud voice from my mother as many of you would know from speaking to her). The most recent piece of work that I have done on the topic would be an assignment that we did in class. We had to come up with our own thoughts on abortion and how we came to this conclusion, the last line of my assignment was "As you can see, abortion is wrong no matter what the situation as it is the killing of an innocent baby." Well, this has been basically my involvement with the topic of abortion since my last article. I think this should be enough writing to buy my way out of the computer room; I just need to slide it under the door so mum can decide if she will let me out. I have also got a little surprise for the people who have spoken to my mother previously. I have actually found a person who can out-talk her!!! Amazing isn't it. I think mum learned her lesson when she tried to pit her wits against Father Kelly (a good friend of mum's and ours). Finally, I would just like to thank all the people who sent in letters of appreciation to me, keep them coming! And for the rest of you who didn't... What's your excuse??? I can see an envious look appearing on mum's face so I better finish off my excellent feature. I will write again in future issues (but be patient, I cannot be this great every month) to inform you of other experiences of a teenage Pro-Lifer. Again, please feel free send in compliments about my piece, complaints will not be accepted Ciao 4 now..... Nick.



I wish to add a little to the above. I am slightly over 5 ft tall and Nick is well over 6 ft so that should give you an idea about my beating him up! Anne.

For some time now I have wanted to insert a page of poems, which have been sent to me for inclusion. Here goes hope you like them.

Fifty Years and Still.....

*"Fifty years and still I remember her.
Every day I feel her, I'm pregnant still;
I carry her to and fro, part of her
Lives on in my heart. I see her in children's eyes;
I see her dressed in pretty clothes, gay
And growing so swiftly. She might have married. I might
Have been a Grannie, loved as grannies are
For kindness and gentle wisdom. I might have been:
I killed my daughter in secret. No one knew.
People mill through life busy from dawn
Till evening and no one knows my secret, this lead
I carry in my heart. I've never thought
Of God nor what he's like but should he exist
Is he angry with me? And should we live
Beyond, is my daughter angry with me?
My days are terminating in sadness. The lead
Of the sin I can't undo, the foetus destroyed,
The lovely would-be-babe I would have loved
Lives silently in my heart these fifty years...."*

Br. Simon. (with love and thanks-Anne)

Blessing of a Child.

*Your children are not your children
They are the sons and daughters of life's
longing for itself.
they come through you but not from you
And though they are with you, yet they
belong not to you.*

*You may give them your love but not your
Thoughts.
For they have their own thoughts
You may house their bodies but not their
souls
For their souls dwell in the house of
tomorrow.
Which you cannot visit, not even in your
dreams
You may strive to be like them, but seek
not to make them like you.
For life goes not backwards nor tarries
With yesterday. You are the bows from
which your children as living arrows are
Sent forth.....Kahlil Gibran.*

A Letter from a Grieving Mother.

*Dear Jesus and my precious child,
As you are each so meek and mild
How did I always fear,
Seeing you are to me so dear.*

*E'er this day, I knew only my sin and all its harm
And nought that you my ills with good embalm
Beyond past gloom I now see your light
Which cleaves forever the darkness of my nig
As this saving truth I've come to learn
That your wisdom always evil to good does turn.*

*For each of you do both forgive
So I may rise and truly live
You shower on me from above
The warmth of your friendship and your love.*

*Thus now enriched you us renew
To make each of us completely new
As we journey on every day
United together along our way*

*Now as my day draws near close
And I lie down to dream and doze
You my child and I your mother
Share our love for one another.*

*You from above do never cease
To pray that slumber brings me peace
Whilst I here below my emotions show
As to you dear child my loving kisses I throw.*

Fr. L. Kelly

To my Baby.

*Is it proper to cry for a baby too small
For a coffin?
Yes, I think it is.*

*Does Jesus have my too small baby?
In His tender arms
Yes, I think He does.*

*There is so much I do not know about you
my child,*

Are you quite or restless?

*Will I recognize someone I knew so little
about?*

Yet love so much?

Yes, I think I will.

*Can we say your life was worth nothing
because your stay was so short?*

*Can we say we loved you any less because
We never held you?*

No I think not.

*Ah, sweet small child can I say
That loving you is like loving God?
loving yet not seeing*

Holding yet not touching.

*Caressing –yet separated
by the chasm of time.*

*No tombstone marks your sojourn
And only God recorded your name.*

*I had neither opportunity, nor capability
To say goodbye*

*Not saying good bye is just as hard
As saying good bye*

*The preparations are halted, the royal
guest was called away.*

*The banquet was not cancelled
Just moved. Just moved.*

Yet a tear remains

where the baby should have been

B. Neudorf (thanks to the sender)

FATHERS:

With Father's Day only several weeks away I think it appropriate to again speak briefly about abortion and fatherhood. Most often in my office I encounter the negative aspect of men. "My husband, boyfriend, friend etc. pushed me to have the abortion. I was forced by him to have the abortion. He threatened to leave me if I didn't have abortion etc. etc." and indeed this appears to be true in a large number of cases however, we rarely hear of a man's devastation and broken hearted ness at the death of his child. This week I encountered such a situation. Kurt rang to enquire what he could do to stop the abortion of his child. He was most protective towards his girlfriend and felt he understood why she didn't want to have the baby but he couldn't understand why she would not have the baby and allow him to bring it up. He had tried many approaches and was hoping that I could speak to his girlfriend and hopefully convince her to continue with the pregnancy. However, she refused to even come to the phone so it became apparent that she would not even speak to me. What I did hear however was language that would have made a blue movie sound clean. As I continued to speak to him after she slammed the door and went out, I realised that even in his youth (22 yrs) he had made a

connection with the child. He did not see the 7-8 week foetus (baby) as anything other than his baby. He did not want her to abort the baby. He did not believe that killing the baby would achieve anything other than the break-up of their relationship. And most importantly he was frustrated that he was unable to do anything to stop the procedure. Male response to abortion can take many forms. Generally it is pro abortion because it relieves them of the responsibility of fatherhood and future difficulties especially if the couple are not married and the relationship is unstable. At other times abortion is used as manipulative material especially if the female partner in the relationship is independent and wishes to remain so. Abortion demand by the female partner then results in the male threatening and actually leaving if the abortion proceeds. A third and more destructive response is violence. Abortion induces violence either against the self or against the woman and the baby.

When the violence is directed against the self then begins a journey to “abort” his own very existence. In dangerous behaviours and pursuits the attempt is made to self annihilate. The frustration at their impotency to stop the procedure begins a journey of deep grief, which in its intensity overshadows all other areas of life. He, the father, in whose being is inscribed the mandate to father, provide and protect, has been unable to fulfil these mandates and in his ontology he has been profoundly wounded.

Today we have a “culture of death” as the Holy Father has rightly termed our society, yet this culture fails to see that amongst the death “games” of our times is the forced removal from the male of his responsibility towards the one he has engendered. If he cannot protect the one he has helped to create then he will not protect or respect anyone else. Violence to self or others is the result. An abortion of his own child or the child of another introduces into the very being of the male a new reality. It is the reality that inconvenience can always be destroyed and eradicated and if it is destroyed in ones own being it becomes easier to destroy the other.

Men like women grieve. Not all men desire to have their child aborted, even if the child was conceived inopportunistically. Abortion for this man, as indeed for all men challenges their masculinity and calls into question their manhood. Post abortion trauma in males as in females may not necessarily manifest immediately, but without exception there is an imprint of the event forever filed in the memory banks and because it is connected to the “life instinct” it cannot ever be erased. Abortion perverts the life instinct and introduces a blue print of the death instinct. For a father who has aborted his own child or contributed to the abortion of another’s child, the death blueprint has begun to be strengthened and reinforced. Future acts will further strengthen and re in-force again its design.

Father’s Day is nearly upon us. Please pray for all fathers, aborted and non aborted. Living and dead that they may again begin to see their marvellous gift of fatherhood. Please pray that those who have aborted their child, or abandoned their child/children may remember and seek forgiveness. Abortion, post abortion trauma is not simply women’s business. It is also “Father’s” business and until this is recognised and taken on board nothing new will happen. ***St Joseph please help all fathers.***

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ON LOVE, LIFE AND THE FAMILY.

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Anne Lastman. (Melb)

Jane Instance (Syd)

Jerry Keane

Eamon Keane

And the list continues and is spectacularly impressive.

MORE ABOUT THE CONFERENCE.

Youth Day...with youth from around Australia.

(Hooray Nick is going!! He's saying hooray too!)



Please support this conference either with your presence or if this is not possible with your prayerful and financial support. Love to meet my readers especially from Qld. Details can be obtained from:

***Human Life International, PO Box 205 Broadway,
NSW 2005 PH: 02 92112793. Fax: (02) 9211 6324.
hliaust@ihug.com.au***

I have been asked to also publicise:

“Worldwide Rosary for Life”

24th October 2001.

At Mary MacKillop Centre

109 Old Mornington Road, MT ELIZA 3930.

Please support this also Margaret tells me that 19,000 parishes worldwide will be involved.

I am still finding my way with the newsletter. I am good at counselling but maybe not so crash hot at newsletter writing, so please let me know what you think. Please pray this month for, Martyn, Kristie Mc., Valentina, Julie (new) Leah (new) Therese, Maggie, Nadia (new) Naomi, Phillip, Kelly, Sally, Vincent, Kurt, Stasy. Your support is requested.

May you be recipients of His mercy.



Anne Lastman

Name _____

Address _____ P/C _____

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Yes/no, I would/would not like to be on your mailing list.

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