

Broken Branches

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

ISSUE 130 – APRIL/MAY 2019

Bearer of Life....woman

As I have said very recently to the woman is given the office of life for the continuance of humanity. To the man is given the office of worship for humanity. Both offices are life-giving. Our day has forgotten these two offices and our era has descended to malaise and blindness.

Sitting on my balcony and trying to think about our time and why there is an attraction and insistence on giving to Caesar what belongs to God, that is, giving governments the right to and insisting on determining who lives and who dies and indeed the family and loved ones insisting on death via abortion, euthanasia, and now horrible gender assault. Assault of the very thing that makes us human. Attack on essence male and female. Confusion about the gender of one's own being.

Attack on children even after birth by confusion about who they are and their role as male and female. Confusion which will lead slowly to sterility, another way of refusal of a child. Gender confusion or denial is the latest assault.

Human trafficking for slavery and sexual use is also an assault on the human. Both male and female child trading is a horror against their humanity. This is a hidden horror which the media shows no interest.

Human trafficking in 21st century is a scandal because as a society we purport to be civilised. Human trafficking not only assaults those trafficked but abortions by the millions must occur. This is another fallout of the human trafficking sorry business.

Human trafficking trades men, women and children and treats them like packaged meat to be bought and sold. In a century which prides itself on its advancements the human person is traded, experimented upon, and when all else fails killed all in the name of rights, progress, liberty.

Those of us who have been called to speak loudly about the horrors, and to speak for those who cannot speak about their horrors must speak louder because we are not being heard. We are called because our time needs us to regather our energies and see who is behind these works and then put on fighting gear and either fight or maybe pray for those who have to fight.

We have entered a time of decision. We can either stand by or defend the ramparts but it's decision time and time to form that army dedicated to regathering what has been lost and claiming it as our own and given to us by God most especially returning to God what is totally and rightfully his. Author of life.

For those of my supporters who don't believe in God I'm sorry but I have to say this. We have to try and gather to ourselves what is given to us by God and fight for that gift....Life. Fight to end the attacks on life. All forms of attack. We must stop being polite as we must stop working behind closed doors but gather the army and fight openly and say no. And perhaps like of Joan of Arc lead the army against the marauding forces.

As Pope Francis recently said "In a time when life has become expendable a child is always a blessing" Life in all its colours, sizes, flawed or flawless is always a blessing and we must remove from our midst the fires and chants of those who would have us believe that life is expandable and negotiable and used as experimental material.

We need to again help "woman" to see that her greatest role is to be soft and gentle and tender so that in this tenderness life grows and grows. And it is this tenderness which has slowly evaporated from our society. As woman goes so does the church. So does society, for within her is our first "home" As is the Church our first spiritual home. As is this planet is our lifelong home and beginning with the smallest home (the womb) to the largest our planet our homes have been polluted with violence and wounds and blood. Billions of babes killed, oceans of blood. Church

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scandals, rivers of pain, assaulted wombs, refusal to reproduce, cancers, and sickness.

It's tenderness, gentleness, love, nurture, care, that is embodied visibly in woman which has diminished, and what is alien to her being is very present ... Death

Some would say "yes Anne but wasn't it woman who brought death upon humanity?" and I could become convinced at that thought and retreat but another Woman reversed the original NO into a humble YES so woman now has the opportunity and strength to fight the original NO and for some reason the original tempter has tapped her on the shoulder again.

The tempter has again told her that it's OK not to be who she is, a woman, and that nothing would happen. And so she again has tasted the fruit of saying "No" and succumbed to its allure, and pain follows.

Love and life are the composition of tenderness and within woman all these are embedded. A loss of these leads to woman not loving "life." But death. It leads to building other idols to love and to replace her true love ...life.

When I thought about building idols, I was reminded of Math. 4:8 "Again the devil took Jesus to a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory and he said to Jesus I will give all these if you fall at my feet and do me homage"

Beginning with woman rejecting her child, rejecting motherhood, rejection of her feminine genius our society has bent the knees and given homage to the one who offered the splendours of the world to Jesus and he rejected them and sent him away. And that same "person" offered the splendours of the world to woman and our "world" and she/we accepted.

Beginning by woman's rejection of her child, then loss of all compassion for her child (late term abortions) followed by euthanasia of selective individuals

including euthanasia of children (Belgium) and disabled, and elderly, and all other anti-life edicts woman has embraced idolatry and fallen at the feet of "the world and their glory"

Why do I continually say "woman" because in woman is found inscribed "life" and continuation of life and it is she who must fight back and reclaim her own true genius found in her essence. This is a fight by "Eve" and the serpent and she must understand what the serpent has done to her? He has lied to her again. When she does, the home journey begins.

To conclude I would like to again use the words of the Holy Father Pope Francis: "The only authentic measure of life, the Holy Father underscored, is love, the love with which God loves it! The love with which God loves life . . . The love with which God loves all human life."

"Every person should be involved in defending life at every level of society, carried out "in a multiplicity of actions, attentions, and initiatives". *To Italian Pro Life movement*

Osservatori Romano Oct 10. 2018

PERSONHOOD

I know that as I write these few words on personhood there will be many who will say "go away Anne" you don't know what you're talking about. This especially by my very learned friends (I do have a few. Not many but a few). This is a philosophical question, religious question, legal question, political, rights, question etc.

It's a concept which only in the last 50 years has had traction attached to it. A question which once upon a time if the question was asked the response would have been something along the lines of "course it's a person what else?" or even a blank stare.

The idea of “personhood” in my time found itself given status during the Roe v Wade issue when the “personhood” of the infant in the womb was questioned and indeed found absent in order to openly remove the child’s “personhood” so as to be able to abort the child because the said child could be aborted because it was not a person and therefore abortable. It seems that the early years of Roe v Wade legal abortion was sought for early stage pregnancies because the foetus/baby at that stage was not considered a person. But there were some restrictions

However, as it is always with man, (and woman) what starts out as very small development turns into monstrous, till in this time even with the technology to view in utero child and to help the child, now comes the slow demand for after birth abortion. Babies born

alive and left to die or assist in its death because the mother had demanded a dead baby, the “personhood” of the child cannot be denied because clearly is visibly a child whilst still demanding the death of her son/daughter. It is a real, live, breathing child yet the term personhood is still bandied about.

I am amazed that intelligent people would even consider becoming involved in and even supporting discussion about this simple thing called “personhood.” It is attached mostly to when human life begins and this for rights, legal, inheritance etc. issues. Which obviously speaks of ulterior motives and not altruistic ones.

To my simple mind it’s an easy concept. The idea of the beginning of when a human life starts is when a sperm carrying with it all its information dating back to time immemorial penetrates an accepting ovum also carrying with its information dating back to time immemorial. This fusion then mysteriously forms the human “I” the person which remains the same for all its lifetime. It’s the same “I” at conception, birth, life and death.

The “I” is the vital principle that animates life of the body and specific individuated matter. The donated chromosomes are vitalised by the vital principle – the I, the spiritual form for the body. Chromosomes are a physical form of human matter which have been vitalised by the “I” Thus the new person becomes a composite of body and soul. The soul is immortal [not

matter] and is incorruptible. It is the seat of the self or “I” - the basic incorruptible element of human which does not change as the body ages and changes – with each body renewed every 7 years. The soul is composed of intellect and will which constitutes the unchanging self [the basis of personal responsibility, personhood]. The “I” which is unchanging is the constant principle of personal responsibility throughout life. That is the: “I” which was there at the moment of fusion of sperm and ovum years ago is the same during the whole of life. Nothing changes to the “I” because it is unique when donated. The legal system implicitly recognises unwittingly an unchanging “I” which is at base a spiritual constant called a “soul” - the bedrock of personal responsibility.”

...The personhood of the child cannot be denied because clearly it is visibly a baby...

In this union (sperm and ovum) together process the combined information they each carry and embark on a new journey together with its own individual “I” or self. No longer each a separate entity carrying its own unique information but each united forming a completely new entity with a completely new, never to be repeated (even when sperm and ovum from same couple unite again and form another creation, the original creation is still never repeatable creation,) Even in twins, and multiple births each new creation is unique unto him

or herself and never to be repeated.

Under normal circumstances a new mingling of the genetic material of the sperm and ovum begin the creating a new person but this new person has within it the instructions to self-build and at end to initiate its own birth process. Totally individual and unlike what pro-abortion advocates loudly declare, “it’s a woman’s body and she can do what she wants” Indeed it is her body which is asked to give hospitality and further it is her ovum but she has permitted her ovum to be penetrated by a different matter, the sperm, each totally responsible for a third being, totally different from either of them.

Further, the sperm and ovum each bring to the other their complementarity, that is, the union of the two both emphasises and compliments and betters the qualities of the other, the third person (child). They each enhance and beautify the other and in this new

creation not only do they deliver their very own personhood (because they are already considered persons and have acknowledged personhood) which they do because they are already persons, and cannot deliver anything else, but add to that which they already have and gift this to the new creation so that the new creation can be seen as one finer than the two donors. Indeed each sperm and each ovum give to each other all that they are. They cannot withhold anything or do anything else because it is not written in their own blueprint. What is written is full donation.

The ovum of a human female embryo is a totally human because the donor is a completely human person. It cannot be beast. The sperm of a human male (when a Y chromosome is delivered) is totally human because the human male delivering the Y chromosome is totally human and therefore a person and not a beast. Thus by the encounter of the sperm and ovum from already persons with personhood must be the beginning of another human being also person with embedded/embodied personhood.

Finally on this, our bodies are the locus of our personhood this why a great dignity is accorded to our bodies and a great wound occurs when dignity is not respected.

Dear friends in my head it makes sense and I can see the meaning I hope I have been able to express this meaning on paper.

Welcome to the World baby Arlo.



You have been praying for his parents for a long time this is where woman shines brightest.

This, dear friends, is what we are trying to do each in our own way, and continue even when it gets hard as it will at times.

Dear friends all these thoughts as I sat on my balcony with a cup of coffee and a (maybe two) biscotti

Governor Andrew Cuomo signs abortion Bill to full term

In what has now come to be expected, the recent signing of bill (reproductive Health Act) in the US state Senate ensured that the abortion lobby had another win, to kill babies up to full term and for any reason. The speed in which this Bill was passed and signed was mind boggling and not only did he speedily sign that Bill but he hoped that other states would follow his example. And pass pro-abortion laws.

In a statement after signing of the Bill Mr Cuomo said “we are sending a clear message that whatever happens in Washington women in New York will always have the right to control their own bodies” these words from a man who purports to be a catholic and whose lineage is purportedly catholic. His theory is that moral issues espoused by his “faith” should not interfere with political landscape and political action was inscribed into law.

This new law has even usurped the previous heinous law of Roe v Wade which in its day had restrictions imposed but this new and modern offering has liberated from all restrictions and safeguards for the infant in the womb. Roe v Wades infamy was that it removed the humanity of the child in the womb thus making a child non-human and therefore acceptable for its destruction.

Late-term abortions, which had to this date been illegal in New York, would now be allowed, and non-doctors (nurses) would be allowed to perform them. Imagine non doctors or even doctors dismembering the little infant to perform the killing of such baby. Is this not child death. Child murder. Child destruction? If not what is it? And if non doctors to perform such procedure says little for respect for a woman’s health and body.

Again to quote Pope Francis

“Their killing in huge numbers, with the endorsement of States, is a serious problem that undermines the foundations of the construction of justice,” Pope Francis said in a message to the board of directors of Italy’s pro-life movement. “When life itself is violated at its emergence, what remains is no longer the grateful and enchanted welcome of a gift, but a cold calculation of what we have and what we can use. Then even life is reduced to a one-time-use consumer good.”

In great sorrow and disappointment New York pro-lifers fought successfully to defeat the radical pro-abortion bill. But the November election put pro-abortion Democrats in control of both state houses, and the politicians made abortion on demand a priority for the New Year.

It beggars belief that with so many of America's issues the Democrats put priority on killing their children. Why? Who's behind it? Who's constantly before the media extolling the virtues and necessity for the death of children even if their own families continue to accept new life?

What (feminine) wickedness has been bought for secular and material success and at what price paid?

A further accolade by Pope Francis to the Italian pro-life movement he thanked them for defending the lives of the unborn. He said to them that they bear witness through their work that "those who have been conceived are children of the whole of society" And I am sure that his thanks and blessings and his words are also meant for all the pro-life groups and their efforts to save the babies and maybe rescue their parents from lifelong unspoken pain.

Pope Francis said protecting life is not a one-off action but means protecting every aspect of a person's life. "Taking care of life", he said, "requires that attention be paid to living conditions: health, education, and job opportunities. In short, it includes everything that allows a person to live in dignity. "The Pope said every person should be involved in defending life at every level of society, carried out "in a multiplicity of actions, attentions, and initiatives".

Informed Consent:

Recently I had an experience which lead me to think about the pro-life movement's call for informed consent before an abortion as a delaying of the decision for an actual abortion, and whilst that might be something else we might try, I am not sure that it would be helpful. Perhaps too much of a focus which might be more salient elsewhere.

I know that there are pro-life personages who are using this to assist in the fight against this thing called abortion but I don't think it is important as we think

Recently I experienced a back injury which felt like I was living in a world of pain. This injury occurred as a result of lifting heavy boxes during move to Perth which acerbated previous condition.

At first I thought "wait a while it will go away" and it didn't. Then I went to local doctor who prescribed a handful of different pain killers to be taken all at once. And this didn't help. Then again another prescription of anti-inflammatories. That didn't help. Then Chiropractor, then physiotherapist. Each doing their thing. That didn't help. In the meantime the pain had become unbearable. The problem didn't go away.

The next step the doctor sent me to the Perth major public hospital where I sat from 9.10am to 3,30 pm. During this time I was just moved from chair to chair but not much else. (Oh got given a cup of tea and biscuit) Eventually saw doctor who determined what I had been told before (mind you had had a MRI 8 weeks earlier) and it showed compressed something or other impinging on several nerves. And the pain by now was agony.

But this young lady doctor wrote another prescription for a different pain killer and another tablet which was going to help the nerve pain and a hospital physio who then told me to do water aerobics and gave me crutches and to return these in 4 weeks. And after 2-3 months, a mountain of pain killers, now crutches and go home.

Why did I write this? because during these days of so much pain and time at hospital and sitting in medical waiting rooms, if someone had pushed an informed consent form in front of my face I would have signed it just so that something be done to be rid of the problem. To make the problem go away and have no more worries or pains.

And as I sat outside waiting for husband to pick me up from hospital (I sent him home knowing that there would be hours waiting in emergency) my mind went over the events and the disappointment, and the desire to have that problem and pain fixed up and just have one day, one week without pain, I would have signed anything.

And so I thought of the girl entering the abortion facility, especially where there is coercion to go through with the abortion and on her part a hesitancy and her being caught in the middle of this "pain" and just wanting it to go away. "just to go away I want no more pain but for problem to go away" and for this to happen a form to sign promising that the pain would go away is pushed in front of her and she signs willingly and speedily just so that the pain (me) and problem (her) would go away and we would have a day without pain. A day of normal.

Letters

Dear Anne,

Hi Anne,
Please accept the enclosed as a contribution to the cause which is not just.
Keep up the good work. I am sure that on day it will prevail.
God bless you

John B.

Dear John thank you for the enclosed. I appreciate your care. I also hope that the future will hold better things in the abortion area. However, at the moment I can't see it. I think we will have to go lower still before this societal malaise will be overcome.

Anne

Dear Anne,

You are an amazing woman, with all you have gone through over the last few months you still manage to get something out.
God bless you dear. I enclose a "widow's mite"

Rose K

Dear Rosie, my charism (work) has always mainly existed on widows mites. Thank you. Anne

Dear Anne,

It is quite some time since I have written to you but you have been in my prayers-you, your family and also the dear soul of your son Mark.
The healing will take time and he will be with you always.
I am so pleased that you are able to continue your very special work.
There will be very rough days. Jesus is asking you to share in His suffering and His Sacred Heart is beating with love for you.
I am enclosing a cheque to help in the great work you are continuing to do
The blessings of Jesus and Mary on you

Love Bridget.

*Dear Bridget,
Thank you for your kind words of support and your very tangible way of support. It has been a really difficult 6 months and I have only been able to cope with supporters like you. The temptation was to quit as it all seemed so hard but words of friends have carried me through and continue to do so.
Bless you
Anne*

*Thank you to all letter writers
Karen, Sarah, John R.
Tom K, Chris N.
Maria O.
Tony A
Clare N.*

It led to me thinking about how many people sign informed consent forms not really knowing what they are doing in the middle of their fears and crisis. I know that I would have signed anything, not asked any questions, just do it quickly please and let me rest without pain.

Will a young woman whose boyfriend or husband, is insisting on an abortion, or even a career, or parents forcing, be strong enough to really understand and give informed consent? Or will she simply want the "problem" or even "pain" to go away and quickly sign the aforesaid form.

I think the latter, I just wanted the pain to go away and perhaps the young lady who is not necessarily wanting an abortion but finding herself in that position will also simply want the pain to go away.

Several days later I had an urgent appoint with a neurosurgeon organised by my brother (doctor) and after much discussion and pointing out the possibilities of doing nothing, cortisone injection, surgery he considered that surgery would be best as damage too much and too advanced.

As I'm sitting in his rooms, listening to him explaining everything to me it all sounded blah blah blah because all I wanted was for him to be rid of the pain and the problem. I didn't want to hear about the risks. I quickly signed. And again I thought about the young woman whom we attempt to help even at the last minute. She doesn't want to hear about the risks that may be the result of such a procedure (psychological, breast cancer, physical damage, abortion grief etc.) because all she wants is for difficulty to go away. I have in counselling sessions (especially first session) asked client if she signed an informed consent form and her response is usually "I signed forms but I didn't know what they were. I just wanted it to be over and done with"

As I have thought much about this, it has occurred to me that the informed consent form is simply the health professionals safeguarding themselves because no one going in for a surgery minor or more serious is in a state of mind to really know what they are signing, they simply listen and not hear, nod, disassociate and go to a safe place, and depending on pain/problem level quickly sign so that the pain or problem will go away.

As I come to end of this newsletter, thank you to those who have sent cards and words of support regarding the death of my son Mark. I appreciate your care. Thank also to those who assured me they want me to continue my work when ready. I do want to and am slowly easing in. I still see and speak to half dozen clients in my Melbourne practice, they have wanted to remain with me and I will try and see them person every 6-7 weeks and speak by phone weekly. When in Melbourne I will also get to see my two boys who have remained in behind.

I had found an office near my new post office not far away from my home where I can walk to it and when I showed husband he picked up that it wouldn't be suitable because my client would have to walk through a newsagency to get to me. It is one of their rooms and for a small room \$310 pw too much for too little and no privacy. Will keep trying. I am seeing 2 clients here in Perth a young lady abortions, and a mature woman sexual abuse. However it's a bit hard seeing them at a Coffee Club outlet. Not that anyone would be interested as they are on different days and it's at back of the coffee shop. Two coffees each and we finish, but long term it's very unacceptable. I hope in the close future to be able to visit some clergy and discuss some ideas I have with others and I also want to connect with other counsellors and other pro-lifers

There may be need for spinal fusion surgery but I'm told its safe surgery and really successful in eliminating pain. That would be so nice. Some prayers please. Will tell you more next issue of newsletter.

Vivian, Natalie, Frances, Chris, Belinda, Angela, Helen and Tania.(S/A) and please may I have lots of prayers for me and pray for the soul of Mark.

As for \$ support thank you to those who have continued with this I am holding in trust what I have till I find right office. I have done all the new stationery. So I will continue, and thank you. Till we meet again, love and blessings.



Anne Lastman

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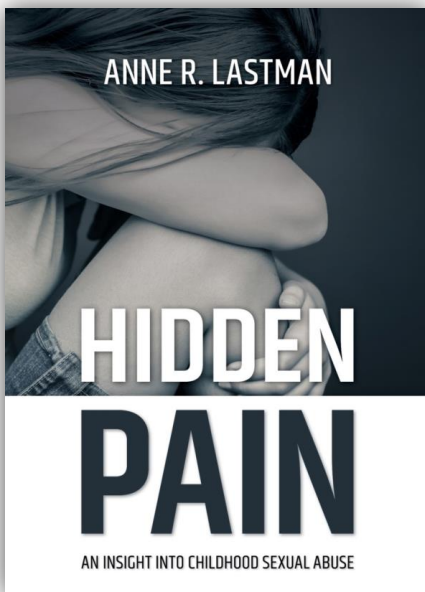
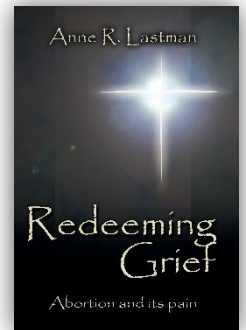
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If you or anyone you know may be interested, please pass this on to help me clear them.

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HIDDEN PAIN is written about memories which are hidden and cannot be spoken out loud. It is a book about shame, pain, sorrow and lives which have gone wrong both for victims, families, and perpetrators. Sexual abuse of children is common in all communities, in all societies, and yet it's still one of the last remaining taboos. It is something which cannot be spoken about because it's so awful, so inappropriate that it cannot be discussed. Yet discussed it must be, because the children are crying and pleading to be helped.

This is not a step by step guide to dealing with abuse. It is the result of my engagement with those who have come to me originally for post abortion counselling and on further investigation it was found that abuse (especially in cases of multiple abortions) existed in their history. It is my hope that **HIDDEN PAIN** can be of help to those who read it and more so be vigilant and not to turn away when a child is suffering.

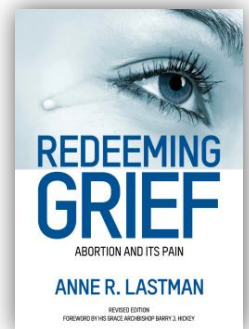
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