

Broken Branches

Issue 67

Dec/Jan 2009

John 15

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

A Vets View On Abortion

Dear friends, one of my readers sent this in to me. How interesting that a vet has this much compassion and a deep respect for the oath she took at graduation whilst a human doctor (abortionist) has no compassion at all for his/her tiny patient.

Anne, I was thinking about animals and then thought to check out abortion of animals and found these comment made by a vet.

"I probably don't have to explain to you, my Dolittler readers, why aborting kittens of a certain age is fraught with potential moral peril. But others don't always see it that way. There are so many kittens on the street, they'd argue, how can you conscionably allow them to live when you're in the ideal position to end their lives?

Theoretically, that may make sense. But there's something about recognizing the coloration of the kittens' fur beneath the thin lining of the uterus that evokes the vision of kittens in a plastic bag. And drowning kittens in a bag seems antithetical to the values I pledged to when I took the veterinarian's oath at graduation. I did hear about one vet who did a "peek and shriek," meaning she opened the abdomen only to find that the kittens were so close to term she couldn't go through with the procedure. She stitched her back up and let nature take its course. Consequently, I always pause when I acknowledge a cat's pregnancy pre-spay. I've taken to adding an X-ray to my protocol. If the kittens look full term I'll send her home. Luckily

that's only happened a couple of times. I hate losing the opportunity to spay her when I have her in my sights but the alternative's worse—for my conscience."

Now I Am Not A Criminal

I had to shake my head in despair as I listened to Ms Colleen Hartland being interviewed on TV just after the new abortion laws were passed and the very un clever Ms Hartland said something that sent shivers down my spine at the heartlessness of such a woman. How did she get to be that way? Her comment after the passing of the Bill was "now I am no longer a criminal" Does that mean that Ms Hartland had an abortion and if so, did she need to have more company? You see what this comment says to me is that Ms Hartland is not feeling guilt because she took her son or daughter to die but because there was an ineffectual law on the statutes which really had not been enforced for probably half a century, if ever.

I wonder if Ms Hartland (or anybody else for that matter) kept thinking when she went in for an abortion, "today I am breaking the law" I would have hoped that she might have thought "today I am taking my little one to die a most painful death". I would have thought that that was more important than "now I am a criminal and I might be found out that I am a mother who took her littlest infant to die." Indeed a hardness of heart, a cold and bitter heart has resulted as a consequence of her decision. A decision which till her introduction of the bill in the House she had nurtured and it burned deeply in her. Today she has taken the stand that if all abortion is "legal"

A newsletter of Victims of Abortion

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(don't worry about moral) then her own abortion/s are just amongst the rest. Poor woman what an aberration of her feminine genius. What great delusion and sadness rules her inner being.

Two Overseas Conferences: Lourdes & Rome

Since the last issue of the newsletter I had the great pleasure of attending the two conferences I spoke to you about several months ago.

The first conference was at Lourdes (France)
"World Prayer Congress For Life Oct 28th-
November 3rd.

Beginning with the Opening of the conference Mass in the Grotto followed by a talk on the message of Lourdes by the Bishop of Lourdes H.E. Jacques Perrier, this conference promised much and delivered much more.

A paper on Humane Vitae was read by Manfred Müller (HLI member of staff) on behalf of auxiliary Bishop of Salzburg who was prevented from being present due to illness. In this paper Bishop Laun spoke of the consequences of contraception which were clearly spelled out in Humane Vitae 17 but perhaps had not foreseen three other equally serious consequences which we face very strongly today, that is, the separation of fertility and sexuality with its many after-effects (homosexual/lesbian/IVF) pregnancies, the contraceptive mentality which would develop and which we are facing today with its devastating consequences of millions of abortions and demographic devastation, and that the contraceptive mentality would lead to holocaust

dimension abortions.

The talk followed with Bishop Laun's analysis of the damage which the rejection of Humane Vitae had inflicted on society as the human being was gradually demeaned until the sexuality of the human was separated from love and reduced to an instinct.

Love always unites and is fruitful, contraception divides and today it is possible to see how damaging this rejection of Humane Vitae has been to conjugal love and to marriage as a whole. Indeed the whole of the talk by Bishop Laun was inspirational.

After lunch (all meals yum) we made a visit to the miraculous baths where those with courage are helped to plunge into the waters of healing.(sorry I was chicken) my ancient bones were terrified of freezing waters.

Before dinner there was a gathering of pro life leaders from around the world to discuss possibilities for the reduction or elimination of abortion. Many interesting possibilities.

Fr Bill Melrose CPM spoke on "The Church as an Ambassador of Divine Mercy" The Church always must speak the truth and offer Mercy. It cannot do otherwise.

All of Thursday was devoted to post abortion talks. Present and speaking were Dr Marie Peeters-Ney the beautiful wife of Prof Philip Ney. Marie spoke on post abortion survivor syndrome (PASS). Victoria Thorn (founder of Project Rachel) spoke on the role of Project Rachel.

"poor woman what an aberration of her feminine genius..."

And yours truly also spoke of healing of abortion grief. The three of us spoke about healing of abortion wounds and the absolute necessity for this to happen if society is to recover. It was so good to meet Victoria Thorn and to catch up with Marie Peeters Ney again. I had hoped her husband Philip might have come but he was not able to make it.

In the afternoon Marie Peeters- Ney and I formed panel for discussion and question and answers.

The following day there were talks on Bernadette, the Rosary and atonement, Penance and meaning of suffering, and a talk by my beautiful new friend (Dr Angelika Pokropp-Hippen) who also works in Germany in post abortion healing area using art therapy.

A deeply moving experience for me was doing the Way of the Cross and Mass of Reparation for personal sin and the world wide sins against life. In this ceremony, individuals representing different countries prayed for their own country and the sins against life of that Country. I represented Australia and our near neighbour Indonesia. I prayed to God for Mercy on our nations for our sins against life and life abuses. During Mass of Reparation in the Basilica of →

the Rosary we laid the names of the nations under the Cross.

Solemn High Mass in St Bernadette's church was awesome with several thousand attendees including many scout groups from around France and a choir which was surely made up of Angels singing praises. It couldn't have been human voices because every time they sang I cried. Many other activities were made available for our edification especially during the weekend. Including torchlight procession and the Jubilee Walk.

On Monday, the last day of conference, were held the workshops. My workshop (in English) was for 3 hours and about 55 people attend. It was really very good. I enjoyed it very much and I hope the attendees did also.

Dr Angelika Pokropp-Hippen and Claudia Brandhubar conducted a workshop in German and was also very, very well attended.

The workshops completed the Congress and indeed what a great honour it was to be present in this holy place.

"...it couldn't have been human voices...."

Thank you to Dietmar Fischer (Director Human Life International Austria and Staff) for the invitation to attend. It always *is* a great honour to be in the presence of such tireless workers for life. And I came away feeling refreshed and full of zeal again. When I left Australia I was feeling flat and almost unable to continue. This workshop/conference was a great gift from God to me at a time when most needed.

Indeed He always "goes before us into Galilee" He went before me long before I knew I would need help to continue.

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Conference 2: Matercare International Conference Rome.

The Theme for this Conference was "The Hope of Motherhood and the Ethical Practice of Obstetrics."

And all the talks were to be based around the Holy Father's latest Encyclical Spe Salvi (Saved by Hope).

Again this conference promised very much and delivered much much more.

Beginning with the Opening address by Mons. Pietro Parolin from the Office of the Secretary of State of the Holy See, followed by opening reception and get acquainted time.

“it is important to be united to stand and work together” these words rang so true for me who has felt so alone for some time now.

The conference began in earnest the next morning with an opening Mass with Celebrant and Chief Homilist His Eminence Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, President of the Pontifical Council for Health Workers who also delivered the Key note address. His talk Hope and healthcare was inspirational.

Fr Richard Taylor Prof. of Scripture spoke on “Hope” which is always about a future. It is “normal and natural to hope.” and Hope is about Love. Love always looks ahead in joy.

Rev. Fr. George Woodhall Prof of Moral Theology, and author of *Humane Vitae*, *Forty Years On*, spoke “any society which looks to the future longs for children and does not see children (as does our day) as an obstacle. In a society which distorts its values there is a lack of hope and in a future which becomes increasingly irrelevant, then marriage and children are an optional extra. Children become not valuable for their own sake and marriage becomes a temporary arrangement.

Further Fr Woodhall went on to say “the core of marriage is a rich gift of marriage and sexuality. Today we have a tide of selfishness against all good and the good of the child and of marriage” And a quote which resonated strongly with me also from Fr Woodhall, “All those not yet born hope that we will defend them. We have to develop our potentialities as children of God” For me, Anne, this quote remained and resonated, and was the impetus for me to get back and start the battle again.

Imagine “all those not yet born hope we will defend them” This has to be our over riding thought especially those of us in the pro life area of work and those who cannot be involved because of other commitments can support those

of us who are called to “defend them”

Mrs Karen Hurley President General WUCWO “women imbued with the Gospel can do so much in helping humanity in not falling when we give our sincere gift of self” And this particular quote also from Karen Women are strong because God entrusts humanity to us. The gift of God is entrusted to every woman” and further “the Church gives thanks for manifestations of the feminine genius.”

John Seed (Chair Dept of Obstetrics & Gynaecology) In USA 1 in 4 pregnancies aborted. Any country that accepts abortion accepts its own demise.

What can we do? Teach that at 3 weeks after conception there is a heart.

28% of aborted infants are killed who have a 90% chance of survival

Katherine Sinnott (Member of European Parliament Ireland)

“Right to abortion means right to a dead baby”

There are a number of threats which are all leading to population control.

And words of great wisdom from Katherine “In exchange for solving our problems we give away our freedom”

Dr Patricia Casey (Psychiatrist) Hope for the future end to abortion is 4D images of babies in womb.

Dr Casey (psychiatrist) accepts mental health issues involved in abortion though she doesn't like the term post abortion syndrome (I do like the term) Patricia does speak of psychiatric disorders like depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, substance abuse, suicidal behaviours.

What is accepted within the mental health field is that those are ambivalent or coerced, the young, **late term**, (what we have voted into our laws recently) abortion for foetal abnormality, already with other children, poor social support after abortion, NO MATERNAL INSTINCTS (I would call this emotional deprivation disorder), and moral objections, are at risk.

What I found interesting listening to Patricia is that all the reactions I have seen and counselled



Christmas Greetings

I wish for you dear and precious
friends

A happy and Holy Christmas and a
new year filled with graces and joys.

I wish for you the peace which only
God can give.

And I pray that all your heart's
desires will be granted.

From myself and those who help me
with newsletter distribution, AND
OTHER WORK IN OFFICE

God Bless your lives,

And if God wills we will meet again
in February.

God Bless,

Anne

And the little hard working elves.

and spoken about over these many years, are now slowly being spoken within mental health. Gingerly, I suspect, but being accepted.

There were many many other eminent speakers including Prof of Moral Theology and Bioethics Fr Woodhall who gave a magnificent talk on Humane Vitae and Hope in Practice. A talk by Irish Dr Phillip Boyle (Naprotechonlogy) the beautiful and wholesome way of assisting infertile couples to become pregnant, rather than IVF and its invasive and embryo destructive means.

There was a section of the conference which was called "Abortion an Absence of Hope" and it was in this section that my own talk was given. I don't quite know what to say about my own talk except to say that I think it went well. This feeling was confirmed during social hours when many spoke to me about my work and would I please write a programme. So I guess it must have been OK.

The final part of this conference was a forum in Training in Obstetrics/gynaecology-Hope for the Future, so I thought it was the cue for me to go for a walk in St Peters.

During this conference we have the pleasure of attending a papal audience, (I was about 2-3 metres from the Holy Father Yeahhh) then being taken for a private tour of the Sistine Chapel (early morning) and a few of us went with a beautiful Polish priest (lecturer of Moral Theology in Poland) to visit to tombs of John Paul II and Paul VI also early morning before the crowd and we were able to quietly pray before these two titans of our time.

I did pray for all my readers and supporters both in St Peters and Lourdes.

Also the day the conference completed, we were taken to the Basilica of St Paul's outside the Walls. The believed burial place of St. Paul. What a beautiful Basilica and Museum.

OH the awesome experience of just being where St Paul has been.

After the conference I stayed a few days in Rome with my beautiful friends Bruna and Mauro and soon to arrive (any day now) baby Sara. This young couple always gives me hospitality

whenever I go to Rome and I love them like my own darling children. (They are very young). Thank you darling Bruna and Mauro.

I would like to thank deeply Prof Jose Maria Simon, (President FIAMC) and Dr Rob Walley (President Matercare) for their invitation to me to attend to present a paper. I hope I did well for them and those who supported me.

Just as a last word to all the Catholic Christian doctors on my newsletter list, please consider joining Matercare International and adding your strength to an organization whose belief is in the sanctity of Life and the need for doctors to be able to respect the oath they take at their graduation., To do "No Harm" Become strong as a whole so that you cannot be bullied into becoming baby killers but instead being able to love and help all mothers and all babies irrespective of size, to enter into a world of life.

The Year That Was

Well my dear and precious friends, we have come to that time of the year again. It seems that time speeds up more every year. I don't know if time is speeding up, but it only seemed to have been→

Christmas not long and here it is again. I hope to have about 3 weeks off from about 18th December to early January and this year I think I really, really need it though I am sure I say this every year. Also I really would love to meet my new grand daughter Amelia and my precious and beautiful new daughter in law from O/S and her young son who is also my new seven year old grandson. So I want to go to Perth for a little while just to spend time hugging them and my older sons and all my grandchildren and nieces and nephews. And I don't want to hear one word about abortion. I hope that with a complete break I will be ready for the battles which are being planned in hell at this very moment.

I have counselled many new women and several males I have done much work during that infamous abortion Bill in Victoria, written to many many politicians, visited some politicians, did a half hr TV (channel 31) interview. A radio interview, wrote 6 more issues of newsletter. Several articles. attended pro life meetings (please pray for the success of these meetings), I have travelled interstate to Lismore at the invitation of beautiful Baptist Minister Jim Gallagher and Ruth his lovely wife, and travelled within the state of Victoria. I have travelled to Lourdes France, and Rome, for the two conferences I just wrote about.

"...that abortion means the right to a dead baby..."

Have spoken to many groups. Have been accepted as a member of the Federation of Victoria Counsellors, won an award for duties in the counselling field in Victoria. Been nominated for Alcoa Worker of the Year Award, Attended and presented a talk at the new Frankston Pregnancy Centre. Attended their official opening, attended the conference on Grief in society (for self learning). Attended other grief and loss seminars for personal development in the area of grief and sexual abuse grief so that I can give the very best to my girls.

As I look at our society I am frightened for the future of the young, the future of marriage, the→

future of society in general. The future always means children and children are now being aborted in dimensions never seen before. I am frightened because of the way the anti life lobby has turned our once good society into a society which demands "the right to a dead baby". I am frightened for the race for artificial life creation and the new thought that abortion means now the right to a dead baby and in any place where late terms abortions are carried out it means that an attempted abortion resulting in a live birth, the baby cannot be helped and MUST be left to die even in agony. When I heard this at the conference in Rome my blood chilled and I realised how far we have descended from God's

Letters

Dear Anne,

I was deeply moved by your issue 66 of newsletter and was pleased that you named the names of the politicians who voted for legalised abortion. I was also surprised by how many of them were women! I am enclosing a small donation to cover the costs of sending me BB which I treasure reading. I am one of the silent majority who allow these people to behave in this way by doing and saying very little. Evil abounds when good men remain silent. Keep up the wonderful, good work, Our Lady will guide, love and protect you. You will never fail. God bless, you are in my prayers.

Kevin. (WA)

Kevin thank you for your kind words and prayers. I appreciate both. Just keep doing that and we will win. Anne

Dear Anne,

Thank you for your newsletters. I have just finished reading the latest. you are an example of the fact that the Good Lord would not allow evil if He could not draw good out of it. If you had not had all that pain due to your earlier abortions, followed by your conversion you probably would not have done all the good that has benefited so many victims of abortion.

Dear Anne thank God for your work. Please find a small contribution to help you carry on.

Yves.

Hello Yves, yes I do thank God for the work He has given me to do. MY prayer has to be "Dear Lord please keep my sin before my eyes so that I may never judge another their sin" Whilst I would wish that it had never happened, I thank God He has forgiven me and that the children Miriam and Joseph love me"
Anne.

Dear Anne,

Your last issue of the newsletter was very moving and hard hitting. Thank you for letting us know the names of the politicians who voted for this cruel bill. My daughter delivered her first baby (my grand daughter) who was very premature and very very small and I marvelled at the tenacity of that little one to live. Imagine being able to knowingly kill a baby of viable age. How can these so called doctors sleep at night? What must they take not to have horrible nightmares?

The list of politicians is on my fridge door and will remain there and I will ensure that when voting time comes again my family and friends will be reminded of this decision.

God bless you dear

Mrs Jan T.

Vic.

Jan one of the speakers (Mr Anthony Ozimic) at the Rome conference spoke about "The Effects of Abortion on the moral character of Providers" to quote "The abortionist suffers suppression of conscience by their own rhetoric, believing what they say, Eventually this begins to have a negative effect on their character." and further "eventually abortionists disrespect women" further eventually abortionists "experience personality fragmentation and breakdown, suicide ideation, and personality disorder."

Jan, perhaps knowing this we should intensify our prayer and intercession for them, both for themselves and their families and in the broader picture for the babies they will not abort if they close down their doors to such procedures.....Anne

original view of the human being. And I have to ask again how long can we continue to mock God and think we can remain unscathed.

This past year I have also continued to write the newsletter and to bring to the readers various perspectives of the story of post abortion grief. It's potential to change radically our society because of its complicated nature and I have encountered so much sexual abuse (incest), in the life of those who come to see me that it's possible to see that sexual abuse and abortion can actually be seen causing the same kind of anguish and suffering.

It's interesting because I do not publicise my work in sexual abuse area and yet they are beginning to come in numbers to see me. I see the Lord at work in that and I see a great need for healing of this deep lacerating wound of the spirit. I have received kudos for my newsletter and also as per usual the criticisms, especially when I write about sexual abuse.

I have, as you know, published my book *Redeeming Grief*. And I thank those who have bought a copy. Please continue to relieve me of copies of the book. It really is not like the newsletter, though many people have said that they haven't bought a copy because they already know my thought. I promise its different and some have said "excellent" There has been an offer (when I was in Rome last week) to translate the book into Italian and I have said "yes please" and also an offer to translate it into German and I said "yes please"

Mind you I have not promoted it apart from this newsletter. My husband still thinks it will be a massive best seller if it ever "sees the light of day". I am still at the same office, difficult as it is, but I really haven't had time to do much else.

Thank you to my prayer warriors and supporters. Thank you to those who keep me and my girls and especially my family covered in prayer. This has been so important. Please, please continue to do this. As you know I depend entirely on your generosity. Please help in the \$\$ area if you can.

Thank you to those who keep the needs of this work in their heart and mind. I appreciate your care.

During these times please continue to pray for Heather, Jenny, Helen, Maria (Rome) Mel, Fran, Rula, Max, Claire, Suzie, Evan, Stephanie, Annemaria, John, Linda, Abby, Mary, Heidi, Nikki, Joy, Sharon, Erica, Sheryl, Caroline, Paul, Val.

Shalom treasured friends till we meet again.



Anne Lastman

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Broken Branches - By email!



Dear Friends,

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