

A newsletter of *Victims of Abortion*

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

Issue No 30 – Dec/Jan2003



Editorial,

How quickly the year 2002 has come and gone, and with it perhaps Australia and the world have continued to lose more of its innocence and sense of safety. The year 2002 has brought with it much, including events which have caused all of us enormous grief (Bali), many celebrations, gifts, joys, laughter, tears.

There was a sense, for a time in October (after the Bali tragedy), where it appeared to me that there is an overwhelming sense of societal grief. Almost a grief fatigue. This became evident as we watched the outcome of the Bali tragedy. Everyone seemed to know someone who was in some way touched by the tragedy. There was a sense of stunned disbelief. It seemed that we have been reeling from one major tragedy to another and whilst still in the process of dealing with one grief, a new one needs processing.

During the middle of the Bali tragedy I remember being at a shopping centre and listening unobtrusively to a small group of others speaking and weeping over the incidence and sadness filled the air. This was when it occurred to me that we are experiencing grief fatigue. The same huddle of disbelief and sadness and happened when Princess Diana died, and after the September 11th terrorist attack on America. With all types of grief and fatigue it becomes necessary to rest and recover or the system will not be able to cope. This is what is now required a time of recovery.

Since the last issue of this newsletter I have done quite a few talks, wrote several articles, began seeing 5 new girls (3 are still with me-2 were only short term) and had a week off. I have been really tired over the last three months. When this happens I know that I have to have time out otherwise the grief also begins to overtake/overwhelm me. It was my own sense of grief which led to me really seeing that "grief" is all around and appears compounded grief. Perhaps this tiredness has to do with listening to "sad" stories for about 30 hours per week and sometimes more when the phone work is taken into account. Perhaps it's the sadness all around.

There is a pathological insistence in our society to portray abortion as a non-event. It is this negligence, which I think contributes to the escalating numbers of abortions and the ever-increasing numbers of women suffering a particular "stress" and a societal grief, which appears to have no particular genesis, but is pervasive. There is a pervasive sadness, and it is my humble belief that this pervasive sadness cannot and will not be lifted until we come

BROKEN
BRANCHES



John 15

to the understanding of the type of violence which is occurring in our midst, on a daily basis.

Abortion is not the type of violence, which is even acknowledged as violence, however, its fruit is indeed a death by extreme violence and cruelty. Human beings cannot be so programmed to feel no pain for the death of a massive number of fetal children and then be expected to feel the pain of the death by misadventure of another group of individuals, simply because this group can be visually seen. Human beings have inscribed within their beings a “communion” with others (including fetal children) and until this is understood no sense of peace can be experienced.

It is lunacy to imagine that as a society we can accept the death of over 50,000,000pa (worldwide) babies and then not experience grief fatigue. Grief fatigue is experienced when one violence, one unexpected death, one trauma after another, after another, after another, is committed and the psyche and spirit have not been able to deal with it. Pervasive, unacknowledged sadness over abortion. Sadness over screen violence(news). Sadness over wars, famine, accidents, natural disasters, illness, cancers. Sadness over intentional destruction (embryonic stem cell) The new form of terror and fear and the violence of this new manner of evil, terrorism, also brings with it a sense of fatigue and helplessness.



How do we fight this “grief fatigue”? My readers know how. Most people of God and of good will know how. However, knowing and doing something about it are entirely different things.

Our society knows that abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, interspecies experimentation, all these are wrong. Not only the law of God, but the natural law is being violated, and peace cannot be found in the lives of those who continue to do this type of violence (personal peace and societal peace) Legalising abortion on demand, as our salubrious capital territory has recently done, cannot lead our nation and our people to peace. Using embryos (fetal children) to experiment on so that drug companies, and megalomaniacs can fulfil their agendas cannot lead to peace. Peace only comes when we not only love but also respect the “other”. The “other” is not at peace and therefore we cannot expect to know peace.

Indeed this past week even Planned Parenthood mocked our understanding of “peace” In their infamous pride they have chosen to mock Christianity by taking part of the Angelic salutation to the shepherds “Peace on Earth” and changing it to “choice on earth.” This has become possible for several reasons; not enough Catholics, Christians and “men of goodwill” have fought and renounced the peace-less structures in our society. And further, the mockery becomes possible becomes of manipulation of language. The abortion industry is riddled with manipulation of language. This is why it has succeeded in “conning” the rest of humanity into believing their

diatribe. A “clump of tissue” is not a child according to them. A “menstrual extraction” is not a child according to them. “A clump of blood” is not a child according to them. It is easy to acquiesce to an abortion; after all it is the removal of some clumps of tissue, which is not bad

Planned Parenthood’s release of their “holiday” (*note this not Christmas-holiday*) cards with “choice on earth” is their on-going commitment to destroy Christianity, simply by destroying as many as possible, images of Christ child – babies; and following the babies their parents and siblings.

We should not be surprised at what terrorism befalls us or lack of peace which escapes us, because we have stood by and *accepted and permitted* terrorism against the most vulnerable and defenceless members of the human family. Terrorism on the children in the womb and terrorism against women. And generally this terrorism is defended as a “right” and applauded by other women. **Now this is new.** This is a kind of terrorism never seen in the past. At least never seen on the scale of the present moment.

I am a hopeful person. I can see and believe that all is not lost. However, even this action by Planned Parenthood can be a motivator for us to engage in the rejection of all that is hateful. Abortion, like terrorism is hateful. Both kill innocent humans who are unaware and unable to defend themselves.

With abortion the womb has become the point of terrorist attack. The epicentre of the destruction, and from then onwards all other personal destruction becomes possible. If we can view on our TV screens the horror of “ground zero” then surely we can see the same horror occurring in the womb. There can be no better image for us to understand the destruction in the womb than remembering the image of “ground zero” (America) and the Sari Club (Bali). They mirror one another.



Merry Christmas one and all,

I hope this new Newsletter finds you all abuzz in preparation for the festive season ahead. On a personal note, I am quite happy as I recently finished Year 12! *No more pencils, no more books, No more Teacher’s Dirty Looks!*

I don’t know what it is about this time of year, but I always find that I like to reflect on what has past throughout the year. Although there are many good things, something that has been constantly arising in my deeply philosophical psyche (do you like that?) is that of the direction of science in modern times

Throughout all history, we have seen man embrace science, and there is no problem with that, for science has brought us doctors, medicines, cleaner environments, and the electronic information superhighway. However, it seems to me that in more recent times, we have halted our endeavours to become a better society, by changing the aim of our science from that of construction – which brought us the moon landing, open heart surgery, and other wondrous events – to destruction, **OUR DESTRUCTION** – the monstrosities associated with cloning, abortion, euthanasia, and embryonic stem cell research.

Once upon a time, we looked up to our scientists and their genius, which brought so many good things in order to help our society – recycling plants, electric cars, space exploration projects; but now, when we think of the modern scientist, we immediately associate them with the work of a few immoral scientists who have led the field in such destructive technologies.

Many scientists have become so caught up with the, **if they COULD** do certain things (**CLONING**), that they have failed to ponder whether if they **SHOULD** do certain things. From the times when we saw the first kidney transplant, the first blood transfusion, we now look ahead to such atrocities and monstrosities as the first human-pig, that is, human DNA genetically hybridised with the DNA of a pig. There is no logical reason for its creation, and such things should not even be considered; yet for a minority obsessed with whether they **COULD**, not whether they **SHOULD**, they have created this abomination.

They have tried to play God, they have dismissed any ethics they might have had, and they have ultimately changed the face of science from attempting to better mankind, to attempting to destroy it. We must face the fact that science must change its direction, or we face a future of destruction, a culture of death

Phew! Sorry to lay it on so thick, but it has to be said. Anyway, to all of you fantastically amazing people, I wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy New



Year, and Restful Holiday.

I hope you all get lots of presents, I am trying for a DVD Player (hint, hint

MUM) 😊

Take it easy, God Bless,
I wish you all Happiness.

Nick

MARRIAGE AND ABORTION

I have thought that I would like to speak and write on the issue of the relationship between marriage breakdown and abortion, however, as this is a Christmas issue I would like to postpone this topic until next year. I believe that this topic deserves an extended treatment.

It has been my experience that as studies have shown not only relationships but especially marriages are deeply endangered when husband and wife take their fetal child to be aborted. Where non-marital relationships can be



expected to flounder due to the emotional roller coaster, which follows abortion, marital relationships are also placed in danger of disintegration. Today marriage, family, children, stability, future are in peril. It is my contention that the trauma of abortion is a major contributor towards this end. We can blame many things, however, at the most basic level is the new "hatred" of children which is the cause. The future, family, stability, morality, cannot survive where the adult turns on its children. Indeed on even one of its children.

I will return to this theme in the new year and I hope I will be able to show that it is probably the "expected" thing that a relationship will fail following an abortion and indeed it is a true miracle when a marriage survives such a crisis.

LETTERS (1)

Dear Anne,

Enclosed please find a cheque for \$.in support of your wonderful work with victims of abortion. I know of a success story through a friend of my daughter. Through my work at.....pregnancy centre I was able to refer you as a counsellor and it has been heartening to hear of the progress this young woman is making towards healing. God bless your wonderful work...Pamela

Dear Anne,(2)

Thank you for continuing to send me your newsletter. I love it and when it arrives I immediately sit down with a cup of tea and read it. I am always amazed at how different you make each of the issues. I know that abortion is rife but I am only beginning to understand the magnitude of its effect. Please continue your good work and be assured of our support.

God Bless you and your work.

Edna.

Dear Anne,(3)

Enclosed is a small donation to help with your wonderful work. I am sorry it cannot be more however be assured that you and your work are always in our prayers. Thank you for informing us about the damage of abortion and thank you for the help you give to your girls.

Yours in Jesus and Mary

Eileen and family.

Dear Anne,(4)

I apologise for taking so long to write but this year I have been doing Yr 12 and it has been hard. I had to study so hard in order to be able to achieve the enter score that I need for the course that I want to do. I have now finally finished my exams (what a relief) and all I can do now is wait and hope. I think I feel a little bit confident. Thank you for all the information you sent me and be assured of my support.



God Bless.

Julie (17 yrs)

Summary of 2002

About the third week in December I will be closing the office in the city so that I can take a break. I cannot believe how fast this past year has gone.

Whilst in many ways it has been a difficult year, there has also been many moments of joy. It has been wonderful seeing my girls come sad and leave at peace. Not forgetting. But at peace with themselves, God and their baby. Ultimately this is what its all about. Bringing a sense of peace into the life of someone who has aborted.

As I looked back through my diary, I was amazed to see the work done, the girls seen, the couples seen, the several sets of grandparents.6 country girls who had to travel really great distances to come on a regular basis.

This year I also saw a number of girls with other “grief” issues, not abortion but none the less grief and at times a deep grief. It is always wonderful to see how God’s Mercy works even in areas where it is difficult to believe that it is possible. This is the first year where I have worked 5 1/2 days pw and have seen up to 19 girls in one week. (Its reduced at the moment).

This year I have also seen quite a few girls with multiple abortions and these continue to come and will come into the next year. One of these girls with multiple abortions (5 as) has left me as she felt I was unable to help her and this is OK. I also understand that I am not able to help everyone who comes.

I would LOVE to boast 100% success rate but this obviously is not possible and anyway, any success achieved belongs to the Lord, I am only a weak instrument which He uses as He pleases. But still its lovely to see success.

This year there has been an increase in the number of calls and these referrals have come from various channels. Four girls have been referred to me by physicians and in this I felt a little honoured. Perhaps the message is getting out. Phone counselling has also increased but I find this tiring because it is usually done at night which in effect means that I get little break but it is important and it needs to be done and I know that the Lord takes the burden from my shoulders and He bears the bulk of the weight.

Apart from the counselling I have written the newsletters (an issue every 8 weeks) articles for publishing, 11 public talks, 4 seminars including Loss and Grief seminar and a healing seminar over 6 weeks. Have done several 1 hour radio talks and have just book a final one for this year on Dec 12. I have travelled around country Victoria (talks) and have doubled the newsletter list. Indeed the project to send every Bishop, priest, pastor,(in Australia) newsletter continues. This will have to remain an ongoing project.

The response from the priests who have received the newsletter has been OK...just OK but I hope that it will improve. Only 5 priests have cancelled so far but their reason has been a good one. So Its good. I felt disappointment that many Pastoral Associates (All PA in Victoria were sent one) have cancelled, I would have thought that in their position they would have welcomed information on such a topic as post abortion grief.... however that's how it is.

*God grant you
The light of Christmas
which is Faith,
The radiance of Christmas
which is Hope,
The glory of Christmas
which is Love.*

I now need to thank those who have supported me throughout the year and without whose support I would have closed down. Thanks Peter (syd), Michaela & Paul, Fr Leo K (Melb), David P & colleagues (KOSC), Madge & Ladies (CWL),Fr. Brendan and parish (my PP and parish) Frs. Walters & Conroy, Janet & Ted, Margaret O. (melb) Paul M (Melb) The Helpers (Melb) JYoung (NSW), Richard & Kate, June (NSW) Fr

JBC (NSW) my country supporters,. My Qld supporters you are marvellous. Thank you to all my wonderful supporters who just sent what they could and extra thank you to those who made a commitment to pray for me and my family and the Victims of abortion. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I thank also His Grace Archbishop Hart and Mons Elliott for their continued support of me. They make the rooms available at a very much reduced fee (rent) I wouldn't be able to afford such rooms.

Before I close for this year I need to ask for your help again (It doesn't get easier) You know that I rely entirely on your generosity to pay all the bills including a much expanded newsletter (1300-1400) stamps, overseas mail, printing etc. 3 phone lines plus internet facility, yellow pages, and other

office expenses, and I have a desperate need for a **new** computer for city office. The one there was bought as a second hand one and has been more trouble than what it was worth and now it is deader than dead. In fact so dead its awaiting burial where all second hand computers go. The list of need (not want) is getting bigger and bigger. So I place this charism in your hands and allow the Lord to guide your giving.

Thank you to all my lovely friends who have written encouraged and urged me on especially when “things” got hard. Thanks to all those who wrote to Nick, he really has loved being part of your newsletter as contributing writer. I must admit I like him being part of it also.

Please continue to pray for Sally, Jamie, Jane, Melissa (new) Julie, Linda, Susan, Rachel, (new) Greg, Marie, Leanne, Donna (new) Margaret, (1) Margaret (2) (new), Sheri, Robert (new) Erica (new) Fran (new) Ann (new) Please also pray for 3 young girls who I know about but won't seek help, Ingrid, Janelle, Natalie. I have spoken to them but they don't want to come just yet. That's OK. Please continue to pray for Helen N. Maureen, Daniel, Eileen, James, Carlie, Aaron (all these ill) and Victor. Please also pray for a Fr. Terry H. his health is not good. Please pray much for him he is such a good person and priest. And in your mercy if you would pray for my family and me. If God wills we will meet again in early February.

I wish for you a happy and Holy Christmas and a peace that only God can give.

God Bless and Keep you well,



Anne Lastman.

Name _____
Address _____ P/C _____
Donation/Newsletter _____
<i>Yes/no, I would/would not</i> like to be on your mailing list.
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