

Broken Branches

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

ISSUE 141 - Feb/Mar 2021

American Elections

Dear Friends,

I had hoped that the American elections before this next issue of newsletter would be completed and with results which would be beneficial to all of us "life loving" people. Completed yes, in favour of life sadly no.

In the leadup to the elections and with the candidates presented, I had listened to the beliefs and profferings of both sides (Democrats and Republicans) and had so much hoped that most people of goodwill in USA would have voted for the candidate which offered protection of life as a first issue.

We already knew that President Donald Trump had shown himself to be very very pro-life enacting pro-life laws which in my 25 years of this work I had never seen before. Imagine a world leader marching with the March for Life. Defunding organisations pushing abortion. Nominating pro-life justices. President Trump saw the importance of choosing good judges and thus made it a priority to secure both federal and Supreme court justices who were known to be pro-life. From the very beginning of his presidency, he showed himself to be pro-life and never wavered in this.

Knowing my support of Mr Trump many have sought to re-educate me and my so-called false ideas and support for a president who was "uncouth" "crass" "not presidential material like his predecessors" "anti-woman" and the litany went on.

Following the daily election reports from anti-Trump media outlets my concern grew because for me it seemed that he was Not going to be permitted to win a second term and for me the other options (Biden and Kamala Harris) represented a time of horror to come against life.

The liberal medias reporting of the Capitol riots and the blaming those riots on pro-life Trump supporters storming the Capitol was really the writing on the wall. The liberal media's very obvious contempt for Mr Trump

and the desire to blame all negatives on him and his supporters (even when it was not so) bode not good.

For me as I also watched the storming of the Capitol, I was reminded of the recent Black Lives Matter protests and the same tactics used in both riots. Indeed, it could have been said that same hooligans were doing the rioting. Perhaps rent-a-crowd. Later media reports did report that a BLM activist has been arrested for his role in infiltrating the Trump voters outside the Capitol and urging them to riot and destroy property.

The very radical BLM activist John Sullivan was charged with participating in and urging the Capitol riots. He is a left-wing insurgent a who founded a group called Insurgence USA and was interviewed on CNN by Anderson Cooper to talk about his liberal advocacy.

Epoch Times has more about how Sullivan not only participated in the riots but led them by urging Trump supporters to riot and inciting them to violence: Other rioters later came out and admitted to being involved in storming/breaching of the Capitol. As I said the tactics used were used at earlier BLM protests where shootings, lootings desecrations occurred and it would have been easy to compare and see the same hands at work. Again rent-a-crowd.

Dear Friends this is very very brief words regarding the elections and storming of Capitol Hill to follow with the accusation that Mr Trump was responsible for the riot itself and urging of his followers to create havoc and have him impeached for a second time.

These charges against Mr Trump come after major social media platforms blamed President Trump for the violence and banned him (Facebook, YouTube, Google, Twitter) from using their platforms. The excuse given by Google cited concerns over "ongoing potential for violence," even though President Trump repeatedly called for peace during and after riots at the U.S. Capitol. It now seems that other industries have jumped on band wagon and also decided to remove him from their services. Imagine even his banks have refused to business with him.

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Dear friends why I bring this here is because I myself had thought that something terrible would happen with these elections. I think that Mr Trump signed his own "expulsion" when he openly became pro-life and showed that he was pro-life and when he repeatedly spoke of his belief in his Christian faith.

Having consistently spoken about his pro-life views and his faith he became a target for those who have from the days of *Roe v Wade* (1973) pushed for open slather abortions first slowly to now on demand to full term.

The abortion issue and his support of life have angered previous rabidly pro-abortion politicians and those who fund the likes of Planned Parenthood, and funding of other nations to insinuate abortion laws in their own countries. These terms tied to USAID contributed to the end of his presidency.

As I have previously said, following the election trail and listening to what Mr Biden and Ms Kamala Harris openly said about their full support for all matters anti-life, it became obvious to me that the end result would be very difficult and that dishonesty would be part of the end result.

Both Biden and Harris did not make it secret that they are very pro-abortion and if elected the President (Biden) would begin by rolling back all the pro-life laws enacted by Mr Trump and indeed in first week of presidency that is exactly what he did.

Looking on from outside and through medium of a screen it seemed to me that he was showing some supporters that he is keeping his promises made to them.

With all the issues faced by the American people and indeed globally the new president's first tasks were to ensure that babies in the womb could be easily killed?

I have to admit that when this result came out, I nearly threw in the towel, so to speak. For what seemed like three minutes we had a world leader who was unashamedly pro-life. Unashamed of his faith belief. Unashamed to listen to poor and respond. This now means that we who work for life have our jobs really made much much more difficult. It means that

infants in womb and in some cases post birth (if unwanted) will be deemed worthless. It means that those women who really do regret their decision and hurt are told that their pain does not exist because life in the womb is so demeaned and rejected and devalued by the USA leadership. It means many many things.

Perhaps the sad part is that most Americans wouldn't even know what Mr Trump actually did for their country. There is a new book by American author Ed Martin called "Top 100 Trump Promises made and Promises Kept" It's eye opening the number of things he did but we never heard anything about them. The only reporting on his presidency was when secular media had something negative to report. If you have a chance to get this book it's a really good.

I finish with please pray for him and his family and let's pray that he does not disappear because he has much more to offer. We may also pray for the new administration that the hardness of heart will melt not only for their sakes but for the sake of the babies.

Throwaway culture

Recently the Holy Father Pope Francis, in a message, spoke of a throwaway culture that is "widespread in our time like the rain, the winds and the rivers that threaten the house in the Gospel passage."

That throwaway culture, the Pope said, "affects especially the most vulnerable, among whom are persons with disabilities." And he explained that important steps have been taken in the last fifty years, both on the civil and ecclesial levels, to promote inclusion of those "experiencing physical and psychological limitations." The holy father whose pontificate has focused on the marginalised, the poor, the refugee, the elderly, and contra to popular opinion has focused strongly also on legally unprotected babies

in the womb and their fate when unwanted the “throwaway culture” became strongly evident.

The “throw away culture” which has been spawned by anti-life groups and movements has developed a life of its own with a demand that it be made available to all.

The throwaway culture as we have seen in recent years has also entered into the realm of medically decreed “quality of life” decisions and where “quality of life” was deemed unsuitable or even questionable, then the human being was disposed of by forceful means of achieving the death (Charlie Gard, Alfie Evans, and more recent Polish national known as RS) all forbidden (by law) to be released from medical facilities in UK where it was deemed that they were unresponsive and life support removed and left to die, and yet the law refused to release these individuals into the care of others prepared to nurse them until the end. Euthanasia part of the narrative of these times.

The three name individuals’ lives were considered so useless as to have a court decree that they were not worthy of continued life because that life according to court’s perception of life and what it should be like failed the criteria and so thrown away.

Having read and followed the saga of the Polish national and the efforts made by his family (parents, sister, Polish diplomatic involvement and society) to have him taken from UK to Poland all without success. His life deemed worthless and also best thrown away. This again when there were family, friends, own country ready and willing to take the person and nurse them till the natural end arrived. Still the UK courts on doctor’s advice decreed no and determined to artificially end his life by starvation and removal of fluids. How devastatingly slow and cruel way to die. Throw away his life.

I remember first hearing about this kind of control with the Terri Schiavo case in USA in 2005 and how the life of this young lady played out in the media. The tussle between her parents who wanted to take care of her in her unresponsiveness and her husband who insisted she’d have removed her life support and she also died. Her feeding tubes and hydration were removed and she slowly died a slow, thirsty and painful death. Again, this when there were others prepared to care for her.

Since that time regularly we have heard of other cases where the law has decreed the time to die and no one has been able to defeat the decision of the courts. I am also of the belief that these types of cases have led to the open activism for the right to die groups, euthanasia, assisted suicide. Like the abortion issue at

the beginning of activism when the doorway has been opened the slippery slope becomes very attractive.

Recent weeks we have noted and indeed, a Polish commentator made the comment that the tussle for the Polish man’s life was “a battle with the civilisation of death.” And this is the battle which those who do not believe that a humanity has room for a different person and thus available for the throwaway culture, this including abortion and other life matters, that are faced in the battle between with the civilisation of death against a civilisation of love and life.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in his encyclical *Spe Salvi*, On Christian Hope, says, “the true measure of humanity is essentially determined in relationship to suffering and the sufferer. This holds true both for the individual and for society” (p70)

**Data reveals
that 42,655,372
people died
from abortions
in 2020**

Death has always existed, cruelty has always existed, murder even has always existed but the concerted, intentional culture of death which has steadily gathered momentum began slowly and insidiously around the third decade of the 20th century and has over time refined itself so much so that now only those selected to live will be permitted to live. Legally.

What was considered fiction 50 years ago has become a reality, that is, those whose life is considered worthless/unwanted can now be disposed of with impunity.

Sadly, as we look back over 2 generations, we can see the onset and continual development of the “throwaway” culture which the Holy Father has aptly named.

MORE PEOPLE DIED FROM ABORTION 2020.

Dear friends an alert was sent to me during Christmas break and it was to check out this website for what were will be interesting findings.

I read some of the statistics which made my eyes water. ***More human beings died in abortions than any other cause of death in 2020, a new report indicates.***

[*statistics compiled by Worldometers*](#) indicate that there were over 42.6 million abortions world-wide in 2020.

This independent site collects data from governments and other reputable organizations and then reports the data, along with estimates and projections, based on those numbers. It reveals **42,655,372 people died from abortions in 2020.**

When contrasting the abortion numbers to other causes of death, including cancer, HIV/AIDS, traffic accidents and suicide, abortions by far outnumbered every other cause. By contrast, 8.7 million people died from cancer in 2020, 5 million from smoking, 13 million from disease, and 1.7 million died of HIV/AIDS. Deaths by malaria and alcohol are also recorded.

And when compared to the coronavirus, the number of people dying from abortions dwarfs the number of coronavirus infection and deaths.

Imagine 42.6 million preborn babies killed intentionally. 42.6 million future adults and citizens of the world. A whole large nation decimated and yet no government wants to eradicate this scourge. No government wants to find a way to ameliorate this illness which has pervaded society for the last nearly 100 years. No government or society has legally declared NO to this pandemic which only kills the most vulnerable and smallest members of a society. No government or society has been prepared to take on the anti-life demon and defeat it.

How tragic that a virus has garnered so much attention, dollars, media report, co-operation but saving of infants hasn't been found to attract the same desire, attention and co-operation and how sad that woman has not been at the forefront or even frontline of the battle against the baby killing pandemic. How sad that woman has not come out and defended the right of the one she is supposed to defend. The one she is covenanted to. How tragic that it is she herself (like Eve) who takes her "fruit" and uses it to her own and her family's destruction.

Worldometers indicates that 1,830,979 people died from the coronavirus worldwide in 2020. And there is considerable question as to whether those figures are accurate.

Compassion

I have for a while wondered around with a thought which has kept intruding into my consciousness and which would not be or could be wished away. It's been like when a song keeps repeatedly playing in the head and no amount of distraction stops it. So like this, the thought about compassion kept intruding and I found

myself ruminating about it. I followed the thought through just to see what would emerge. These thoughts emerged.

When a society loses its sense of compassion what we are left with is a society overwhelmed by an internal terrorism. A terrorism which is devoid of any feeling, emotion, compassion for those he/she would harm.

We can look backwards and see how slowly and insidiously "compassion" was eroded and replaced with a mentality which simply didn't and doesn't care. It was the removal of the care factor which opened the door to the abortion mentality, the euthanasia mentality, assisted suicide mentality, and now the new gender issues mentality and other life and societal changes which we have been privy to in the last nearly two generations.

The slow erosion of recognition of the suffering of the other has led to the now open demands for death of other.

Compassion is a recognition of the suffering of the other and assumes to assist in carrying the suffering of that other and from this we can note that when compassion is forgone then society suffers a great loss because the suffering of the other is not done alone but in communion with others.

Further, as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI continued "a society unable to accept its suffering members and to bear it inwardly through "com-*passion*" is a cruel and inhuman society.....indeed to accept the "other" who suffers, means I take up his suffering in such a way that it becomes mine too." (Spe Salvi p70-71).

Compassion belongs to the nature and order of love. Not the eros type love but the divine type which we know about. The type of love shown by God the Father and the Son in their love for the creature. Sharing in this kind of love for the other, adds to the depository of goodness and this goodness brings to our society a gentleness, a compassion for the other who is my brother/sister. Without this compassion and sharing we have what we have today, a society and culture which worships death.

Agape love builds an understanding, a yearning to share and give strength to action, to help simply for the sake of easing the burden of my brother/sister.

Indeed, compassion belongs to the order of works of Mercy which we find in Mt. 25:34-36 "Then the king will say to those on the right, come you who are blessed by my father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."
NIV 1984)

In all of these statements we see the call to compassion. The call to recognise need and suffering of the other, intention to help, the urge to help, and the emotion and desire to help the other. A virtue attuned to the words of Jesus in the Gospel.

As I have been writing this short piece on compassion, I am able to look back and around our society and see moments of great goodness which indeed do add to the storehouse of heavenly goodness.

However, the stealthy growth of the throwaway culture and certainly the exponential growth of the culture of death has, I believe, diminished our ability to see, our ability to engender desire, our ability to take action when culture of death progressed unabated.

We have not interpreted and then acted to stop it in its tracks that culture of death which began slowly and gradually developed to a degree unseen in past times. A culture which offers sacrifices of babies on the altars of 20th-21st centuries "gods"

These sacrifices to gods of death have demanded much and indeed have been willingly offered much thus slowly eroding the innate compassion written within the soul of each individual.

Compassion for both mothers and their child, compassion for the frail and weak, compassion for the very ill, compassion for the suffering of starvation and human trafficking, compassion for all marginalised. In short supply?

Indeed, a society where terrorism in different forms is very present. No compassion in terrorism. A society where the human being is not honoured as someone unique and unrepeatable but disposable even into waste buckets or used in experimentations and shredded at one end of lifespan whilst assisted to premature end at the other end of lifespan. Or further to assist in demanded termination of life (assisted suicide) all because of loss of respect and honour due to it because of whose image he resembles. (God)

Loss of compassion has meant loss of remembering of our divine ancestry. "in the image and likeness" (Gen1:27) of God. In the image of original template...Jesus.

During break I had the opportunity to read some literature which had been put into the "sometime in the future basket" and because of stay home orders that "future reading basket" got a look in.

A reference to a researcher, Alfred Thomatis caught my attention and I am so glad that it did because it confirmed

some of my thinking and some of my writing regarding abortion and the preborn and effects.

Thomatis in his studies found that "foetus" (I say baby) can hear from 16-18 weeks gestation and actually reacts to the voice of the mother and maybe even the sound of the father's voice. This is important because it's even before the brain and ears are fully formed, they receive human experience. According to this researcher the Central Nervous System records sounds and noises and the baby's cells record a memory of these beginning from conception and recognises and interacts with mum and not necessarily at some gestational age but very early.

At a cellular level there is an imprint, recall of touch, smell, fears, breath, murmurs, imprinted on every cell of body. When reading about this I was sent to thinking about what does a preborn feel when its mother is stressed and contemplating his/her death?

If the womb is designed to welcome life, how does the preborn cope when there is continual tension and fear? And how does the pre born in its place of natural residence dialogue with his mother and the embedding of that dialogue into the cells leading to what makes up the earliest beginnings and later influences of a person's life?

This researcher, Dr Thomas, understood the mother and baby connection and worked towards developing a way of helping both mother and child especially when stress and high stress hormones (cortisol) are present and used his knowledge to help mothers who are stressed in order to help her calm down and thus positive impact on baby. He further believed that disturbances in the womb are imprinted in the child's cells and occur via dialogue between a mother and her child.

As a mother, of four boys (now 3) I recall the dialogue which went on between us. I used to speak to my child in the womb as if he was already with me and at times received confirmation via movement. In my youth I really believed that he could hear and understand me.

As I was reading this researcher much came back to my consciousness and much of what I muse and ponder over in regard to conception and life and the special role of woman, and how equipped she is to nurture life within her body and even understanding of the special and creative work which she is equipped to do and then sadly I ponder on the consequences of an abortion which confuses life and its goodness because it's not just (flippantly) an abortion but an interruption in the work which only woman can and is mandated to do.

A mother's beautiful dialogue with the baby in her womb is a reversal of her dialogue with the "snake" In this labour of love and truth she reverses lies of origins but when there is a rejection of this "holy" moment via abortion she continues the dialogue of origins. The promise that creation is "very good" (God) is dismissed by the words of lies "no you will not suffer" "no

Letters

Dear Anne,

Thank you for your continued work for those who hurt and for sending to me your newsletter. I look forward to it every month. I am always in awe of the things you write about and in all these years you have brought to us such valuable information.

I have enclosed for you a donation for your continued work expenses but a second one for you to buy yourself a gift from us. Please keep going and God bless you and yours during these holy days.

God Bless,
Kate W. (NSW)

Dear Kate, thank you so much for your kind words and your encouragement. I also thank you for both the donations for the work and your kindness towards me personally. I have appreciated you and your support over all these years.

*Bless you.
Anne*

Dear Anne,

Loved your latest issue of newsletter and read how much you for those who suffer from abortion. Just saying thank you. Take a well-earned rest and during the time take good care of yourself, we need you to keep going.

I enclose for your work a small donation, one might say widow's mite, hope it helps a little. Have a blessed Christmas and we pray that the coming year will be easier for all of us.

God bless you and your family
Carol J.
(Vic.)

*Dear Carol, thank you for Widows mite. I very much appreciate all generous care. Thank you. You must remember what the Lord said regarding the widow's mite, so it's the same for me.
Thank you I appreciate your care*

Dearest Anne,

As we come to the end of this very hard year, we wish for you and your family of the blessings and a happy and peaceful break for you. You certainly earned it this year. We are also going to just stay put this year and enjoy a quiet time at home. We usually go away for couple of weeks but we are looking forward to being home. This virus has changed life hasn't it? We hope that 2021 will bring some resolution and that we can get back to some kind of normality. We most of all miss our family functions and the freedom to come and go as we please.

Enjoy your break dear Anne and return refreshed. Enclosed a small donation to assist in some small way. Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

God bless
Ann and Peter K.
NSW

Dear Anne,

Wishing you and your family Christmas wishes and to thank you for the work you do. It is amazing that you have kept going for so many years. Bless you dear and have a good rest in the coming weeks so that you go back refreshed. We hope that next year will be kinder to all of us.

God bless,
Jenny A
Victoria

*Dear Jenny,
I wish beautiful Christmas wishes for you and your loved ones and thank you for your ongoing support, Prayers much appreciated.*

*Love and best wishes
Anne*

you will not die.” Again, a repeat of in the beginning because she does in some ways “die”

When there is an abortion in the history of the woman or man there is a cellular imprint of rejection of life and this rejection manifests in the life of that family at any given moment beginning immediately and into the future. The full extent of the wounds/damage of abortion do not necessarily emerge immediately (though they can) but can slowly, covertly, insidiously emerge over generations and its character of wounding remains hidden below the surface of consciousness. However continuously causing more and more grief for “something lost”

I have in my offices counselled many who have a generational connection with abortion going back 3-4 generations and clearly, it’s evident that an imprint of pain has been present in the life of my clients who also continued the tradition of abortion. We have worked towards a break with that death of babies’ history and connection so that it can stop at this point.

Or at other times there has been an history of early childhood deaths and on much generational inquiry there has been found death of children/babies in either one or both sides of family. Much work is needed to assist in this generational pain and reconciliation with the children. In the family.

Abortion is not “just” death of a preborn baby which posed a problem and was unwanted but the decision has long very long impact both on woman, the father, family, society. Just like any intentional death leaves behind much suffering and change of family structures so too does an abortion/s

We are reminded that the slaying of Abel by his brother caused much change even for the murderer but also for family and future. So too with the intentional death (abortion) of any child will affect those individuals involved and family either immediately or in time to come.

We have forgotten that a new conception means that God said yes to that life and there is a time and place for that life and interruption of that life will need to change all other intentions for that life and family and society.

We seem to have lost our deep knowledge about love and life in order to be able to surrender children to death.

As I come to the end of this first newsletter for 2021 I thank those who sent a donation to keep this work going.

I would like to say that I am “flushed” with \$\$\$ but the reality is that I am not and perhaps I need to start interpreting the signs.

I am working just as much but maybe slightly different than earlier but still working and still counselling. I tend to write articles for publishing which I hope reach a huge number of readers. I write for here in Australia and overseas. Two weeks ago, I did a radio interview with ABC radio. The topic “do non-religious also grieve” It was a good interview and interviewer asked good questions and I said to her I hoped that the editing would not leave a listener who’s had an abortion and is suffering and doesn’t have a religious belief to believe that something is wrong with her. To ensure that listener knows that its normal to grieve for an abortion.

Just after last newsletter went out, I also did another radio interview with a Christian radio station and I am booked for another early March. I look forward to these. So again, thank you to those who responded and please can I encourage some support and purchase of books it helps.

Please can I also ask if you are sending a cheque to make out to Victims of Abortion or even VOA, or even Anne but not Broken Branches because the bank looks at me suspiciously 😊

Also please continue to pray for Barbara, Sharyn, Jill, Matt (lots) Bec, Belle, Helen, Chris Julie, and new person Thea. And please some for me too.

Till we meet again dear friends, may the Lord bless and keep you safe.



Anne Lastman

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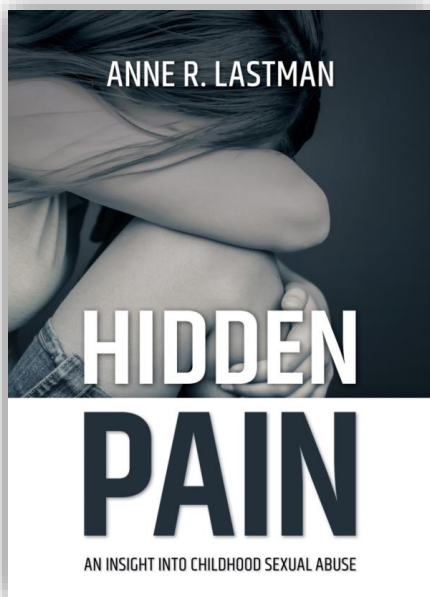
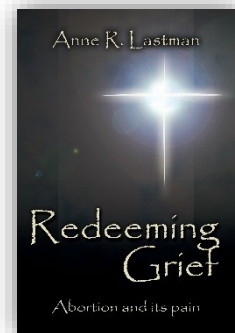
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CLEARANCE!

There is a limited number of the first edition of Redeeming Grief to be cleared at a reduced priced of **\$10.00** including postage within Australia.

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

AUD **\$10.00** (Including free postage within Australia)



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.

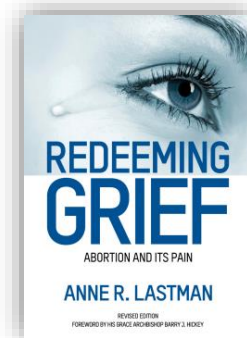
This is not a step by step guide to dealing with abuse. It is the result of my engagement with those who have come to me originally for post abortion counselling and on further investigation it was found that abuse (especially in cases of multiple abortions) existed in their history. It is my hope that **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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