



Abundant Life

"I have come so that you may have life and have it more abundantly." John 10:10

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Abundant Life

A magazine for Life, Faith and Family
Volume 12 Number 4

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*Mary protects the weak,
she protects families who
educate their children in a
harmonious way and those
mothers who for many reasons
find themselves facing such a
difficult task alone.*

Pope Benedict XVI at the Sanctuary of our Lady of Bonaria in Cagliari.



Cover:
The recently restored 1828 painting,
The Adoration of the Magi by the
renowned American artist,
Mather Brown.
It hangs in the sanctuary of the church
of St John the Evangelist in Richmond
Tasmania, which is the oldest
continuously functioning Catholic
Church in Australia.



Reiko, Sean (4), Hannah (7), Ashley and James (2)

Letters and Photos



Sofia with her children Ben, Maria and baby Nicholas



Jude



Mica



Chrystal, great grand daughter of Mary Warbey



Emily



Mary, Lucy and Andrew

ROE V CULTURE OF DEATH

The US Supreme Court decision, *Roe v Wade*, which legalised abortion in 1973, has resulted in an estimated 50 million documented cases of abortion there since then.

But since then the plaintiff, “Jane Rose”, whose real name is Norma McCorvey, has appeared in a first-ever commercial lamenting her role in this case.

She say “In 1973, I was a very confused 21 year old with one child and an unplanned pregnancy. I fought to obtain a legal abortion, but, the truth be told, I never had an abortion and have three daughters.

“I realise that my case, which legalised abortion on demand, was the biggest mistake of my life. You read of me in history but now I am dedicated to spreading the truth about preserving human life from natural conception to natural death.”

McCorvey is now a Christian and can be viewed on the internet at www.virtuemedial.org.television.htm.

The abortion industry is an evil enterprise born of economic convenience and a twisted rationalising of “women’s rights”.

The slave trade was based on the belief that blacks were only commodities to be used in any way. Sadly, so too the foetus is regarded by many today.

Fr Bernard McGrath, Inglewood, Victoria.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dear Editor,
Our congratulations on the September issue of *Abundant Life* magazine obtained at St Joachim’s where our Cathedral Praesidium of the Legion of Mary continues to operate pending our return to St Mary’s Cathedral. Our best wishes to you in your endeavours to make it a national magazine. Enclosed please find our subscription.

Yours in Mary’s service,
Mary Rayner



Georgia

The editor welcomes letters and emails to *Abundant Life*. Letters and emails should be addressed to:

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The editor reserves the right to shorten, edit, or not publish letters.

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Editorial

Secular Libertarian conflict

As we pass through the first decade of the twenty-first century it is apparent that Australian Christians face a conflict with a broad, sufficiently organised group who have damaged Australian society by successfully changing the moral values and therefore the behaviour of most Australians.

Secular libertarians, or as some would label, secular humanists or libertines have control or strongly influence the media, the Parliaments, education, commerce and industry.

A serious study of the secular Australia-wide print and electronic media shows that the major daily newspapers and television channels are owned by mega-wealthy families and substantial public companies. With some exceptions the policy is to publish beat-ups of trivia (much of it syndicated at low cost), intellectual dumbing-down and promotion of a hedonistic lifestyle, especially targeting the young.

The political, social and religious bias of the media is real, but often cleverly disguised. A recent undisguised example was the blatant series of bigoted personal attacks on Archbishop Barry Hickey by the *West Australian*, resulting in a writ for defamation.

The real purpose of libertarians in seeking to change the law in relation to questions containing large moral dimensions, like abortion, euthanasia, marriage, homosexuality, drugs, prostitution, sexual assault and pornography is primarily to change the community's view on morality.

Much of the changing of moral values (and behaviour) has been achieved by legislation, commencing in the 1970s, but complimented by a powerful and wealthy media.

The first major achievement was the *Family Law Act*, passed during the Whitlam Government's short reign in 1975. This educated many in the next generations to not believe that the contract of marriage was fundamentally important and valuable or that it was permanent and binding. It has resulted in several hundred thousand fatherless and motherless children.

The legalising of vast quantities of hard core pornography (largely produced by organised crime) in 1984 during the reign of the Hawke and Burke Governments, has exposed pornography to millions, which has damaged families and increased the number of sexual assaults of women.

Throughout the world secular libertarians (it is also a problem for the Western world) have promoted abortion as a primary objective resulting in the deaths of 40 million unborn children each year.

The disastrous legalising of abortion in Western Australia in 1998 which permitted the killing of unborn babies for the most frivolous reasons has educated many, including the medical profession, to have a diminished respect for human life.

The Victorian parliament has recently passed the Abortion reform Bill, which is described as the worst in the world. (See page 6).

Legalising abortion is a precursor to passing of other legislation which permits the killing of the aged, the infirm and the retarded. If the community can legally kill the most defenceless and innocent of human beings what moral constraints would that same community have to legally kill the aged and the infirm?

The recently defeated WA State Government, in a seven year reign, passed the *Cannabis Control Act*, softening the law on the use of cannabis; made dramatic changes in the law regarding homosexuality with the *Lesbian and Gay Reform Act*; Legalised Prostitution by passing the *Sexual Services Act*; Increased the probability of legal euthanasia by passing the *Consent to Medical Treatment Act*; introduced a Bill to create embryos and kill them for stem cell research. The latter was passed by the Legislative Assembly, but fortunately defeated in the Council. The attempt to pass the *Surrogacy Bill* was stalled by the calling of an early election.

It is important to point out that secular libertarians and humanist are not only in the Labor Party. They also have powerful influence in the Liberal and National Parties. The present Premier; his Deputy, the Minister for Health; the Minister for Education; the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Mines, Petroleum and Electoral Affairs all voted for the legalising of abortion and the Bill to create embryos and extract stem cells for research.

The Premier, Mr Barnett has announced that the first Bill he will introduce will be the *Surrogacy Bill*. (See page 5).

The "values free" State Education systems is a contributing factor in the increased number of burglaries and daring theft, physical assaults, juvenile promiscuity and the distribution and use of drugs. Where children are denied education of what is morally right and wrong it is inevitable that there will be an increase in crime.

Our Patrons

Most Rev. Archbishop Barry Hickey

Dr Margaret C. Doherty

Hon. Keith Wilson

Mrs Ann Cullity

Surrogacy: in whose best interests?

By Rev Dr Joseph Parkinson

In the estimation of many, WA's recent state election has merely delayed the passage of the *Surrogacy Bill 2007*, which is designed to create and enshrine a basic injustice against children in our community.

The new government has said it will pass the Bill as a way of responding to the wants of couples and individuals who, for one reason or another, are unable to conceive naturally.

We all applaud the State's general intention to enable childless couples to become parents.

Parenthood is a deeply cherished hope of many couples wishing to experience the full range of joys and challenges associated with raising their own family.

family is a fundamental human right

Indeed, to found a family is a fundamental human right which the State has a duty to protect.¹

But it is important to note that the State's duty is limited to preventing interference in the natural exercise of this right.

The State has no duty to legislate or otherwise arrange affairs in order to enable infertile couples to become parents, especially when the chosen method involves perpetrating a basic injustice to the self-same child.

Every child has a natural right to be raised by his or her own parents.²

Often children are in fact raised by persons other than their natural parents, but the fact that this sometimes happens naturally (through accident, human frailty or other unavoidable circumstance) in no way weakens or diminishes the natural right.

Where adoption laws represent remedial arrangements designed to help children overcome the injustice of parental separation after the fact, surrogacy laws anticipate, create and legitimize the very same separation and the very same injustice.

As New Zealand's Nathaniel Centre for Bioethics puts it, "*a surrogacy arrangement involves the planned separation of the child from its birth mother soon after birth.*"³

"The separation of a child from its birth mother is never a desirable situation. It

occurs in adoption, but in that situation it is carried out for the good of the child."

"In a surrogacy situation the separation occurs to fulfill the desires of adults rather than to meet the needs of the child."

"Conception, gestation, birth and nurturing are part of a continuum of relationship."

"Child and parents grow into relationship together, with that relationship ultimately lasting a lifetime. The relationship is genetic, gestational and nurturing, with all facets of



*Rev Dr Joseph Parkinson, Director,
L J Goody Bioethics Centre, Perth.*

the relationship interacting to produce the child-parent bond."

"Surrogacy fractures that continuum of relationship, introducing at least two, if not three, "mothers", and more than one set of parents. This is done to meet adult needs, not for the good of the child."

traditional meaning of the word 'parent'

Social constructs which alter the traditional meaning of the word 'parent' risk confusing children, as well as depriving them of an essential aspect of healthy human growth and an important natural right.

No-one questions the depth of anguish

experienced by childless couples, and no-one would begrudge any couple their legitimate desire to become parents.

As a compassionate society, which at least pays lip service to respect for human dignity, we ought to use every legitimate means to assist these couples realize their dream.

human dignity

But to re-define the whole notion of parenting is not respectful of human dignity at all, because while it distorts the notion of parenthood it simultaneously betrays the natural right of every child to form that 'continuum of relationship' with a couple who create and nurture it.

Any laws which, in their very design, prevent a child from forming this relationship with his or her own genetic parents are, quite simply, unjust laws.

The state election was won and lost on the issue of respect for persons: the former government's perceived arrogance, for which they lost so much voter support, was just one symptom of this much deeper malaise.

Since the new government seems certain to push through the *Surrogacy Bill*, it will

have to work even harder if it wishes to avoid the same criticism.

1 United Nations, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (10 December 1948) Article 16; Holy See, *Charter of the Rights of the Family* (22 October 1983) Article 3.

2 UN *Charter*, Articles 16, 25 & 26; Holy See *Charter*, Article 5.

3 The Nathaniel Centre (NZ) *Fact Sheet on Surrogacy*. Located at <http://www.nathaniel.org.nz/?sid=35> Accessed 17 October 2008.

Victorian Parliament Legalises Abortion

Partial-birth abortion not illegal

By Brian Peachey

The Victorian Parliament has passed, 23 votes to 17, the Abortion Reform Bill.

It has been described as the 'worst abortion bill in the world'.

Abortions can now be performed in the final stage before birth on condition that two medical practitioners agree.

The DLP Member for Western Victoria, Mr Peter Kavanagh, who played a leading role in opposing the Bill moved an amendment to have partial-birth abortions made illegal. This was defeated. Partial-birth abortion is a form of infanticide.

Because many people did not know what it meant Mr Kavanagh explained: "Partial-birth abortion means removing the body, the torso and limbs of a foetus by his or her feet and pulling it from the womb with forceps so that only the head remains in the birth canal; then using a scissor-like instrument to pierce the skull of the baby through the upper neck and vacuuming the baby's brain out so that it collapses; and then the rest of the body, including the head, is withdrawn from the woman.

....people do not know what 'partial-birth abortion' is.

"It is surprising that some people do not know what 'partial-birth abortion' is. It has attracted huge controversy in the United States. In spite of the permission of abortion that was contained in the decision of Roe v. Wade in 1973 by the United States Supreme Court, this procedure was outlawed throughout the entire United States of America by the United States Congress in 2003. In spite of Roe v. Wade, the validity of the laws, the constitutionality of the laws against partial-birth abortion were upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States in 2007 in a case called Gonzales v. Carhart."

A barbaric act

Before moving his amendment, Mr Kavanagh said: "Partial-birth abortion is done only very late in the pregnancy, in the last trimester. It is excruciatingly painful to the foetus. We know that from the work that shows that foetuses feel pain from at least 20 weeks of gestation. It has been held by the United States Congress as a statement

of fact, a statement of determination, that partial-birth abortion is never medically justified. There is never medical justification for partial-birth abortion, because indeed it would be the same thing as letting the baby be born and then killing it. There is no advantage medically to the mother or to anyone else in partial-birth abortion. It is an horrendously cruel and barbaric act."

The tragedy is that this disastrous legislation should never have been passed. It would have been defeated with the change of four votes.

If the 'good people' of Victoria had vigorously been involved politically and supported pro-life candidates with funds in the last State election the membership of the Legislative Council would have been different.

Put more bluntly: if the Victorian Catholics had supported the Democratic Labor Party, as it once did with dedicated workers and substantial funds, there could have been at least six DLP Members elected. As it was the DLP fought the election with little financial support and minimal

advertising, (unlike other parties) yet Peter Kavanagh, won a seat in Western Victoria and the State Secretary, John Mulholland only lost a seat in North Metropolitan to a Greens candidate on a recount.

The Greens won three seats, all of whom voted for the Abortion Bill.

There is a message here for Western Australians. In the 2008 State election the Greens won four seats in the Legislative Council, which gives them the balance of power.

A Pro-Life Prayer

*Bless all unborn children, dear Lord,
and fill their parents with
your love and joy,
so that they may willingly bring
their babies to birth.*

*Lord hear us,
Amen.*

Our Chapel at Pregnancy Assistance

195 Lord Street, East Perth

Mass Times:

Monday 11:00am, Thursday 12:30pm; Friday 11:00am



*The Blessed Sacrament is reserved in our chapel.
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ALL WELCOME

“Humanae Vitae”: A Compelling Argument

Mormon Physician Applauds Paul VI’s Encyclical

By Robert Conkling

For a non-Catholic, Pope Paul VI’s encyclical *Humanae Vitae* is not important because it is the Church speaking, but rather because it offers a compelling argument, says Mormon physician Dr. Joe Stanford.

Stanford, a family physician and a researcher in the Creighton Model FertilityCare system and NaPro Technology, was a speaker at the 27th annual meeting of the American Academy of FertilityCare Professionals, held this summer in Rome.

Stanford, a professor in the department of family and preventive medicine at the University of Utah, spoke to ZENIT about his take on *Humanae Vitae*, as well as the role faith plays in his medical practice.

Q: Have you read *Humanae Vitae*?

Stanford: Yes. I first read *Humanae Vitae* in 1991 and several times since then. I think it is an inspired document. I think it captures fundamental aspects of human nature. He [Pope Paul VI] really hits the nail on the head regarding the dark side of contraception, sterilization and abortion and their effects on society.

Although I do not think divorce, promiscuity, teen pregnancy are exclusively the result of contraception, I also think these are not unrelated to contraception. I think contraception is a heavy part of the fuel behind the sexual revolution and many of the problems in society we are facing.

I think *Humanae Vitae* is basically a prophetic statement.

Q: If more physicians read *Humanae Vitae*, do you think their approach to women

or the problems married couples face might be different?

Stanford: Yes, but a qualified yes. I think you have to read *Humanae Vitae* with an open mind, which really means with an open heart. You have to be willing to really consider what Pope Paul VI says and not just judge it. In medical training, the culture is so steeped with acceptance of standard medical practices, that to question it is very difficult. And I do not mean just difficult from a peer pressure point of view, although that is part of the difficulty. But it is difficult to even come around to a different way of thinking when you have always been immersed in one way of thinking.

I am not Catholic, so for me it was not an issue of reading the document because it was the Church speaking. It became an issue because many of the Catholic physicians I have come to know and respect -- Dr. Tom Hilgers being one of them -- and who have become moral mentors for me in medicine -- told me *Humanae Vitae* was a moral guide in their life. So I wanted to know what the document said and what it means.

So, for me it was not an ecclesiastically binding document. If you are not Catholic, you might be inclined to think “this is for Catholics.” Having said that, if you really consider *Humanae Vitae* on its own merits, I think Pope Paul VI really does make a compelling argument that can penetrate the heart and can make a difference.

Q: You are a researcher with an interest in natural family planning, specifically focusing on the Creighton Model FertilityCare system and NaPro Technology. Is it unusual to have physicians like yourself challenging standard medical approaches to couples’ reproductive

potential?

Stanford: That is a very good question. I think to some extent it has always happened. There have always been free thinkers out there who are guided by their own moral compass and try to do what is right for the patient, for good medicine and for good moral medicine.

In some sense this is not new. What is different with respect to NFP, FertilityCare and NaPro Technology is an attempt to bring in the service of systematic science in an ethical-moral framework. That is a marriage I think makes sense. A lot of people may disagree. But I think it makes immanent sense.

What we are trying to develop is a cadre of practicing physicians and scientists who will actually do science within that ethical framework. To make sure that what we are doing is the best we can do and not just do what we have read in a journal or figured out ourselves and tried on some patients. We go that far but then we test it further with our colleagues and use data to evaluate whether what we are doing really is the best way. We then might ask is there another angle we have not thought of?

So, a systematic way allows for two tracks: One is getting many physicians together who are interested in this area of medicine and trying to make it work. That is relatively new, but not completely new. Other groups have done that. What is relatively unique is trying to make this as scientific and systematic as possible. We want to create science that is better than the mainstream medicine and science.

(Zenit.org)-

Pregnancy Assistance Patron Receives Papal honour

The Patron of Pregnancy Assistance, Mrs Ann Cullity and her husband Denis have received Papal Honours for their significant contribution to society and the Church.

Archbishop Hickey on 14 September in St Thomas More College presented them with membership of the prestigious Order of the Knights of St. Gregory the Great.

Archbishop Hickey said: “...for many years the Church in Perth and



beyond has been edified by the commitment of Denis and Ann Cullity to the betterment of society, as a direct expression of their love for Jesus Christ and His Church.”

Photo: Archbishop Hickey with Mrs Ann Cullity and her husband, Bishop Sproston and Fr O'Loughlin.

Cardinal: Defending Life Among Church Priorities As Well as Human Rights, Religious Liberty, Peace

FATIMA, Portugal, SEPT. 12, 2008 (Zenit.org) The primary objectives of the Church's pastoral action include defending life and religious liberty, and the quest for peace and human rights, says the President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

Cardinal Renato Martino affirmed this today at the congress titled, "Social Action Today: Memory and Project," under way in Fatima. The event is being sponsored by the Portuguese episcopate.

"...human dignity and fundamental moral truths" are at stake.

The Cardinal emphasized the need for the Church to maintain a clear and firm stance when "human dignity and fundamental moral truths" are at stake.

He said these cases are "abortion, euthanasia, violence -- especially against

children -- torture, man's merciless abuse of man," and situations where "the integrity of the family, religious liberty and educational liberty" are compromised.

"In cases where these principles are at stake, Christian communities can and must pronounce a sentence of condemnation, with prudence when it comes to judging causes and situations that at times are complex, and avoiding easy simplifications," said Cardinal Martino.

Fundamental

The President of the Justice and Peace Dicastery highlighted in particular the defence of life, "which should be at the origin of all social projects, inspired by the Christian faith, and of all interventions of the Church in society."

He also stressed the importance of religious liberty, which he described as

"fundamental" to "root all other rights on an absolute and transcendent base," both against "intransigent secularism", as well as "all types of religious fundamentalism."

Moreover, Cardinal Martino mentioned new topics in social pastoral action to be discussed in the near future, such as "the progress and regression of democracies" and the "transnational power of finance."

He also mentioned other topics such as "novelties in the world of work, the new forms of injustice and poverty, the new fundamentalisms and the tragedy of international terrorism."

"The fundamental criterion to address them," he explained, "is the ever closer relation between natural and human ecology, as respect of the latter will also bear fruits of material development and correct management of material resources and the environment."

House of Commons Passes Embryology Bill Cardinal: Value of Life Eroding Further in UK

LONDON, OCT. 27, 2008

Cardinal Keith O'Brien says that after last Wednesday, the value of human life in the United Kingdom is eroding even further. The cardinal, who is Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, Scotland, said this at a conference Saturday in reference to Wednesday's approval of the Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill. With a vote of 355-129, the *Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill*,

passed through its third reading in the House of Commons. The Bill passed through the House of Lords earlier this year. After a debate on the amendments introduced by the House of Commons, the Bill could become law by November.

The Bill permits the creation of animal-human hybrids for medical research, the creation of "saviour siblings" genetically matched to an older sick sibling (meaning that those who do not match are eliminated). It also allows access to in-vitro fertilization for lesbian couples, by eliminating the

requirement for children to have fathers. John Smeaton, the National Director of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, said the passage of the Bill marks a "tragic date in British history, as Parliament has passed a law extending the lethal abuse of the most vulnerable members of our society. **Future generations will look back on this macabre bill and wonder how a supposedly civilized nation could have so devalued human life.**"

(Zenit.org).-

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Failures keeps You Humble,
Success keeps You Glowing,
But Only God keeps You
Going!**

Unlikely to Survive: *Few Down Syndrome Babies Making It to Birth*

By Father John Flynn, LC

ROME, - One of the consequences of the nomination of Governor Sarah Palin as the Republican party's vice-presidential candidate is renewed attention to Down syndrome.

On April 18, Palin gave birth to Trig Paxon Van Palin, having been told by doctors the previous December that he suffered from Down syndrome.

An article in the *Washington Post* on Sept. 10 by opinion columnist Michael Gerson noted that when tests reveal Down syndrome in an unborn child, around 90% are aborted. The numbers of Down syndrome children being aborted could well rise if last year's recommendation by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists is heeded, he added. The college urged universal, early testing for Down syndrome for all expectant mothers, not just those who are older and therefore have a higher chance of a child affected by the condition.

Gerson argued, however, that children born with Down syndrome "are generally not experienced by their parents as a curse but as a complex blessing." Many doctors and counselors, nevertheless, urge mothers to have an abortion instead of going ahead with a Down syndrome pregnancy, he noted. This practice of ending "imperfect" lives, Gerson continued, cannot be separated from how we regard and treat all people who have disabilities. "And this feeds a social Darwinism in which the stronger are regarded as better, the dependent are viewed as less valuable, and the weak must occasionally be culled," he concluded.

Revealing truths

In spite of the difficulties in raising a child with Down syndrome, a number of newspapers have published stories highlighting the positive experiences of parents with such children.

...his birth has changed their worldviews in a positive way.

Raising a child with Down syndrome can reveal many profound truths about parents and their children, reported the *Washington Post* on Sept 14. The article described the situation of Adrienne Pedlikin, a mother of three, including a 10-year-old son with Down syndrome. The article acknowledged

the difficulties and trials of looking after a boy with Down syndrome, but it described how at the same time, both Adrienne and her husband Philip declared their love for their son and said his birth has changed their worldviews in a positive way.

Joyous

From Canada, the Shaw family recounted their experience of a Down syndrome child in an article published March 2 in the *Ottawa Citizen*. Michael and Lesley Shaw would have aborted if they had known their daughter, Sydney, had Down syndrome, they told the newspaper. Now that Sydney is 9 years old, her father declared that they have changed their minds and now consider their daughter as "a wonderful, joyous child."

"She has enriched my life to a degree I didn't think was possible," said Michael Shaw. "She changed my whole focus on life, on what has value and what doesn't have value, and what we consider valuable." Michael Shaw is also on the board of the Canadian Down Syndrome Society, an advocacy group concerned about the coming of broader prenatal testing in Canada and what it will mean for Down syndrome children.

In February 2007, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada issued new guidelines recommending that every woman, regardless of age, be offered non-invasive prenatal genetic screening. According to the *Ottawa Citizen* about 80%-90% of Canadian women who are given a Down syndrome diagnosis choose to have an abortion.

Test casualties

New tests being developed may well make it easier, moreover, for parents to increase the practice of eliminating the less than perfect. On June 21 the London-based *Times* newspaper reported that an experimental test, developed by a team at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, promises to show if a fetus has Down syndrome through a test of the mother's blood. Currently more invasive and dangerous amniocentesis or chorionic villus sampling tests are used. These procedures involve inserting a needle into the womb to remove amniotic fluid surrounding the fetus, or a small piece of the placenta. The *Times* added that these techniques provoke a miscarriage in one in

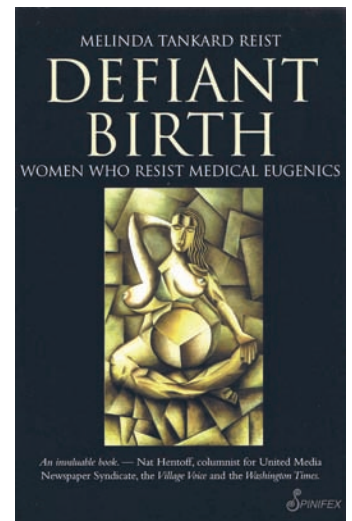
100 women, and 320 healthy pregnancies are lost each year in Britain because of Down syndrome tests. The new test is still in the phase of experimentation, but it could be ready for public use in a few years.

The dangers of Down syndrome tests

The dangers of Down syndrome tests are, however, much higher, according to a Sept. 14 article published in the British newspaper, the *Observer*. New research revealed that for every three unborn Down syndrome babies prevented from being born, two healthy babies will be miscarried because of the methods used to detect the condition.

Advances in medical care and education mean they live fuller lives, often graduating from high school and holding jobs.

Along with greater access to education, Will said that doctors should be required to provide more detailed information about Down syndrome to parents who receive prenatal and postnatal diagnoses, including life expectancy data and contacts of local support groups.



Defiant Birth – Women who resist medical eugenics

By Melinda Tankard Reist

338 pages soft cover \$28.00

Tells courageous stories of women who continued their pregnancies despite intense pressure from doctors, family members and social expectations.

Available from Pregnancy Assistance

Pregnancy Assistance Launched in Frankston

The Feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary was an appropriate day for Archbishop Denis Hart to bless and open premises of Pregnancy Assistance Frankston Incorporated.

By chance it was also the day that debate to legalise abortion in Victoria commenced in the Legislative Council. (see page 6)

Archbishop Hart said: "I am genuinely pleased to be present and to bless this Pregnancy Assistance Centre here in Frankston. I rejoice at being in the presence of compassionate people who love life and wish to assist those who are confronted with the issues of an unwanted or unexpected pregnancy. The work done here will, I believe, bring great happiness and peace and I rejoice in being in such a supportive and compassionate environment."

The establishment of Pregnancy Assistance in Frankston was primarily the initiative of Denise Den Bakker who was one of the founding members of Pregnancy Assistance Perth in 1996. Since her family transferred to Victoria she has received the magazine, *Abundant Life* and has communicated with members of the Perth Board. She clearly saw the need for a pregnancy counselling service on the Mornington Peninsular.

With help of her friend Elizabeth Ransom and others and the support of the Parish priest Father Stanley, she arranged a meeting in St Francis Xavier parish in February this year, which was attended by Brian Peachey the chairman of the Board in Perth.

The dedicated group set about establishing an incorporated body modelled on the Perth Constitution, sought and received the patronage of Archbishop Hart and leased shop front premises' in Young Street. The manager of the Perth office, Lydia Fernandez, met with the organising committee on her return from World Youth Day in Sydney.

The Committee of Management is headed by Mrs Elizabeth Ransom (President), and Mrs Denise Den Bakker (Vice President). There was a large enthusiastic crowd that spilled onto the street for the official opening.

Archbishop Hart said: "I congratulate you on this initiative and I thank God for the opportunity that you are providing in a suffering and very deeply challenged society. May the hope that you offer, the comfort and strength that you recommend and the grace in which you operate always be that of the compassion of Christ who gave his all for the least as well as for the greatest

"I know that all who come to this Centre will be treated above all with respect, as one who is loved by God, unconditionally and completely. The similar love and support which is extended by the leaders of this Centre to encourage people to understand the options open to them is indeed a wonderful extension of the compassion of the Gospel.

"It has often been said that there are too many abortions in Australia and this perception is reflected by the majority of the community. However, in a precious Centre such as this we are not looking at statistics, but rather at this individual person who comes looking for help in a time of tremendous pressure and suffering.

"This centre is to be staffed by a host of local Mums.... aunts and grandmothers too... who've all volunteered to pool and share their own wealth of experience that have helped them survive personal difficulty, or trying circumstances. Free pregnancy tests will be among the services offered along with financial, family and relationship support."

With the passing of the Abortion Bill there will be an increase in the number of abortions in Victoria. There is a compelling reason to establish a network of Pregnancy Assistance Premises' in other regional centres.



Archbishop Denis Hart and Elizabeth Ransom at the opening of Pregnancy Assistance Frankston Inc.

"...it needs to be said again, that God's greatest gift is the gift of life. One may be forgiven for suggesting that to live in the womb or to be in old age is the most endangered part of our existence."

Archbishop Hart

More Pregnancy Assistance agencies will reduce abortions

The establishment of a network of incorporated pregnancy services in major centres throughout Australia would have a decisive impact on reducing the number of abortions.

It is important that each independent body has the approval and support of the Church.

There is a strong case for using the name, Pregnancy Assistance and their locality.

They could be loosely bound in a fraternal relationship as is the case with Perth, Bunbury and now Frankston.

Such a network could lead to an association of cooperating organisations, exchanging information and experiences. *Abundant Life* could become a national magazine of Life, Faith and Family with each centre providing copies related to the area and being responsible for distribution

and subscriptions.

That may seem like a tall order, but *Abundant Life* has come a long way since it was first published in 1996. It has provided valuable pro-life information and has been a source of donations for Pregnancy Assistance Perth and is heading to become self supporting from subscriptions.

Womb a Danger Area: Archbishop Hart

As debate on the abortion law reform bill began in Victoria's Upper House, Melbourne's Archbishop opened a Pregnancy Assistance Centre in Frankston south of the city saying that the womb had become an endangered area.

"One may be forgiven for suggesting that to live in the womb or old age should be considered endangered areas."

"At a time when our State parliamentarians are debating changes to our abortion laws, communities will welcome the establishment of centres such as these which very much identify with the anxiety of single mothers, mums with several young children and those who've also been abandoned by partner or families. One may be forgiven for suggesting that to live in the womb or old age should be considered endangered areas," Archbishop Hart warned.



Pregnancy Assistance Frankston

Rudd called to intervene

Doctors in Conscience Against Abortion Bill group says it has received legal advice that finds the Bill is in conflict with Victoria's Charter of Rights and Responsibilities and the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), The Australian says.

The legal opinion by Neil Young QC, found that if the Bill became law it would put the Federal Government in breach of its treaty obligation. Group spokeswoman Dr Mary Lewis called on Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to intervene.

"The Australian Government has an obligation to ensure Australia's laws are consistent with the charter, and we call upon Mr Rudd to intervene with Victorian Premier John Brumby and insist that Victoria not proceed with this legislation," Dr Lewis said today.

"The Bill is unprecedented in the western world, in imposing laws that would force doctors to act in violation of their conscientious beliefs by actively assisting patients to obtain an abortion."

And as debate resumed in Parliament, anti-abortion MP Peter Kavanagh, of the DLP, used legal advice prepared for Catholic Health Australia to argue that the entire debate was out of order.

Mr Kavanagh said the Government's own charter of human rights had not been followed, so the Parliament should not consider the bill.

But the tactic was rebuffed by Legislative Council president Robert Smith, who said he had no power to stop the debate before it began.

Babies survive at twentyfour weeks. They then thrive like these TWINS



Siobhan



Declan



Siobhan was born on 27th April 2004. She was born at 24 weeks 2 days & weighed 700g. She was the second born twin with her brother Declan. Siobhan is now just over 4 1/2 years old. She loves writing her pushbike in the backyard and doing jigsaw puzzles.

Declan was born on 27th April 2004. He was born at 24 weeks 2 days & weighed 630g. He was the first born twin with his sister Siobhan. Declan is now just over 4 1/2 years old. He does Jungle Rugby every Saturday morning and loves watching his Cars DVD over and over! He puts this in the DVD player himself!



Saint of the Month

St. Francis Xavier - Apostle to the Far East

Feast Day December 3

By Kate O'Brien

Francis Xavier was born on April 7, 1506, in the Spanish Kingdom of Navarre. His native language, like that of Ignatius Loyola, whose devoted disciple he was to become, was Basque. He inherited the proud and passionate temperament of his race, and could show himself both fiery and autocratic even to the end of his life.

As a boy he was ambitious and fond of sport, he had a generous heart and a nature which made him capable, once he had been converted, of heroic love and endurance.

His first encounter with Ignatius took place at the University of Paris, where Francis went at the age of nineteen. Ignatius was much the older man, and it took him some time to win Francis from his worldly ambitions. But eventually, Francis gave himself with his whole soul to the new life which the Exercises of Ignatius opened up to him.

He became one of the founding members of the Society of Jesus and made his vows with Ignatius and five others on August 15, 1534, and was finally ordained priest on June 24, 1537.

Ignatius was asked by King John of Portugal to send priests to the new missions in India, and his choice fell eventually on Francis. Francis, it must be said, had no particular qualifications for this task. Though he took his degree at the University, he was possessed of no great learning, and the only books he took with him on all his missionary journeys were his breviary and a book of meditations. His ignorance of the religion of the people to whom he went to preach the gospel was complete. He regarded all 'moors' and 'pagans' as enemies of God and slaves of the devil, to be rescued at all costs from his power. His attitude never changed, and the devout Muslim, the learned Brahmin and the Buddhist monk made equally little impression on him.

He saw a vast new world opening before him and his one desire was to win it to Christ.

In this respect, his mind remained essentially medieval. He saw a vast new world opening before him and his one desire was to win it to Christ. He brought with him nothing but his consuming love for God and for the souls of his fellow men. It is noticeable that he never criticized the social, political or ecclesiastical institutions of his time.

Yet though he might accept the external circumstances of life as he knew it, he preserved an absolute detachment of heart. He deliberately chose to live in the most complete poverty, and refused to accept any



St Francis Xavier

of the material conveniences which were offered to him. His food was reduced to so small a quantity that it was a miracle that he kept alive. The only concession he would make in clothing, for his long missionary journeys under a tropical sun, was a pair of boots. He could put up with the most appalling conditions on his long sea voyages, and endure the most agonizing extremes of heat and cold. Wherever he went, he would seek out the poor and the sick and spend his time in ministering to their needs. Yet, while he was occupied all day with these incessant labours, he would spend the greater part of the night in prayer. And all this was done with a gaiety and lightness of heart, which remind one of the other Francis of Assisi.

The story of his journeys is an epic of adventure. He arrived in Goa, India, during May, 1542, and went on from there to Cape

Comorin in the south of India. There he spent three years working among the pearl-fishers, or Paravas, of the Fishery Coast. From there he went on to the East Indies, to Malacca and the Moluccas and, finally, in 1549 he set out for Japan.

He left behind him a flourishing church wherever he went.

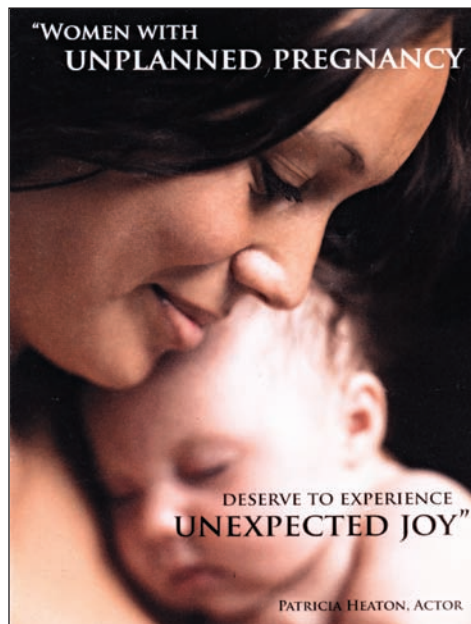
He died on December 3, 1552, on a lonely island, vainly seeking to obtain entrance into China. Thus, in ten years he traversed the greater part of the Far East. When one considers the conditions of travel, the means of transport, the delays and difficulties which beset him at every stage, it is, even physically, an astounding achievement. It is even more remarkable when one considers that he left behind him a flourishing church wherever he went, and that the effects of his labours remain to the present day.

Many miracles have been attributed to St Francis. He was said to have possessed the gift of tongues, to have healed the sick and even to have raised the dead; but for the last, at least, there is no real evidence. That he possessed the gift of prophecy seems to be certain.

The real miracle of his life, as has been said, was the miracle of his personality, by which he was able to convert thousands to the faith wherever he went, and to win their passionate devotion.

He died abandoned with but one companion, without the sacraments or Christian burial. But, within a few weeks, his body was recovered and found to be perfectly incorrupt. It was brought to Goa and received there, with a devotion and an enthusiasm which showed that the people had already recognized him as a saint. He was beatified by Pope Paul V in 1619 and canonized, together with St Ignatius, by Pope Gregory XV, on March 12, 1622. He is now the Patron of all the missions of the Catholic Church.

[Courtesy of Catholic Information Network (CIN)]



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ALL AREAS

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Pregnancy Assistance is in need of volunteer drivers who can collect and deliver donated baby furniture in their area.

If you have a suitable vehicle and can help, please telephone Lydia on 9328 2926.

Scripture Discussion

We provide this Scripture discussion for the many and varied prayer groups to use, as well as for families.

Ask someone to read this from St Matthew's Gospel.

Matthew 17: 1-9

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John, his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and His clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with Him.

Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him."

When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid."

And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Discussion

Why did Jesus show himself transformed to Peter, James and John?

Why did Pope John Paul II choose the Transfiguration as the fourth Mystery in the Mysteries of Light?

Are we being invited to experience Christ's agony and joy, so that we can live a life transfigured by the Spirit?

Are we the Light of the World?

Commentary

"And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with Him"

«A bright cloud cast a shadow over them» and the disciples were seized with fear when they saw Jesus, the Saviour, together with

Moses and Elijah in the cloud. It is true that, when Moses encountered God in former times, he entered into the divine cloud (Ex 24: 18), thus making it clear that the Law was no more than a shadow. Listen to what Saint Paul says: «The Law has only a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of them, »

(Heb 10: 1). In those days Israel «could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory that was going to fade» (2Cor 3: 7). «But all of us, gazing with unveiled face on the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, as from the Lord who is the Spirit» (v.18). And so the cloud that overshadowed the disciples was a cloud, not of darkness, but of light. Indeed, «the mystery hidden from ages and from generations past has been manifested» (Col 1: 26) and endless, everlasting glory has been revealed.

That is why Moses and Elijah, standing at our Savior's side, personified the Law and the Prophets. The one whom the Law and the Prophets foretold is, in truth, Jesus, the giver of life. Moses also stands for the assembly of the saints who fell asleep in former times (Dt 34: 5) and Elijah, the living (2Kgs 2: 11), since the transfigured Jesus is Lord both of the living and the dead. And Moses has at last entered the Promised Land, since Jesus is the one who takes us there. Whereas, formerly, Moses had only seen the promised inheritance from afar (Dt. 34: 4), today he sees it clearly.

Saint John Damascene (c.675-749), monk, theologian, Doctor of the Church

A child is born for us,
a son given to us,
and dominion is laid on his
shoulders,
and this is the name they
give him,

Wonder-Counsellor,
Mighty-God,
Eternal Father,
Prince of Peace.

(Isaiah 9: 5,6)

Do you want to become a pregnancy support volunteer?



The next information day will be held on

Thursday, 12th March, 2009

If you are interested in attending or want to find out more about

Pregnancy Assistance,

please contact Lydia on Tel: (08) 9328 2926

At Pregnancy Assistance we practice the 'vocation of love' to the women that we help. This love comforts and supports them.

Join the Helpers of God's Precious Infants
to witness for life



**Mass and Rosary Procession on the first Friday of each month at
St Brigid's Church, St Brigid's Place, Midland
Commencing at 9:30am**

Led by The Franciscan Friars of The Immaculate
and

**Mass and Rosary Procession on the first Saturday of each month at
St Augustine's Church, Gladstone St, Rivervale
Commencing at 8:30am
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A Story from the Verge

By Helen Sawyer

Everyone who has prayed outside an abortion clinic will have experienced various reactions from the passers-by. Responses to our presence may range from approval and support to derision and fury, with in-between, a kind of bemused contempt for those crazy religious fanatics who refuse to accept the dogma of a woman's "Right to Choose."

Of these many occasions in Perth, one that stands out in my memory was at the Nanyarra clinic in Rivervale on the first Saturday in January, 2003. Those who were there may remember a particularly vicious verbal assault from a bearded man, who left his ute, and walked amongst the group of about 30 prayers, spewing forth a diatribe of extreme blasphemy and obscenity.

He directed much of his anger towards Fr Paul Carey SSC, referring to the then-current reports of abuse by Catholic clergy in the USA, to goad and insult him. Fr Paul did not respond but steadfastly continued to lead the Rosary, exhorting everyone there to continue praying. It was most regrettable that the children present in the group were exposed to such offensive language.

Helpers pray for the conversion of hearts

A few of us tried, in vain, to deflect the bearded man's venom from the group, hoping that he would leave or run out of steam. A call was made to the local police for assistance and they arrived about 30 minutes later, when it was all over. After about 20 minutes he left with a screech of tyres and a loud threat that he'd be back. True to his promise, he repeated his abuse on several other occasions.

Of course there have been many incidents over the years when we've been confronted by angry men and women, however, this particular time stayed in many of our minds as the most vicious and diabolical attack we've ever experienced.

Fast forward now to Monday 8th September 2008, for our regular weekly vigil at Rivervale: As we prayed, I kept watch for those approaching the

clinic and saw a man walking along the street, carrying a large box. As he stopped behind the prayers, I began to chat with him. Yes, he knew what we were doing, he'd seen us here before.

He told me his life story, about how his mother used to send him to Sunday

nickname "Rocky." He wasn't interested in accepting a Rosary, Miraculous Medal or Miracle Prayer, but accepted gratefully a "miraculous" picture of Jesus, that had appeared on a roll of film taken by Brother Elias of the Apostles of God, in Italy.

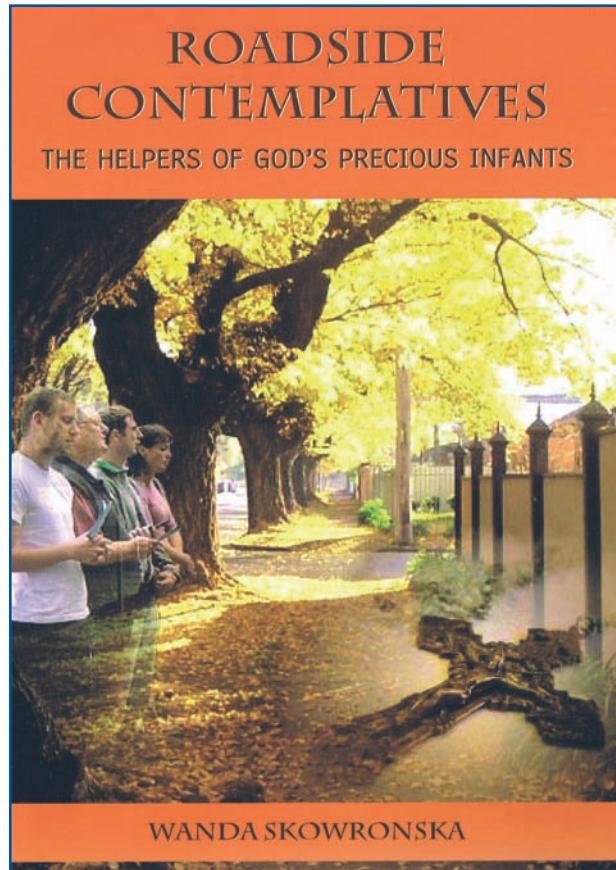
Interestingly, "Rocky" had often been teased in his "bad old days" that he looked like Jesus and his curiosity was aroused when I told him about this image. And yes, the similarity was certainly there, although one face showed the ravages of abuse and alcohol whilst the other bespoke only love and gentleness.

A gift from Our Blessed Mother

As we said our good-byes, "Rocky" said that he agreed with what we were doing here and encouraged us to keep up the prayers. We invited him to come and join us anytime! He then said "Hey, and I'm sorry for bawling you out, all those years ago!"

The others had already put two and two together, but it wasn't until he'd left that the scales dropped from my eyes, as it were, and I realized he was the same bearded man from 5 years ago! Perhaps if I'd recognized him earlier I would have been more wary of him and the incident may not have unfolded as it did!

So, when the Helpers pray for the conversion of hearts: those of the mothers, the fathers, the abortionists, their staff, the passers-by and ourselves, our prayers are answered in ways we may never know. On this occasion, perhaps as a gift from Our Blessed Mother on her birthday, we were shown anew, the power of those prayers.



The book "Roadside Contemplatives" by Wanda Skowronska can be ordered from Family Life International (Australia) Ltd. Ph: (02) 9519 9111, Fax: (02) 9519 9622 or Email: fliaust@internode.on.net.

school, that his father abused him and *The book "Roadside Contemplatives" show he had lived a very bad life. He'd been an alcoholic and had reached such a low point that one day he'd called out to God for help. From then his life had begun to change and now he attended a large Pentecostal church, he studied the bible and knew that God had saved him.*

By then Eric, Topsy, Quin and Philip had finished praying and were beginning to pack up. They came over and I introduced them to the man who hadn't wanted to give me his Christian name, insisting instead that he be known by the

"Real love means being the first to love.

We cannot wait to be loved in order to love."

Chiara Lubich

There is one Christmas carol that has always baffled me!

The Twelve Days of Christmas

What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that year wrote this carol as a Catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element of the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.

Four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

Six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.



Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Ten lords a-leaping – the Ten Commandments.

Eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

Twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed.



Christmas In Australia CD

\$15.00 each

Twelve Christmas songs including: *Arnhem Land Lullaby*, *Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle* and *Te Harinui*

Happy Christmas CD Card

\$5.00 each

Christmas card with CD of four Christmas songs, including: *Angels Sing On High*

(Available from Pregnancy Assistance. All proceeds from the sale of these CDs will go to Pregnancy Assistance)



BABY ITEMS NEEDED

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- cot bedding
- prams in a safe and good condition
- bassinets
- baby formula
- nappies (cloth & disposable)
- baby wraps
- baby bath, wipes, soap
- baby clothing (size 0000-0)
- reversable baby seats (0-4yrs)



Community Care Packages filled with baby items and gifts for mothers.

Donated by the Year 10 Early Childhood Studies Class from Chisholm Catholic College

ACCOMMODATION NEEDED

Female overseas student, 23 yrs old, with 3 mth old baby, needs accommodation and support with a family, preferably north of the river for 12 months.

Phone Lydia on 9328 2926 to discuss.

Your donations will help families, mums and bubs who visit Pregnancy Assistance for help. Phone 9328 2929.

Walking with Love

Supporting a woman who has had an abortion

(or another person who has been closely affected by abortion).

The *Walking with Love* national symposiums have provided people with information on how to support vulnerable pregnant women including their husbands, partners and families in a gentle, loving way. It also involves the embrace and support of those who suffer the effects of an abortion.

The last section in the *Walking with Love* practical guide deals with supporting a woman who has had an abortion (or another person who has been closely affected by abortion). Below is some information summarised from the practical guide.

Not so much a 'choice' as an act of desperation

Some women who have had an abortion have said that their decision to go through with the abortion was because they felt they had 'no other choice'. The consequence to their decision has left them suffering in silence, often with feelings of guilt and remorse.

"I thought the abortion would fix the problem. Nobody told me I

would have to live with it the rest of my life." Anne.

With more and more women having abortions, the damaging effects of abortion have become more evident. Through an increase in awareness and support, more women are now able to talk to someone about their abortion experience to be able to work through their loss and grief.

How can you be supportive?

Acknowledging their grief and feelings of loss is very important. Because of the guilt and shame that the woman may be feeling it is important not to speak with judgment or condemnation. You may say something such as:

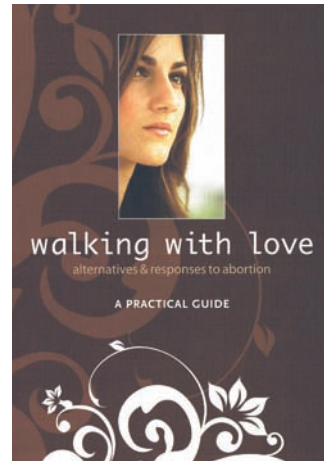
"I've learnt a lot more about the reasons why women have abortion; sometimes women have so many pressures they simply see no other way

out." Or, *"It must be very hard for you to have been grieving this loss by yourself for so long."*

Try to understand what she may have felt at the time of the decision, acknowledging her fears and feelings of being without support. In the moment of facing an unexpected pregnancy, often these feelings of fear can be so strong that it seems that there is no other choice.

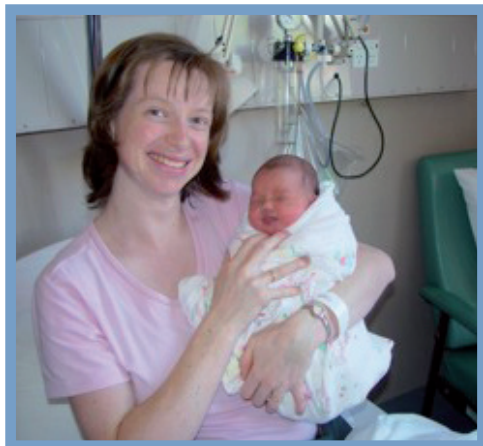
Ensure the woman or another person who has been affected by abortion that there is help and support available to work through their grief or loss. One of the centres that they could seek post abortion help is Pregnancy Assistance and is only a phone call away.

If you would like a free copy of the *Walking with Love* practical guide, please contact Pregnancy Assistance on 9328 2926.



"Every human being deserves our reverence and love, from the beginning to the end of the continuum of life. All human rights ultimately depend upon that recognition."

[Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Media release on Abortion Alternatives, 2004.]



Celine Therese is the fifth child of Suryan and Therese Chandrasegaran. Born 27.10.08, she is the much-anticipated little sister of Maria (7), Joseph (5), William (4) and Patrick (2).

The Uncrowned Queen by Ruth

*When God would save a world from sin
He chose with mothers to begin
and, through a virgin mother birth
to bring good will to men on earth*

*When Christ the way of life
would tell
a woman listened by a well.
When he was tired and needed rest
the woman honoured him as guest.*

*He caused a maid to walk again
and raised a widow's son at Nain.*

*A mother's love will stand by you
when other friends have
proved untrue.
She'll round your bed her vigil keep
while other eyes are closed to sleep.
She'll cleave to you till life shall end
And be on earth your dearest friend.*

*Our mothers steer the ship of state
'tis they who make the nation great.
Our nation will be bad or good
according to its motherhood;
And back of all great men is seen
the image of an uncrowned queen.*

Reflecting on Pregnancy Assistance at the Christmas Crib

Sr Frances Hayes



When I look at the star which pointed the way for the shepherds and the wise men, I pray for whoever instigated the sign outside Pregnancy Assistance. When asked "How did you

know about us?" So many women seeking help respond, "I saw the sign when I was going past."

When I look at the Shepherds who came to be with Mary, Joseph and Jesus, I pray for the numerous volunteers who come to Pregnancy Assistance to listen to, to support and to share themselves - their time and their prayers. Like the shepherds they are present and wait, ready for whatever will happen.

When I look at the Wise Men who came bearing gifts, I pray for the generous donors who give to Pregnancy Assistance, the many drivers who go around and collect donations from families, for the members of parishes and craft groups who respond to appeals for clothes and goods for the babies.

When I look at the cave given to the Holy Family I think of Miriam's House and other accommodation which has been provided

for the pregnant women. I pray for the many men and women volunteers who help to make these places a home, by giving space, privacy and peace.

When I think of the innkeeper who couldn't directly provide what was needed but offered to help as he was able, I pray for the many others who indirectly help and support Pregnancy Assistance, the agencies who refer clients, the parishes, the doctors, the advertisers, those who point people to where they will be aided.

When I think of the innkeeper's wife, who was not mentioned but was undoubtedly in the background, I pray for the prayer supporters of Pregnancy Assistance, those who daily support with their prayers, those who gather outside the abortion clinics and medical centres to pray.

When I think of King Herod I pray for those who are threatened and frightened by the new life, jealous of the child growing, worried about the changes that will occur, panicked into reacting with violence.

When I look at the borrowed things, the clothes, the manger, the stable, I pray for all the babies who wore the clothes, slept

in the prams, bassinets, capsules and cots that are so regularly donated to Pregnancy Assistance to be re-used by other babies.

When I look at St Joseph, completely puzzled and bewildered, I think of the many men who feel at a loss with the struggles, the doubts, the hurt, the questions.

When I look at Mary, unwed, frightened, questioning "How can this be?" I pray for all women - young and not so young, married or not - who are perhaps faced with an unplanned pregnancy, the women who are seeking help, searching for an answer, needing help but feel everything is hopeless.

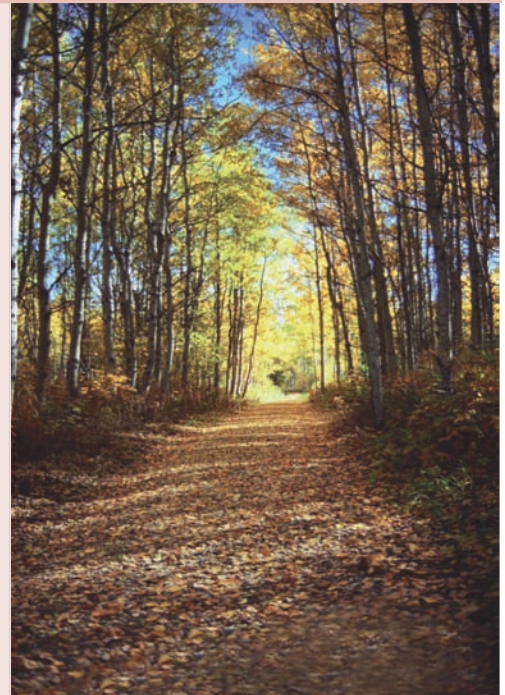
When I look at the baby born on Christmas Day, I pray for all babies, that the peace and joy that Jesus brought will be with them and their families.



Think of Pregnancy Assistance in your Will

It is vitally important that Pregnancy Assistance continue to be there to provide the love and support that saves lives and also provides the necessary financial help when needed.

A generous way to support the work of Pregnancy Assistance is to remember us in your Will to help us to continue this service of life to mothers and families.



Your bequest will be a gift to others that lives on.

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*On behalf of the Board of
Pregnancy Assistance,
the staff and the many generous volunteers,
'Abundant Life' wishes all our readers and
benefactors a Happy and a
Holy Christmas.
May the Christ Child bless
and reward you abundantly in 2009.*

WRITE TO US

Write to us at Pregnancy Assistance, PO Box 8129 PBC, Perth WA 6849.
Alternatively, contact us on e-mail: info@pregnancyassistance.org.au. Website: www.pregnancyassistance.org.au

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