

What is someone to do?

Our Lord tells us that He will “give us rest.”

That we should bring our worries and fears to Him and He will guide us. Not an easy task for someone who feels unforgivable. Not an easy task for someone who trusted a person they loved and then felt abandoned. How can we now trust God who we cannot even see?

God understands our struggles and is right there. We often think we have to be in a certain place before we can approach God, but He tells us differently.

The Sacraments, Our life

Some of the most beautiful examples of His love are in the prayers of the Catholic mass.

“When we were lost and could not find our way to you, you loved us more than ever.” (Eucharistic Prayer of Reconciliation I)

Lost in our sinfulness - completely separated from Him, He still did not abandon us, but **“loved us more than ever.”** He loves us more because He knows we need Him more. He accepts us and loves us where we are.

or

“God of love and mercy you are always ready to forgive, we are sinners and you invite us to trust in your mercy”(Eucharistic Prayer of Reconciliation I)

He does not force us...He “invites” us. He tells us he is always ready to forgive...that His love and mercy are there for us, but we must be willing to accept it to trust in it.

Taking a Risk

People are not perfect. We are all flawed by original sin. Perhaps those you loved failed you in your abortion decision because of their own weaknesses and they were not able to be there for you, but God's ways are not our ways. He promises: **“I am with you always, even unto the end of the age.”** (Matt 28:20)

He has always been there and continues to be, both in the Sacrament of Reconciliation where He forgives our sins, and in the Eucharist where He humbled Himself and became the Bread of Life so that we may have life.

“Behold I stand at the Door and Knock” (Rev 3:20)

He is right there waiting for you! May you let Him into your life and heart as He seeks you out and longs to heal you!

*Why have
you
abandoned
me?*



For additional copies or for a referral:

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**Coerced abortion
and the struggle
for Faith in God**

Why have you abandoned me?"

Anyone who has been coerced into an unwanted abortion can tell you how those words cut deep into their heart. They know the pain of being abandoned by those that they love.

It is often the very fear of this abandonment, this cut into the heart, that opened the way for an abortion.

- Fear of:
- Loss of love
 - Being left alone and pregnant
 - Being unwanted
 - Having no support to raise a child



All these contribute to the desperation felt by many as they cave into the pressures of an unwanted abortion.

Under the guise of women's rights, there is no question that society has been given increasing freedom to pressure women. We are saturated with the slogans such as "A Woman's Right to Choose," "My Body, My Choice," and, "Every Child a Wanted Child." We are all led to believe that every abortion decision is made freely, but most often that is not the case. The threat of losing someone you love and trust often impacts the decision.

That is not really a choice at all.

Whose "Choice" is it anyway?

Many women coerced into abortion will describe their experience as "allowing the abortion to happen." A surrender of their wills precisely because they felt they had no choice. Sadly, the very relationship these women were striving to save by having the abortion often ends because of it. Now, having killed their unborn child, they are often left alone facing the fear of abandonment they sought so desperately to avoid.

Where are You God?

It is hard not to feel abandoned by God in these times. Where is He? Why hasn't He answered my prayers? How can He allow this to happen? Why didn't He save my baby?

Many women, filled with guilt and shame, often become spiritually alienated. They feel they have not only been abandoned by those they love, but by God as well. Many times, there is a terror in facing Him because they believe there is no forgiveness. They believe they have committed the "unforgivable sin."

I am Always With You

Jesus in his torment on the cross asked the same question as He cried out "why have you abandoned me?" The evil of sin made it appear as though God was not there for him, but we know this was not true.

Christ died on the cross to make amends for all sin, even the sin of abortion. No sin is greater than His mercy for us. As we witness the crucifixion we also witness the resurrection. The triumph of good over evil. God was always present to Jesus. Jesus just did not "feel" His presence.

So, too, God is with each woman before, during and after an abortion.

- He is present in every thought of not wanting to abort.



- He is present in every offer of help.
- He is present in the life of the unborn child.
- He is present as the decision to abort is made.
- He is present when we walk into the clinic and undergo the abortion.
- He is present when we are filled with remorse.
- He is present to us each and every day because He loves us!
- He is present in calling us back to communion with Him through the Sacraments.

Of course, He does not will for anyone to have an abortion, but His mercy and faithfulness are always waiting for us. We just need to let Him in.

Come to Me

"Come to me all who are weary and find life burdensome." (Matt 11:28)

The burden of a past abortion is often overwhelming. It is sometimes difficult to think of anything else.

Everything seems to be a reminder:

- Children
- Pregnant women
- Places
- Certain people
- Sounds
- Smells
- Anniversary of the abortion
- Anniversary of the day the baby would have been born

The list can go on and on depending on each individual's circumstances.

The struggle to forget can be exhausting.