

MY BROTHERS KEEPER

I must admit, when life gets rough for them, sometimes I still go back to the fact that my sons may be suffering because of my abortion. Of course, it may not be the case, life sends everyone many bumps in the road, but I think I would be fooling myself if I did not recognize that it has impacted them and that at times, in spite of their healing, new things may pop up. I believe there would be something really wrong if that did not happen! New layers of healing are healthy to go through.

Just like with me, over thirty years later, when you least expect it, different aspects of healing may surface. Whether it is a past relationship, or some new memory that has arisen, it is God's way of getting to our core as we move closer and closer, into relationship with Him. It is a good thing!

I have watched the dynamics of abortion on siblings over the years. I have ministered to many teens mourning the loss of a sibling, some of whom are acting out in certain ways as a result of abortion. There are those who are angry, those with no sense of their own wonderful worth, those who want to protect their parents and so deny their own feelings, those who have no idea where to go with issues that pop up for them. There are also those

parents who worry too much, and those who deny any impact on their children and those kids who come to me voicing their pain but not wanting their parents to know for fear of hurting them.

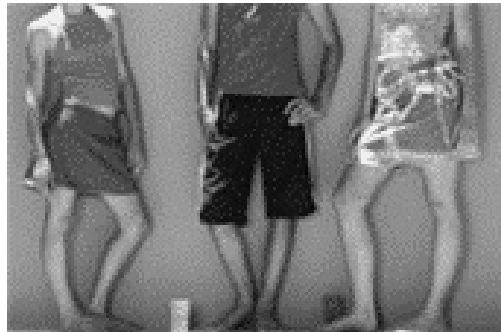
I have also been blessed to watch them heal and recognize their own worth as they look to their sibling as a gift, develop a spiritual relationship, and come to recognize the good God in His Mercy can bring out of even this.

Abortion hurts countless people, including siblings. That is why this coming March 6, 2010 we are excited to tell you we will be conducting our first retreat for siblings of aborted babies. Rev Mariusz Koch, CFR,

will be directing the day, and a sibling who has moved through healing process will provide testimony. It will be an opportunity to express feelings, mourn the loss and share with others.

As we continue to shed light and minister to the wider victims of abortion, we ask you to please keep us and those we serve in prayer. May Mercy Himself become manifest as He touches hearts and brings the peace and healing only He can give!

T Bonopartis



SIBLINGS OF ABORTED CHILDREN

Finally, a continuation! I have been sharing that up to 30-40 people can be impacted by every one abortion. We have covered the men that father aborted children, the grandparents of these babies, and today, I'd like to share with you about how siblings of aborted children can be affected.

Many times, siblings may sense a lost brother or sister without confirmation that this has actually happened. Imagine your son coming up to you and saying, "Hey, Mom!

I had a great dream last night. I went to Heaven and played with my big brother, Jake." This actually happened to a woman who had never told her son about her abortion.

Some children may be told by a parent when at the appropriate age (this is a subject all its own that I would like to address in the near future). Children that are living at the time of their sibling's abortion may feel survivor guilt and/or a false sense of responsibility for the death

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UPCOMING POST ABORTION RETREATS

Entering Canaan Ministry

Sisters of Life or Theresa Bonopartis of Lumina

Contact: 866-575-0075 or 877-586-4621

Day of Prayer & Healing

September 12, 2009

October 3, 2009

November 14, 2009

Men's "Day of Prayer & Healing"

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal & Rev

George Stewart

October 17, 2009

Contact Lumina: 877-586-4621

Day of Prayer & Healing for Siblings

March 6, 2010

Contact Lumina: 877-586-4621

Poor Pre Natal Day

For couples suffering because of an abortion due to a poor prenatal diagnosis

April 10, 2010

Contact Lumina: 877-586-4621

Rachel's Vineyard

<http://www.rachelsvineyard.org/>

New Jersey

Linden (Archdiocese of Newark)

Contact: Michelle Krystofik 732 388 8211

3/13/2009 - 3/15/2009

Metuchen

Spanish

Contact: Carmen Diaz 908-722-1881

10/02/2009 – 10/04/2009

Camden

Contact: Stephanie Claudy 866-4-RACHEL

sclaudy@camdendiocese.org

6/12/2009 - 6/14/2009

Paterson

Contact: Marie Ryan 973-777-8818 x264

7/17/2009 - 7/19/2009 Ringwood

etuchenMetuchen (Español)

New York

Long Island/Uniondale

Contact: Frank Gariboldi 516-523-0586

Call for dates

Connecticut

Fairfield County

Local host: Diocese of Bridgeport

Contact: Clarissa Cincotta 203 218 0291

Website: www.rachelsvineyardbpt.com

9/18/2009 - 9/20/2009

Spanish retreat

Contact: Cristina Martinez 203-394-3898

caminodeluz1@sbcglobal.net

10/23/2009 - 10/25/2009

Litchfield

Contact: Mary Hayden 203-882-1326

6/12/2009 - 6/14/2009 Litchfield

0/23/2009 - 10/25/2009 Farmington

...Siblings of Aborted Children (continued from page 1)

of their sibling. Some parents actually victimize their living children by discussing with them whether or not to abort. Some even telling their children that they're choosing abortion for the benefit of the living offspring. This forces the children to feel like an accomplice to the death of their sibling.

When a mother gets pregnant soon after an abortion, it is often an attempt to recreate or make up for her lost child. If the subsequent child later learns about the abortion, it can be very traumatic for them. They may wonder if they would even be alive if it weren't for the death of their sibling, or why it was that they were allowed to live. This child can carry a heavy burden of expectation that he/she may not be able to fulfill.

If an abortion was done for convenience, social pressure or economic necessity, the parents will often struggle to make sure it cannot happen again. Subconsciously aware of their destructiveness, the parents can overprotect their child against projected hostilities. This child reflects parental need to control those forces that destroyed their sibling. As this child is kept free from exploring the world, so his/her intelligence, adaptability and curiosity are crimped.

Some children live in a somewhat of a haunted stage, living in distrust of what may be in store for him while parents conspire not to burden them with the facts. The child is haunted by a mystery, knowing and yet unknowing. He/she is afraid to ask for clarification in case they discover something more awful than they already expect.

There is growing evidence that siblings of aborted children are impacted more than not. Post- Abortion Survivor Syndrome will often be experienced at varying degrees and at different times in life. This impact can manifest in early childhood as well as later in adulthood.

This is an important area that must not be ignored!

While there are not, unfortunately, many tools available to assist siblings through the healing process at this time, there are some helpful steps that can still be taken. Living siblings must be allowed to grieve the loss of their aborted sibling, even if other family members maybe stuck in denial for the abortion itself. The truth is, the entire family needs healing.

Until you or your children grieves effectively, you are likely to find a part of yourselves that remains tied to the past. Grieving is not forgetting, but healthy grieving results in an ability to remember the importance of your loss—but with a new found sense of peace, rather than searing pain or confusion.

If you look back to my post entitled "Grieving, Mourning, and Honoring" (2008), you will find some helpful tools to help graduate your grieving process to a memorializing process, which can be an event that includes those whom you sense could benefit.

In addition, there are numerous websites that are available to help walk you through a healthy mourning & grieving process.

The repercussions of abortion aren't easy. It can be all the more painful to consider how your abortion(s) may also be affecting your child(ren). The good news is that the same great God that loves and cares for you, is also loving and caring for your children. Call upon His name. He will not let you down. I GUARANTEE IT! My life is a living witness to this!

From the blog: Extended Hope, <http://www.extendedhope.com> by Bonnie, CA

WHAT'S NEWS



AUGUST 6-9, 2009 - WALKING PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA SHRINE, DOYLESTOWN, PA

Think of the power of a four day pilgrimage of penance and prayer with a contingency of post abortive women & men walking together in reparation! Patty Decker and Theresa Bonopartis have decided to gather together post abortive men and women and friends, to walk in this yearly pilgrimage in reparation for the sin of abortion.

We invite you to walk with us in support of our effort to bring awareness and healing to others as we express love for our children in heaven & gratitude to God!

Will you join us?

For more information on the pilgrimage visit:

http://www.walkingpilgrimage.us/English/Pilgrimage_Main.html

Or contact: Patty: mstpattydecker@aol.com or Theresa: lumina@postabortionhelp.org

REACHING OUT TO SIBLINGS

In our efforts to reach all those touched, Lumina will begin an outreach for those suffering from losing a sibling through abortion. On March 6th, 2010, we will have our first retreat specifically geared to those trying to come to terms with this loss.

Many times, surviving siblings are overwhelmed with feelings of survivor guilt, anger and grief that they feel unable to verbalize in the fear of causing more pain to already hurting parents. The retreat will provide a safe place for them to make their own healing journey with others experiencing the same feeling. The retreat will be directed by Fr Mariusz Koch, CFR. For more information call Lumina!

AFTERNOON OF PRAYERFUL REMEMBRANCE

Don't forget...if you are interested in hosting an "Afternoon of Prayerful Remembrance" in your parish this January, a new manual with complete materials is available through Lumina. We would be happy to guide you in implementing this beautiful grace filled day! Just contact Theresa at Lumina: 877-586-4621 or lumina@postabortionhelp.org

ALL AROUND THE TOWN

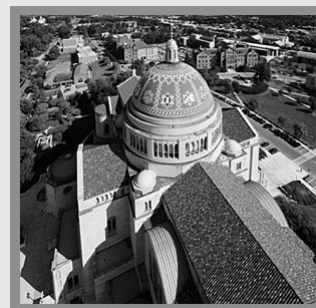


Catholic Women of the Diocese of Bridgeport Luncheon

Fr Matt Mauriello, Mary Beth Stewart, Bishop Lori, Marie Walsh & Msgr. Ernie Esposito

NORTH AMERICAN CONGRESS ON MERCY

NACOM is an outgrowth of the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy (Rome, April 2008), which was approved by Pope Benedict. The Congress offers two full days of talks from Divine Mercy leaders



and witnesses, plus time for confession, the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy, and Holy Mass. The Congress aims to give its participants points not only for reflection, but for action.

Among the speakers are Scott Hahn, Theresa Bonopartis, and Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC. A series of "mini-witnesses" will be offered by Kelly Ross, Dr. John Bruchalski, Ted Hanley, and Hawthorne Sisters.

Date(s)

November 14-15, 2009

Location

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C., United States

Price :

\$30 General Admission (\$40 after Oct. 31)
\$20 Religious/Students (\$30 after Oct. 31)

Contact

Web: <http://mercycongress.org/index.php>

Additional Information

WITNESS

I am 62 years old, and I have known since I was about 14 that my mother had two abortions prior to my birth. She told me this herself, as she was going through a complete mental breakdown, the effects of which eventually took her life at 57. I was told that this happened during or right after the great depression. For many years, I had a hard time understanding. Both my parents were dead by the time I was 16. Often times I thought how wonderful it would have been to have my lost siblings with me after our parents were gone. My mom told me there was a boy, whom she had quietly named Richard after the abortion. I still think about my brother Richard and what he would have been like.

My mom said at one time that the second abortion was done so early that they could not tell if it was a boy or a girl. I just think maybe it was a sister. I have not named her, maybe I should, to give her an existence and a face in my heart.

The reason I think it may have been a girl, is that in the months before my dad died of cancer, he would call me into his room almost every day and ask me if I saw the little girl standing at the foot of his bed. He described her in detail, a little girl about 6 years old, wearing a sun dress and a straw hat. Of course I saw nothing, but he insisted she was there, I don't mean once or twice, it was almost every day, and he described her in such vivid detail, hair color, eyes, everything, although he said she never said anything to him. Once he said to me, "you know I was no angel in my life, and she may be a reminder of that", he never ever mentioned the abortions to me, but now looking back I can see a connect here as well.

My dad never mentioned seeing a boy, my brother Richard, just the little girl. Maybe she was looking for a name, so I will give her that. I have to think about it, and I have been praying to Richard and for Richard, so now I will pray to my baby sister too, although she would have been older than me, I still see her as my baby sister. Maybe I will ask her what name she would like and pray about it.

One more thing, after my dad died, I was out of my mind with grief, I was 13, and thought my world would end. We were very close. I slept in his bed the whole time he was in the hospital, I missed him so much. One night before he died, I woke up in the middle of the night, and I saw a very bright luminous figure at the foot of the bed. It had no features, just light in a human form, it did not move. I pulled the covers up over my head I was so scared, I kept looking out over the covers and it was still there, time after time and it stayed there for quite a while. It only happened once, never again, but I think it was my guardian angel to tell me she would be there for me and that the next several years would be tough but I would not be alone.

Another thing I found out not too long ago, I was talking to my cousin, who is about 9 years older than me and remembers my birth and the circumstances surrounding my birth. She told me that indeed it was true that my Mom had had two abortions, and that I was supposed to "make up" for the ones that were lost. Now that was another bomb to me, because I then thought that if my siblings had lived, my parents probably would not have had me. I was born when both of them were well into their 40's. So, another guilt bomb, my siblings died so I could live in a way. So there are so many emotions that spin around, guilt that I am alive because they died, my life was to make up for the loss of their lives, and on and on. All I can do is have faith in God, trust that His hand is on my life, and for whatever reason I am here and have a job to do for Him.

I had one living sister, so these abortions took place between her birth and mine, so there would have been 4 of us in my family if we all had been allowed to live. My sister has since passed away in an auto accident, so I have no siblings left. I think it might be good for people to know that we all suffer from abortion. It is not something that only affects the mother or the father over time. I have not forgotten my siblings and I never will. I miss them although I never knew them. I cannot get it out of my mind, and I pray for my mom, my dad, and my siblings every day. It really does not just go away, not for the parents or for the siblings, or for the grandparents I am sure, as I am a proud grandma of 6. I cannot imagine my life without any one of them. So God bless you, and all those in need of hope or the courage to go on. KT

Lumina is a separately funded program of Good Counsel Homes. Donations to support the work of Lumina are greatly appreciated. Checks should be made out to Good Counsel, Inc with "Lumina" on the note line or you can donate online www.goodcounselhomes.org. Please mark it for Lumina in the comment box.

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