



What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?

I will never forget it. It had not been that long since I had returned to church and I was truly learning about my faith for the first time.

Confused, and as I like to describe it, “searching in the dark to find God”, I was still riddled with shame and guilt concerning my abortion, and on a quest to come to know this “Jesus”, who I had been told was full of mercy, and, not only **could**, but **wanted** to heal me.

As I sat at mass, still fearful that someone would find out about my terrible secret, I heard the priest begin his homily. *“What do you want to be when you grow up; a fireman, a teacher, a nurse or doctor?”*

I remember thinking it was strange because most of us were adults. The priest paused for a while, and then said, *“I want to be a tabernacle! I want to empty myself so Jesus can live in me. I want to love Him with my whole heart, and be a place of rest and safety for Him.”*

I did not have a clue what that even meant. My relationship with Jesus was so new, just beginning,

but as I listened to his beautiful colloquy, I saw that he was really speaking to Jesus, not us, and that the love and peace on his face was genuine. I also knew I wanted to feel that too. It gave me hope, that indeed this “Jesus” was merciful and forgiving, and that there could be healing, even for me.

All these years later, I still remember that homily as if it were yesterday. I cannot believe all that has happened since then, and words can never express my gratitude to God for the many gifts and graces He constantly bestows on me. Now, I’d like to believe that my face would convey the same emotions and love that priest had.

Sure, I know my “tabernacle” gets pretty dirty, and in fact, that my very desire to be a tabernacle is only by His grace, but I also know His understanding, patience and His great mercy towards me. So, when the “dirt” of life piles up, I go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and emptying myself, I pray that I too want to become a tabernacle, a place of rest and safety for Him, the One who healed me.

What do you want to be when you grow up? TB

WHAT'S NEWS

Morning of Prayerful Remembrance

It is not too early to begin planning for the beautiful prayer service, "An Afternoon/Morning of Prayerful Remembrance & Intercession", in your diocese or parish. The pray service has been spreading across the country. The dioceses of Providence, RI; Austin, Texas; Washington, DC; Rockford, IL; and Paterson, NJ are among those who have held the service which has been included in the Respect Life Month Packet sent out by The Conference of Catholic Bishops.



Providence, RI, Morning of Remembrance

This service is a wonderful way for the community to join together in prayer & reparation for 40 years of legalized abortion.

For more information on the service, visit: <http://postabortionhelp.org/afternoon%20of%20remembrance/afterrememberHome.html> or call Lumina at 877-586-4621. All materials to hold the service are available through Lumina.

Our Lady of Czestochowa

We are very excited to announce our new prayer card is ready! As the patroness of our post abortion work, we have created a beautiful prayer card to Our Lady of Czestochowa!

I have heard great feedback from women who have received them. Thanks to Patricia Pullman who has been distributing them all over the country. Our Lady of Czestochowa, pray for us!

To order please call or email us at Lumina! (Suggested donation twenty five cents per card)

Spanish Pamphlets

Our pamphlets "Fatherhood and Abortion", "Bless me Father, Abortion and the Sacrament of Reconciliation", and "Being Pregnant after Abortion", have now been translated into Spanish and are available. Call Lumina 877-586-4621 for more information.

Fundraising Dinner

As we approach the 40th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, we are very excited that Allan Parker of the Justice Foundation and Operation Outcry, has agreed to be the speaker at our fundraising dinner to be held December 6th at "The Mansion" in White Plains, New York.

Mr. Parker serves as the lead legal counsel for Norma McCorvey, who was "Jane Roe" of Roe v. Wade, and Sandra Cano, who was "Mary Doe" of Doe v. Bolton, in the legal effort to overturn their landmark Supreme Court rulings that brought legalized abortion on demand in America. The Texas Justice Foundation was also instrumental, through providing affidavits of post abortive women, in the passage of the Partial Birth Abortion Ban, and continues to influence Sonogram and Parental Rights legislation.

In addition to Allan we will be honoring Monsignor Philip Reilly, Founder of The Helpers of God's Precious Infants. Monsignor has always been a source of inspiration and someone who gets the entire picture surrounding abortion. In his words, *"The reason we go out (to the clinics) is not primarily to save the physical life of the child, though we want to do that, absolutely, but if that becomes our primary purpose we will become limited in what we will achieve and we are going to misunderstand why God wants us to be there. Our purpose will determine the instrument that you use so if your purpose is to save the physical life of the child then you are going to measure your success on whether the physical life was spared. But the real purpose should be the salvation of souls, the abortionist, people working there, the mother, bf, all people who brought her there... God wants the mother and the people who bring her there. God loves them."*

Tickets for the dinner are \$75. For more information call Lumina 877-586-4621 or visit <http://www.postabortionhelp.org> Hope to see you there it promises to be a great night!

ALL AROUND THE TOWN

- On June 2nd, Bob Filatore of Lumina's men ministry, gave a witness talk at the Respect Life Coordinators Meeting for the Diocese of New York. Theresa also gave a presentation on "Reaching Out with Compassion" to those who are post abortive.
- Theresa Bonopartis will be speaking at the "Abundant Life" fundraising banquet to benefit Tri-State Pregnancy Center on Saturday, September 23rd in Matamoras, PA. For further info call: 507-491-5151
- On October 7th, Respect Life Sunday, Theresa Bonopartis will be addressing the congregation on the harm of abortion; St Mary's Parish, 23 South High Street, Mount Vernon, NY.



Waves of Regret

I am sorry. How many times have I said that to myself, in prayer, in confession, the pang of regret that hits you? I learned to shove it aside. To try to bury it, but it doesn't stay buried.

Birthdays, holidays, anniversaries, all special events, would stir the memory of a horrible decision I made when I was 19 years old. Old enough to know, but, still so young.

Then, denial. Maybe it didn't happen, maybe she wasn't pregnant, or it wasn't wrong. It's not illegal. Everybody is doing it! Then, the pang of regret hits again, maybe with a dream or seeing a child laugh or cry. It gets stirred up again.

I thought I was alone. I would never think of talking about those dark feelings that lived inside me.

Then, I took that step of healing. I attended the Men's Healing Day and my life has not been the same. I am still

a work in progress, but I know now that God has forgiven me and I am learning to deal with the reality of what I did.

I still get pangs of regret, they will never go away, but now I have God's mercy on my side. I will never again go to that dark place in my past and in my mind.

I can see now that yes, I did make a terrible mistake, but Jesus is holding and protecting my beautiful daughter and one day I will be able to hold her also.

God is a loving and forgiving God. We have to love and forgive ourselves,

I am trying to do that, and with help from Lumina, I will continue to keep on trying.

Bob Filitore



*Next Mens Day - Saturday, September 29th

UPCOMING POST ABORTION RETREATS

As post abortion ministry and outreach keep growing we are please to provide a list of retreats in our tri-state area as well as "Entering Canaan" retreats across the country.

If you are not in these areas please visit one of the following sites to find help in your vicinity.

Abortion Recovery (ARIN): <http://abortionrecovery.org/abortionrecovery/CAREdirectory/tabid/234/Default.aspx>

Hope after Abortion: <http://www.hopeafterabortion.com/>

National Helpline for Abortion Recovery: <http://www.nationalhelpline.org/>

ENTERING CANAAN & TRI-STATE RETREATS

ENTERING CANAAN MINISTRY

Entering Canaan" Days of Prayer & Healing for Women

October 6, 2012

January 19, 2013

To register for a day please call Theresa at Lumina: 877-586-4621

or email lumina@postabortionhelp.org or The Sisters of Life : 866-575-0075

Or email hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org

Day of Prayer & Healing for Men

September 29, 2012

Contact Lumina: 877-586-4621

Day of Prayer & Healing for Siblings

For siblings of aborted babies

March 2, 2013

Contact Lumina: 877-586-4621

Entering Canaan Nationwide Retreats Arlington, VA

Days of Prayer & Healing

September 22, 2012

Contact: (888) 456-HOPE or email: projectrachel@arlingtondiocese.org .

Washington, DC

Day of Prayer and Healing in Spanish

Day of Prayer and Healing (English)

Contact: 301-982-2008 or 202-269-4673

E-mail: projectrachel@adw.org

St Louis, Mo

Day of Prayer & Healing

EC Hope & Healing weekend

Contact: Marisol Pfaff

E-mail: Mpfaff@archstl.org

ROCKVILLE, IL

Day of Prayer & Healing

November 3, 2012

Contact: Laura Christianson

E-Mail: LChristianson@rockforddiocese.org

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

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

NEW YORK

Huntington, NY

October 26-28, 2012

Contact: Frank and Lorraine Gariboldi
516-523-0586

Spanish

Contact: Donna Crean 631-258-5062

NEW JERSEY

Linden (Archdiocese of Newark)

November 9-11, 2012

Contact: Michelle Krystofik 732 388 8211

Paterson, NJ

Contact: Marie Ryan 973-777-8818 x264
rachel@patersondiocese.org

Camden, NY

December 14-16, 2012

Contact: Margarita Moran 856-691-2299
Projectrachel.pjp2rc@verizon.net

WITNESS

“LONG AGO, AND NOW AT PEACE”

It all began, because I believed my husband did not love me. I should have never married him to begin with. I was so young and naive. I had just had my second child, when I found myself pregnant again with a third. We were only married 3 years, and I had hemorrhaged during my last delivery. I could not bring myself to have another child, so I called my sister, and asked her what I could do. She told me to take a hot bath with mustard. It never occurred to me that this was a living being. All I could think of was how devastated I was because my husband was fooling around. Our daughter was only about 6 months old.

In 1968, we had our third child, a little boy. I was raised to believe that divorce was not an option. After all, only Hollywood stars got divorced, so I persisted in trying to keep my marriage together as my husband continued, with his unfaithfulness, his drinking, gambling, and abuse. We lost our home, and moved to Queens, only to find out that I was pregnant again.

It was 1971 at this time, and I told my husband to get out. There just was no more love or respect for this man. He left on April 22, 1971, and I lost the baby in June of 1971. I could have saved it if I wanted too, but of course, that was not conceivable in my eyes at that time. I just let myself almost bleed to death, before I went to the hospital. To me this was an abortion of the mind.



Needless to say, all this impacted me greatly. I felt like a caged lion that had been let loose, and my children were suffering greatly because of my mental imbalance, my suicidal behavior, and, of course, my need to find love, which brought me to horrendous relationships.

I had lost all control of my emotions, and found myself in a psychiatric hospital due to a suicide attempt. Only by the grace of our good God, did I cry out for help, “Dear God, Please Help me”! And He did, just like that, miracle of miracles, right there in Beth Israel, Bernstein Pavilion, right there on the 7th floor, He came to me. My doctor could not believe the change, which took place in me. He told me, that it was miraculous, and said that 90% of those who had my condition would eventually succeed in killing themselves.

Although, I had that experience, I still continued in my illicit relationship, and eventually, found myself pregnant again, in love with a widowed man with 3 daughters. Because his children did not accept me, I felt I could not have this baby, and so, I went through with a final abortion in 1976. Of course, things did not work out with him either.

Once again, the Mercy of God, intervened, and this time, it really had a very powerful impact on me. This God of Mercy brought me to my knees, and I found myself going to church and confession on a regular basis. But, although I seemed to have found my way, I was still haunted by my abortions. Slowly, but surely, the Mercy of my God brought me to my haven of peace, and the “Entering Canaan” post abortion ministry of The Sisters of Life & Theresa Bonopartis. Their Love, and all the other women who have suffered in similar fashion, has helped me to know, that there is “LOVE & PEACE, which surpasses all understanding!

Janet

Donations to Good Counsel's Lumina Program are tax deductible. Your gift today can be multiplied many times over in bringing those hurting to the healing mercy of God.

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