



RELIEF

Respect Every Life In Every Family

A bio-monthly pro-life newsletter

NARFL, C/o. St. Martha's Hospital,
Bangalore GPO 560 001. Tel: 2275081

September/October 1997

MACUSHLA

The girl's name was Macushla. When she was in Middle School she was proud of it because it was unusual. But by the time she reached High School, she was having second thoughts. Her name was so unusual that not a single other girl seemed to be called by it.

Macushla loved her parents and had no difficulty asking them one quiet evening why they had chosen such a name for her. She had long suspected from the sound of it that it must be an Irish word. Whatever about their ancestors, her parents never learnt to speak the Irish language, but her mother, who had decided on the name Macushla, was happy to reveal its meaning for her.

"When I was a girl in Ireland," the mother reminisced, "most of the elders in our village used always address each of us as 'Macushla'. I presumed then that this was a sort of common pet name for children in general. I was quick to note that it was always used affectionately, and never in anger. Then one day I discovered the lovely meaning of the word, or rather, the words. 'Macushla' actually consists of two words, 'Mo' (meaning 'my') and 'cuisle' (meaning 'pulse' or 'heartbeat'). For me, this was perfectly appropriate and happy discovery, because if anything was true about our family and most of the village families, in those far off, difficult days, it was that we children were loved. And when you were born, far far from the Emerald Isle, I felt that we should give you not the pet name but the real name, Macushla. You were our 'heartbeat' then, and you still are the very pulse of our living".

Who better than a woman can understand how every human being begins life as the 'heartbeat' of a mother? The hearts of a mother and an unborn child beat, as it were, in symbiotic union. They share a common life. Even when our God wanted to share our human living, he was 'born of a woman'. Mary never spoke the Irish language, but she certainly had a 'macushla' relationship with her son, Jesus.

We find that in families where the recognised and owned, the ever we have to search for the particularly to the mother's role in

The human race has come a long possible for a Jewish male to pray woman'. However, we still have recognition for all they are and

with men in the field of genetics, still depend on the woman to receive life into her womb; nurture it there in secret; to protect it with loving care; liberate it in birth; to nurse it towards independence.

I had the privilege recently to guide a group of teenage girls through a weekend retreat programme. As I normally do on such occasions, I wove many of the exercises and prayer experiences around the subject of female dignity. At one point the girls erupted in spontaneous applause which left me momentarily stunned. I was sure it could not have been because of any pearl of wisdom or twist of humour on my part. One girl pointed out later, to my still greater surprise, that "no one certainly no man, ever spoke to us like this before". Is it that the dignity of woman and her equality (before God) with men, is still a very well-kept secret? Those girls came from very good families and were attending a very good school. And yet there was in them a silent, unplayed symphony of which I chanced to strike but one sweet chord.

In the light of this experience I began to wonder if we had here an explanation for the haste with which many of our girls tumble headlong into unacceptable behaviour hoping to find there, satisfaction for their deep hunger and aching thirst. If by our silence we condone the insidious thinking that females are second-class, we have no right to be surprised or shocked when they tend to behave in a second-class way. We all live the labels that are hung on us.

When each of us was growing up in a family environment, we caught the values (truth, justice, love, equality, dignity, etc) that permeated the atmosphere. We learnt too, to respect the norms (club rules, routines, authority, courtesy, etiquette, etc) that protect these values. It is now our own upbringing. Let us not mistake norms for values. Let us develop a 'macushla' attitude to our children and tell them what is good and why. And when we encourage them to follow the path of goodness, let it be precisely because it is good, and not merely 'because your mother/father says so'.

Bro. Kevin Ward cfc



extraordinary mother-child bond is children grow up loved and treasured. If real school of love, it is to the family, and it, that we must direct our gaze.

way from the thinking in which it was 'Thank God that I was not... born as a very far to go before women receive due do. Scientific advances which half dispense

Editorial

THE FAMILY

*"I'm totally surrounded
by love."*



AS A SANCTUARY OF LOVE AND LIFE

More important than anything in the lives of parents is to develop a love relationship with their children which they, in turn can duplicate in their own homes. Any person who loves and is loved, enjoys a successful life no matter what the circumstances are.

Unfortunately, love is something everybody agrees with but defines differently. Often it means doing the right thing for them, taking proper care of them. But our love has to go beyond these things. There is no love without communication - do our children really feel understood? Do we feel understood by them?

LISTENING

Normal everyday occurrences provide a lot of barriers to communication. We are very busy people. We are also not often in the best mood. So often we hear the plaintive cry, "Mummy, you are not listening!" And you respond with, "Of course I'm listening, what were you saying?" The child can sense this distraction and preoccupation. The barrier could be that we don't consider what our child has to say as important, but if we use this occasion to respond and opine, it is amazing how valuable this can be to the child. Out of a listening relationship comes trust. Children believe they are accepted however inadequate they are and this is a most wonderful experience a human being can have.



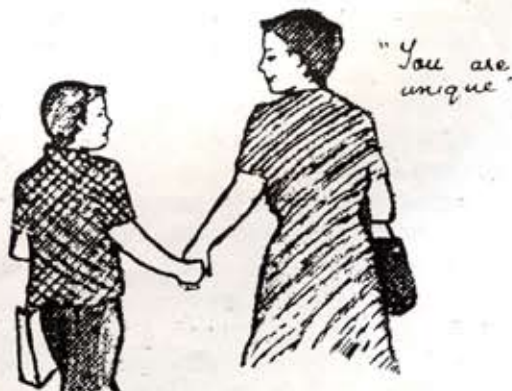
*"The greatest legacy we can leave
our children is memories of us."*

MEMORIES

Deeply embedded within us all are the memories of the experiences and feelings of our childhood. Many of the things you do now are instinctive reactions to past experiences. For our children, the way we live today, our actions, happy events and life today are all the stuff of memories for them some years hence. This realisation allows us to choose the kind of memories you would like your child to have. The way we speak, the persons we interact with, our celebration of milestones will comprise our children's memories. And just as often we wish we did not have some negative memories we can attempt to see that our children are saved from them too.

REPLAY

It is so easy to typecast our children. "He's like his Dad," and "She's a bit of both". In real terms this is never fully so. This sort of comparison limits the child's potential and puts an unnecessary burden of expectation on him. Our children are unique human beings who are influenced by the way we think, behave, live and love. To that extent they may appear like their parents and some physical features too. But their distinctness will blossom only in an atmosphere where this truth is not resisted but accepted and encouraged.



Dr. Olinda Timms

A CALL OF LOVE

*You filled, our hearts with love and peace
Oh, Mother, Mother Teresa,
You loved and gave them a reason to live
You gave your life for the poor,
For the poorest of the poor..*

so sang Usha Uthup, the well known Calcutta pop singer. Who are the poor? They are those who suffer spiritually or physically in our neighbourhoods. The Mother speaks of the lack of love in modern family life, the tragedy of abortion, society's need to care for the abandoned and unwanted children, the plight of lepers in the Third World countries and the scourge of AIDS.

We live in a world where there is hunger, not only for a piece of bread, but also for LOVE. People feel unwanted, unloved, uncared for. Why? We are too busy. We have no time even to smile at each other. We have even less time to pray together. We have even less time to stay together, to satisfy the need we have for each other's company. Take love, peace and joy into the heart of your family! Love begins at home. And when you share that love it will bring peace into your midst as well. The family that prays together, stays together. And if you stay together, you will love one another as Jesus loves each person in your family.

Resist the greatest destroyer of peace. Abortion has become the greatest destroyer of peace. It destroys love. It destroys the image of God. It destroys the conscience of the mother.

A child is a gift of God. I feel that the poorest country is the country that kills the unborn child to be able to have extra things and extra pleasures. They are afraid to have to feed one more child. If you do not want the child, give him/her to me. She promised to care for the child and find a married couple who would have the child and be loved by the child. And she did. She has given in adoption more than 8000 children in India. "If we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another?" In contrast to those who have only death to offer to the suffering, disabled and elderly, Mother Teresa gave love and practical care to the sick and dying, with respect for both spirit and body, and true dignity in their journey to natural death. "If you want to do something beautiful for God, look to your own family and at the poor around you. Nationality doesn't matter, colour doesn't matter. Being rich or poor doesn't matter. That person is your brother or your sister. And how do we know this? Because Jesus said: "Whatever, you do to the least of my brethren, you do to me" (Mathew 25:40). May the words of Mother Teresa simmer in our hearts and make love and life a reality in this world of ours.

Excerpts from her book "Loving Jesus"



**PATRONESS OF THE
UNBORN AND
THE VULNERABLE**

ADOPTION

The Joy of being parents...again
.....

*"Not flesh of my flesh not bone of my bone
But miraculously... my very own."*

We have been asked so very often.... "Why did you adopt children when you have your "own" and we say "I don't know. It is just something that we wanted to do." But there is something that we do know and that is the joy, that our children who came to us so differently, have brought us.

Our children are unique gifts from God.. each uniquely wrapped, each so different from the rest. Our five arrived in two different types of wrappings...one biological and one adopted...But somehow over the years the colour

and design of the wrappings have merged into one and today we cannot tell the difference and more than that....have forgotten that they were once different.

That was the **first joy** of adoption...the unwrapping of a special gift...and the discovery of our own little daughter....

But why? Was it charity? Was it...What was it...? It was just a decision to love and the rest came easily. And then we learnt of our **second joy**...that when you give unconditional love...you receive love more than you

dreamt was possible.

But who is her real mother? The little lady down the road asks... I sit and wonder...I was there when she woke up and cried at night. I was there on her first day of school and I cried more than she did. I was there when she fell and I mopped up that miniscule graze. I was there when she experienced her first failure in life and I sat there and waited and waited only to hear someone ask "But do you know her real mother?"

"Of course I do.....She is right here, you silly lady...she is right here..."

Giving birth is just a procedure, being a mother is an experience. And that brings us to our **third joy**...knowing that you can give birth through physical labour or through a labour of love and both are equally joyful.

But what about your sons..do they mind?

Of course they do...When they use their tapes without permission. When the bathroom is left wet, When all the usual sibling rivalries arise...we thank God for normalcy and for our **fourth joy**...the knowledge that our children are accepted...and why not?

But are you going to tell them that they are adopted? Of course we have. Have we not told our biological children that they are biological?

Our **fifth joy**...it isn't always easy....but it is not important that we were not there at the start of her life but it is important that we are there now...and what a joy that is...

But is it easy? Not always. Our child has absorbed elements of her environment - the fears, tension, rejection, anxiety, anger and pain of her biological mother. She did not have the security of being invited, nurtured, and supported in love at the start of her life. But God heals if we let him and that is our **sixth joy**...knowing that we have someone up above to help us along the way.

What do we expect of the future?

What we wish for all our children...a life filled with joy, peace and the love of God...our **sixth joy**...a hope for the future...that in our twilight years we can smile at each other and say "it was a job well done and we did it together". We thank God.

Never forget...Not even for a minute
that you were not born...under my heart
but in it!

Adoption is an option that you may offer pregnant mothers who for some reason are unable to cope with another child. I believe that we have to have a proactive solution instead of constantly emphasising the sin of abortion and its repercussions. Can we offer a solution to a woman who is desperate and to whom no amount of counselling will bring solace unless there is a light at the end of the tunnel?

This is a story of a couple who did adopt. A beautiful option to abortion.

Dr. Aloma & David Lobo.

THE GREAT THAILAND EXPERIMENTS: WHY CONDOMS SHOULDN'T BE USED TO FIGHT AIDS

PHILIPPINES- A recent meeting of the ASEAN task force on AIDS noted the continued opposition of the region's conservative societies and resolved to promote more aggressively the use of condoms to stem the disease. It held up Thailand's efforts to promote the condom as a model for the rest of the region. "Everyone looks at what happened to Thailand," Reuter quoted an Indonesian official as saying. "They have a lot to share with us".

Presumably, the Philippine government, which has increasingly ignored the religious and cultural sensibilities of Filipinos by advocating the use of condoms and even by having some public school students instructed on how to use them, shares the view that Thailand is the best model to fight AIDS.

But is it really? Alas, no. Thailand is the region's **worst** AIDS case, with more than **one million Thais** projected to be infected with the HIV virus by the year 2000. Thailand's number-one fan, **Indonesia**, has the next worst case with around **750,000** cases by the end of the decade, followed by **Vietnam** with **300,000** cases. "Conservative" societies like the Philippines and Malaysia will have 90,000 and 30,000 cases, respectively.

For medical practitioners like me, the trumpeting of Thailand as the region's best AIDS-prevention performer is insane.

Widespread condom promotion

Thailand was ahead of the region in starting widespread condom promotion. As early as the 1970s, it had been distributing condoms to prostitutes, their clients, and just about everyone-including children with no knowledge of the sexual act. The popular Thai health minister earned the sobriquet "Mr. Condom" for his creative ways of promoting the "rubber" by demystifying it. Many of us still remember him blowing a condom and popping it like a balloon during a talk at the Asian Institute of Management. He even got a Magsaysay Award for his campaign.

But all the awards given him and the praises heaped on him by an adulatory media won't sugar-coat the fact that Thailand is losing the battle against AIDS. Thousands are dying in Thailand because of an irresponsible campaign that views illicit sex as alright just as long as it is "safe". Thousands of Filipinos will die too if the government persists in its "safe-sex" campaign.

The reason is simple. The condom is not fool-proof protection either against pregnancy or HIV. It has a failure rate of 12 to 18 percent in preventing pregnancy. Some studies even show a failure rate of up to 30 percent.

HIV: smaller than sperm

Presumably the failure rate for AIDS prevention is higher

because HIV is much smaller than sperm. This fact was driven home during the uproar in 1992 when the Washington, D.C. government passed out condoms in the public schools in a campaign to make "sexual" relations with HIV carriers safe".

C.M. Roland, head of the Polymer Properties Section of the Naval Research Laboratory on rubber, chemistry and technology, criticized the move. "Because the AIDS virus is in order of magnitude smaller than the sperm, the situation is actually worse," he said, explaining that the virus is only 0.1 micron in size.

Roland added: **"Moreover, there exists direct evidence of voids in rubber-comprising condoms.**

Electron micrographs reveal voids of 5 microns in size (50 times larger than the virus), while fracture mechanics analyses, sensitive to the largest flaws present, suggest inherent flaws as large as 50 micron (500 times the size of the virus)."

Another reason why the condom fails is improper handling. **Latex condoms can be damaged through exposure to air pollution, heat and light, azone and humidity. In the sexual act itself, condom slip-page and breakage rates are as high as 15 percent.**

Ingredient for disaster

Many condom advocates, in and out of government, are now urging that children be educated in the use of condoms. In fact, there are reports that students in some public schools in Manila and Cebu are taking part in pilot projects by the education department to promote condom use. This is a sure ingredient for disaster, partly because it rests on the thin hope that young people will use condoms reliably.

Parents may well wonder whether children who sometimes forget closing the door behind them can ever remember to use a condom while in the heat of passion. And if they do, can they use it correctly?

Even the most "modern" of societies with long experience in contraception aren't exemplary in the proper use of condoms. Witness the United States, where leader of value-free sex education and promotion of contraception and abortion among her young people have not exactly brought about a decreased incidence of teenage pregnancies, much less a decline in AIDS cases. For that matter, witness Thailand.

What seems to have been overlooked by our health planners is that massive condom promotion in Thailand

goes hand-in-hand with the massive sex tourism which has underpinned that country's fantastic growth since the 1970s. Uncritical Filipinos always marvel at the Thais for not having any "hangs" about casual sex and point to their Buddhist religion – presumably open-minded, as contrasted with "medieval" Catholicism—as the cause. But as shown by the Thai government's aggressive promotion of condoms and prostitution, the reason is not cultural or religious, but commercial.

Kid-glove treatment of prostitution

Considering our government's kid-glove treatment of prostitution, we may not be too far behind Thailand. In fact, health workers are reputed to be working double-time to distribute condoms to prostitutes. Moreover, red-light districts have sprouted in Manila and Cebu, the prostitution dens operating with protection from corrupt police and local officers. These places are even built near schools without the authorities raising a finger.

Now, even the schools are slowly becoming part of the sex industry. With the gradual introduction of amoral sex-education modules that instruct children in the use of condoms and other contraceptives, with the bombardment of young people with "safe-sex" messages in the media, the government is condoning casual sex and (indirectly) mercantile prostitution.

Instead of teaching the young the right values and

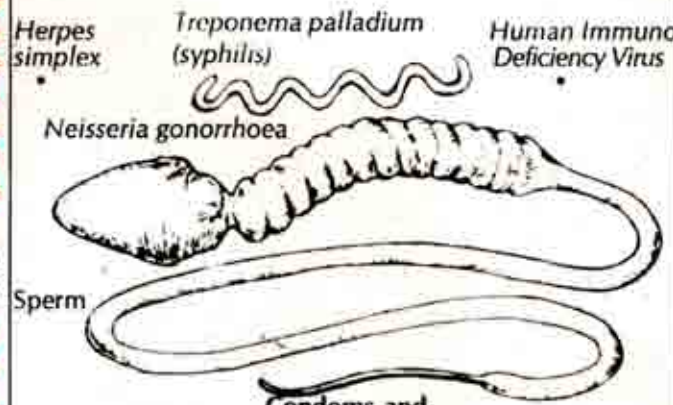
the proper regard for the sexual act, our government is using the schools and the media to cheapen sex. The beneficiary of all this is sex tourism. We don't know if this is part of the Ramos administration's moral recovery program."

Thus, it behooves parents to establish their own "moral recovery program". They should not allow their children to fall prey to the government's "safe-sex" promotion, which is a mask for its alliance with white slavery.

The condom and other contraceptives are protection neither against "unwanted" pregnancy nor AIDS. The most effective protection is chastity, the proper regard for the sexual act, which only practicing Christian parents can teach their children. Good parents know that sex is neither "safe" nor "unsafe". It is either moral or immoral.

Dr. Orestes Monzon

Comparative Sizes of Human Sperm and Common STD Viruses



Condoms and Sexually Transmitted Diseases

When one speaks about condoms stopping the HIV virus, few people realize the size of what we are talking about. The above diagram of relative sizes is taken from John Hopkins University, Population reports, Vol. XVIII, No. 3, Series H, No. 8, September 1990. The human sperm can only be seen under a microscope. If sperm can escape, how much easier for the other viruses shown above and for the HIV virus shown on comparative scale above.

Pro-Life News

A RIGHT TO LIFE

Live-In-Experience

Three Jesuit novices Prashant, David and Reginald completed a one month live-in experience in BOSCO on 4th February. During their stay in BOSCO, they took part in all the activities and had first hand experience of rag-picking and sale of Ad-Mag magazine along with the boys. Below, they share about their experience of identifying themselves with the rag-pickers.



"Early in the morning as we wore the dress of a rag-picker, many thoughts came into our minds. We were worried whether the public would respect us or may be the police would harass us. Having these kinds of fears, we pushed ourselves towards the insecure streets of Bangalore. In the beginning, it was very difficult for us to put our hands into the garbage pits where we found rotten things, worms and other unwanted things. Here we came to know about the difficulties of a rag picker. It is very dangerous to put our hands into a pit where there could be iron or glass pieces which can cause cuts and bruises. There is also a possibility of contracting diseases as the garbage pit is a haven for flies and other insects. As we were picking the rags no one came and spoke to us except the other

rag-pickers. The people around didn't even seem to notice us. In fact, some people just dumped their waste into the same pit where we were picking. It was apparant that the rag-pickers are not respected in our society. This experience enabled us to identify ourselves with the life of a rag-picker and enlightened our minds to respect them."

(Street Voice a Newsletter from BOSCO)

Bright Spark

Her chubby cheeks, thick black hair and sprightly body movements, reveal a spark of life that seems to be blooming again.

Selvi, (13 years), was found in K.R. Market a few months ago in a very pitiable state. The condition of her health, speech, personal hygiene and social behaviour, indicated that she had been severely neglected for many years. Most horrifying were the burn and bite marks all over her little body.



After five months in a secure, stable and caring environment, Selvi is only beginning to reveal the painful memories of her past. We, at Chaithanya do believe that with lots of love, a little professional help and healing power of time, she will emerge as a woman who believes in herself and in the future.

Chaithanya is the latest project of the Good Shepherd Sisters, whose charism is to work with disadvantaged girls. It

arose from a need felt to start an innovative project during their bi-centenary celebrations (1996-97). The project aims to provide a space and opportunity for adolescent street girls to develop themselves emotionally, economically and socially, so as to prepare them to integrate into the mainstream as confident independent persons. Our main activities include the provision of a home cum residential vocational training centre—Mamtha Nilaya, street contact and an Educational support programme for family based street girls who have been admitted into formal schools.

Though still at the initial stages, we are trying to build the culture of the organization on principles of participation, responsibility and accountability for both staff and children. After all, for girls who have survived on their own at such a young age, the spirit of independence and enterprise comes very naturally. We encourage partnership with committed persons/organisations and would like Chaithanya to evolve into a project which develops community responsibility.

Join hands and hearts with us. Help prove to the world that with loving, responsible service, these precious little girls can be enabled to utilise their inner strength and resilience, and gradually emerge as women of substance.

Mrs. Arlene Manoharan.

HELPLINES

SR. ANNUNCIATA

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(Alcoholics, HIV, AIDS)

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FOETAL AND NEWBORN INFANT EXPERIMENTATION

What is foetal experimentation?

Experimentation can be carried out on the living human foetus while he or she still lives in the womb. Experimentation can be carried out on the living human baby after delivery. If the experiment is done for the possible benefit of this specific living human (for example, trial of a drug in treatment), then it is ethical if the parents approve. If, however, the experiment is done with the intention of later killing this living human to find out information from the experiment, then a serious crime is committed against human rights.

Under what conditions can parents give consent for experimentation?

Parents who give consent for experimentation on their children are assumed to have concern for their child's welfare, and the hope has always been that such experimentation will benefit them.

Parents who give consent to have their children in the womb killed obviously have no such loving interest. Legal tradition through our country's history has always forbidden parents to injure or allow others to injure their child. That is what child-abuse laws are all about. If such experiment is not done to preserve the life or health of the baby, the parents should have no right to grant permission.

What of foetal surgery?

New advances in intrauterine foetal surgery have only added more proof that there are two patients to be concerned with. A recent, dramatic example of treatment of the preborn patient occurred in London's King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry:

"A 28-year-old pregnant woman had history of four previous foetal deaths from severe Rh disease. In the current pregnancy she was watched closely. At 18 weeks gestation, ultra-sound exam showed foetal scalp edema (swelling) and large pericardial effusions (fluid in the sac around the heart) indicating serious Rh trouble.

"Fresh packed blood, group O-Rh negative, was transfused into the baby through the umbilical cord artery at 18 and 19 weeks. During the second transfusion the unborn baby's heart slowed and then stopped. This was detected by the ultrasound.

"Under ultrasonic guidance, the mother was turned on her left side and the foetal heart was massaged by the fingers of the doctor. In three minutes, the heart began beating again.

"The unborn baby was transfused again at 23 weeks, 26 weeks and 29 weeks. At 32 weeks gestation (seven months), a normal infant was delivered".

British Med. Jour., vol.288, 1984, pp. 900-901

What of foetal transplants?

Transplantation of foetal organs into the body of a born person should observe the same ethical norms as for organs from born persons. These include:

- Proper permission, ie: from parents who have loved and offered proper care to keep the unborn baby alive and well. If the parent is part of the killing team, she surrenders any moral right to give such permission.

- The newly developed baby must be dead (there are definition of death laws in most states) before any organs are removed.

- One cannot kill a baby (in or out of the uterus) to get an organ.

"Utter helplessness demands utter protection".

NARFL is on the INTERNET

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/2960/martha.htm>

To

The Secretary,

National Association For Respect For Life,
C/o St. Martha's Hospital,
Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore GPO 560 001

Dear Sr. Annunciata,

I am glad to collaborate with you in your noble venture of promoting the worth and dignity of every human being. As a sign of my appreciation and solidarity, I enclose Rs..... as my donation/subscription to RELIEF newsletter.

Subscription to RELIEF is Rs. 50 per annum. Kindly pay the subscription to enable us to send you the newsletters.

Yours sincerely,

Name:

Address:

.....Phone

(Cheques/DD/MO to be drawn in favour of National Association for Respect For Life)

Dated:

? DID YOU KNOW ?

- ❖ that over 50,000 abortion-murders take place every day in India?
- ❖ that the unborn child also enjoys equal status with an adult before God?
- ❖ that the Church does not allow abortion on any ground?
- ❖ that the Church does not accept contraception?
- ❖ that any deliberate attempt to end or shorten life is not allowed by the Church?
- ❖ that the Natural Family Planning methods offer safe ways to responsible parenthood?
- ❖ that medical experimentations with human embryos, genetic engineering, invitrofertilization, clonning, amniocentesis, organ transplant, euthanasia etc. are against Christian ethics and laws?
- ❖ that a mother has no right to kill the unborn baby as it is not her own body but the body of another human person?
- ❖ that 20 percent of all maternal deaths are from abortions. (maternal mortality rate in India is 459 per every one lakh)?
- ❖ that one in every three teen-age abortions have complications which might prevent the girl from having children again?
- ❖ that abortion of female fetuses and female infanticides in India are responsible for the declining male-female ratio which was 927 females against 1000 males in 1991 (972 in 1901)?
- ❖ that due to low birth-rates and uncontrolled abortions, the whole of the West is already virtually dying out.

The National Association for Respect For Life is a non-profit, secular organisation of people from all walks of life, united in a common goal - which is to promote life in all its stages-from conception to death, and to act against all that would lessen human dignity.

NARFL believes that every human is precious and unique in the eyes of God and the human family.

The association is concerned with issues like Abortion, Child Labour, Drug Addiction, Alcoholism, Suicide, Battered Wives, Dowry Deaths, the Plight of the Disabled, Euthanasia and AIDS.

For more information call 2275081 or write to us at the address given alongside.

Tell us how you'd like to help

- By making a contribution
- Becoming an active member
- Giving of your time
- Prayer

I'd just like
to say.....

I am glad to inform you that in all our Sabhas, the topics of Pro-Life and the evil of abortion and euthanasia are taken up and discussed. Also in our annual Pastoral meeting of Priests and Sisters, we assess the promotion of human life and its dignity, so also the evil of abortion among our people. We have also celebrated a Pro-life day in all the parishes of our diocese.

Fr. Walter Gomes SFX
Vicar General, Bishop's House,
Andamans, India.

We, the students of St. Martha's School of Nursing, thank you for giving us the opportunity to take part in Awareness cum Cultural Fest "TOWARDS A BETTER SOCIETY", organised on 4th & 5th October 1997. It was well-organised and we enjoyed every moment of it. There was a lot of enthusiasm, originality, innovative ideas and good team spirit among all of us.

The SNA

The participants greatly admired Sr. Annunciata's zest for her pro-life commitment, Respect for Life on 18th and 19th October 1997 at St. Joseph's Boy's School Hall where college students were invited to participate in a series of competitions - singing, elocution, collage making et al as part of the Inter-Collegiate Awareness cum Cultural Programme.

The Times of India.

HELP CONTINUE OUR MINISTRY!

*When you've finished reading this newsletter,
please pass it on to a friend or relative!*

We welcome your comments, reactions and responses to the articles in this issue of RELIEF. Do send in your own articles, letters & testimonies to the address given below.

NARFL

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