

International Life Services



LIVING WORLD ONLINE MAGAZINE

SPECIAL FEATURES INCLUDE:

ATI PREPARATION GUIDE

SPECIAL FEATURE – SISTER PAULA 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

MINISTERING TO THOSE WOUNDED BY ABORTION

THE LINK BETWEEN CONTRACEPTION AND ABORTION

SPRING/SUMMER 2018



INTERNATIONAL LIFE SERVICES

Making A Difference Together

About Us

International Life Services (ILS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1985 to promote Judeo-Christian values applied to family life, sexuality, and bioethical issues.

Our Purpose

We seek to carry out our basic philosophy in a compassionate, practical and effective manner through research, information, service, and education.

Our Principles

-) God is the Author of Life and God alone terminate life.
-) Promotion of the sanctity of and respect for human life includes protecting the unborn, abused, aged, handicapped, suffering, dying and needy members of our society.
-) Alternatives to abortion are of paramount importance.
-) The family is held in high esteem as the cornerstone of society.
-) Premarital chastity is seen as a necessity for moral, spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being.
-) We support the proper use of Natural Family Planning and oppose contraception or any other form of reproductive technological interventions which separate the unitive and procreative aspects of marriage, or which violate the natural right to life.



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A Day in Court – Thoughts from Sister Paula

On March 20, 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the *NIFLA v. Becerra* case wherein the California pregnancy centers challenged the 2015 state law requiring that centers be involved in referring people for abortion.

Sisters Beth, Raquel, and myself went back to Washington D.C. to attend a rally that was held outside the Supreme Court while our lawyers presented our case inside the courtroom. It was very cold and rained continuously the entire time. The local Students for Life slept outside all night in the pouring rain to ensure that we had a place to demonstrate on the sidewalk in front of the building. Their presence was very inspiring to me as I realized anew that our movement will never be defeated. There are too many of us, and young and old are willing to make sacrifices and come together to see to it that our work continues.

As our lawyers argued the case in court, the rally outside was attended by a number of pro-life center supporters and a smaller number of our opponents. I, and a number of others, spoke briefly at the rally. Our opponents set up a loud speaker and pointed it at us. They shouted into it so that there were two people speaking into a microphone at the same time. Naturally this disturbed all the presentations. We kept on, speaking and praying and not paying attention to them.

After two hours they all suddenly disappeared. I suspect that many of them were paid demonstrators. I was proud that 11 people came from our International Life Service's Centers. We had representation from La Habra, Rosemead, Mission Hills and



City Life Center in Minnesota. Sisters Beth, Raquel and I were all in attendance.

Our lawyers reported that they felt well received and had confidence that we will win the case. It was presented as a free speech case not an anti-abortion case. Nothing was argued about abortion. The issue was compelled speech. Can the State compel us to say something we don't want to say? Many liberal judges do not generally agree with compelled speech.

The Alliance Defending Freedom lawyers presented the case before the Supreme Court. They have a very good record of winning cases before the Supreme Court. Check them on the internet and see their past successes. I feel we have the best lawyers possible and of course NIFLA lawyers were in support as well.

Then on June 26, the Court decided and we won by a 5-4 vote. Thanks to our lawyers and thanks to you for the prayers. Most of all thanks to God who continues to protect the work that He gives to us. God bless you all.

Sister Paula

President's Message – Life Counts

By Dennis De Pietro

The Supreme Court's 5-4 decision striking down the "FACT Act" in *NIFLA vs. Becerra* is cause to celebrate. It is a time to thank God for all those who worked so hard and refused to give up the battle against this unjust law. The image of Sr. Paula and Sr. Beth standing with a group of pro-life women and men in a bitter cold, rainy morning in front of the U.S. Supreme Court exemplifies the dedication, courage and love which all pro-lifers share.

Justice Kennedy's opinion was that, "This law is a paradigmatic example of the serious threat presented when government seeks to impose its own message in the place of individual speech, thought, and expression. For here the State requires primarily pro-life pregnancy centers to promote the State's own preferred message advertising abortions. This compels individuals to contradict their most deeply held belief grounded in basic philosophical, ethical, or religious precepts, or all of these".



This is a time to reflect on why many people cannot understand that this issue is not about agendas, power or control, but about life. How is it possible that four Justices dissented? Archbishop José Gomez, the 2017 International Life Services (ILS) Nemecek Award recipient, said that there is "a mistaken idea that all issues are morally equivalent, and, of course they are not". The sanctity of life, the right to life, is the first right. It is what compels us to compassionately empower a mother and father into parenthood.

We at International Life Services are passionate about the sacredness of life and work hard to keep this right. We are very blessed to acknowledge the newest members to the ILS Board of Directors: **Edy Bernal** is the Executive Director of the Mission Hills Pregnancy Counseling Center. Edy is our Board Secretary. **Rose Marie Erickson** has spent her life in pro-life counseling. Rosie is involved with fundraising. **Dan Mansueto**, an attorney who has provided assistance to many of the Centers, is currently challenging the right to die legislation here in California. Please read his article in this issue. **Mari Wingate** is Executive Director of the LivingHelp Center. Mari also contributes to Living World Online. We are grateful for their work for International Life Services.

In Gratitude,
Dennis De Pietro
President of the Board

Spotlight – 50 Wonderful Years

From Sister Paula Vandegaer, L.C.S.W

In 2017 I celebrated 50 years of work in the pro-life movement. What a wonderful experience that has been and is still continuing to be. I would like to share with you a little of God's work in getting me involved.



November of 1968, California "liberalized" its abortion laws supposedly legalizing abortion for only a few rare cases; rape, incest, and life of the mother.

When this new bill was debated in the California legislature I never thought such a thing would pass, however, and I helped the people who were lobbying the legislature to pass out information and educate the California public. Much to my surprise, it passed the legislature and was sent to Governor Ronald Reagan for his signature.

Before the signature, Libby Goodwin, an L. A. social worker and prominent doctor from Ventura went to Sacramento for a 15-minute visit with the Governor to discuss this bill. The visit lasted one and a half hours as they explained to him the ramifications of the bill. They said during this session his aides kept coming in and urging him to stop the interview because he had an appointment in San Francisco and was going to be late.

Ronald Reagan told them that the original bill had a provision for abortion when there was a defect of the baby and he had objected to that, so they had taken that out. Then the author of the bill, Anthony Bielson, agreed that he would pass the Governor's budget only if Reagan signed the bill so he had to sign it, saying that he would never get involved with anything like this again. Much later in a press conference, he stated that this bill was the one thing he regretted from his time in office.

It quickly became easy to get an abortion. All you had to do was declare that you were going to commit suicide if you had to have your baby. With supposed verification of this threat you could have an abortion.

I am a licensed Clinical Social Worker and at that time I worked in an adoption agency. One of my clients needed financial assistance and I sent her to the welfare department. Upon her return she appeared upset. She said she told them she was placing her baby for adoption and the welfare worker asked why she was doing that instead of having an abortion. Abortion was new and it was safe and legal.

My client said she thought there was human life there and thought that abortion was not a good idea. The welfare worker asked why she thought that way, saying that it's only tissue at the early stages. She said she really didn't know why she thought that, maybe her mother or

Spotlight – 50 Wonderful Years

Continued from previous page

her religion. The welfare worker explained to her that now she was grown up and she could no longer rely on her mother. She had to think for herself and that many girls have abortions and it's fine.

When she came to see me, she was confused and wondered what was wrong with her, thinking that she had "old fashioned and dependent" ideas. We had quite a long discussion and she decided there was nothing wrong with her if she placed her baby for adoption. This experience and others helped me realize the pressures women face in deciding to have a baby and I realized we had to find a way to reach out to them.

There was a group of women who were former girl-scout leaders in Whittier, California who realized that there was a new threat to their children and they wanted to start a hot line to reach out to women. The local, newly formed Right to Life League asked me to train them. I organized three other professional social workers; Dave Rudolph, Mary Hogan and Anne Metacheccia. We met every two weeks for three months to brainstorm on how to properly train lay people to counsel. I wrote our findings up and it later became the first training manual in the country. Thus, the first pregnancy service in Southern California under the leadership of Margaret Nemecek began in Whittier in 1971.

I have had the privilege of assisting with hundreds more centers and have done training for center staff in almost every state in the union plus three other



countries. I have created numerous videos and training manuals and wrote the first ever pregnancy-counseling textbook. I have also trained thousands of pregnancy center workers. They are not professional counselors but they are all educated according to the National Association of Social Worker code of Ethics and they provide support and encouragement of the highest quality.

The hundreds of pro-life centers across the country composed of women and men are just like the early girl-scout leaders. They volunteer their time and efforts and give service where needed.

The centers all dedicate themselves to helping women choose parenting and to be good moms within a nurturing family environment. We counsel women long after the birth of the baby for as long as the woman desires until this new family is secure.

Spotlight – 50 Wonderful Years

Continued from previous page

Women think of abortion when they feel uncertain about themselves or their situation. They feel they can't handle it. When they come to the center they are helped not just materially with food, legal help, clothes, baby formula housing etc. but also emotionally to draw on their strengths and maternal instincts.

Women do not choose abortion out of a desire to do something good but out of a fear that they can't have a baby and survive. Abandonment by the father of the baby is often an element in the decision. Supportive care can help them regain their courage and figure out a positive outcome. We also assist the young fathers to step up to the plate and act responsibly for their new baby.

People in the movement are energized by the knowledge that we do not abandon the girl to an abortion. Of course, if she wants one she can go and have an abortion, but our experience is that most young women choose abortions out of fear, not out of desire. When we deal with the fear, they universally choose life.

What a joy it has been to be involved with so many great people in such an important movement. Our reward is a new baby and a happy mother. Praise God.



Life-Affirming Centers Thrive Despite Opposition

By Anne J. O'Connor, J.D.

V.P. of Legal Affairs for NIFLA

National Institute of Family & Life Advocates

August 28, 2017, Revised May 15, 2018

Life-affirming pregnancy centers have been targeted by the pro-abortion industry and its supporters for decades. Dating back to the 1980s, pregnancy centers have been attacked by the media, newspapers, magazines, the pro-abortion lobby, as well as state and local governing bodies. Pregnancy centers have not only survived these assaults, they have thrived through every negative media campaigns and fake client lawsuits, as well as one-sided congressional hearings. Through all these battles, one thing rings resoundingly true; what the pro-aborts meant for harm has actually made the pro-life centers better and stronger just as Holy Scripture in Genesis 50:20 tells us: *You intended to harm [us], but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*

A perfect example of this is when the Right to Life League of Southern California was sued by feminist attorney Gloria Allred back in the 1980s. I was on the Board of Directors at the time. Allred sued us for numerous claims such as intentional infliction of emotional distress and false imprisonment, but the only claim that stuck was the one alleging that we were practicing medicine without a license because we were giving pregnancy test results to clients. The Judge held that if we wanted to give pregnancy test results, we had to be medically licensed. We were

devastated at the time with the Judge's ruling. In addition, he ordered us to pay Allred \$40,000 in attorney's fees.

It all worked out for good, however, because that defeat sparked the entire medical conversion movement. We figured if we need to be medical to give pregnancy test results, what other medical services could we provide? The answer: Ultrasounds to confirm pregnancy and provide the mother with an opportunity to see and bond with her child for the first time – in the womb! I can tell you with absolute certainty that what Allred and her pro-abortion advocates meant to hurt us actually turned out to accomplish what is now being done at thousands of life-affirming medical facilities nationwide – the saving of many lives because of the use of ultrasound. Without Allred's suit, we might not have moved in that direction. One day I hope to thank Allred personally for being used by God to push us into this very effective life- saving work.

Over these years we can attest to the great work pregnancy centers have been doing across the nation. Abortion statistics are on a downward trend – in 1990 there were 1.6 million – 25 years later in 2015 there were 900,000- still devastatingly too high, but at least decreasing. Today there are more life-affirming pregnancy centers than abortion



Life-Affirming Centers Thrive Despite Opposition

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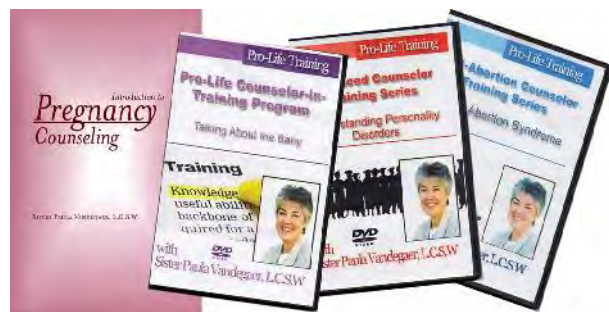
clinics. We outnumber abortion clinics 3-1 (750 abortion clinics and 2500 pregnancy centers). National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA), where I have the privilege of working, is the legal arm of the pregnancy center movement, and today we have approximately 1,400 center members, 1,100 of which are medical facilities providing life-saving medical services to women facing unplanned pregnancies.

The attacks, however, continue. Many pregnancy centers have faced negative public relations attacks when the pro-abortion movement encouraged its supporters to attack their good work. The “Expose Fake Clinics” campaign attempted to harass centers by encouraging protests, fake clients and negative social media reviews. One of the organizers is a radical group called “Lady Parts Justice League” which describes itself as “a coven of hilarious badass feminists who use humor and pop culture to expose the haters fighting against reproductive rights.” Interestingly, a “coven” is defined as “a group or meeting of witches.” This is no surprise to us, as Scripture reveals that *“our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”* Ephesians 6:12. The battle we are fighting is the Lord’s.

Over the last decade, one of the greatest areas of contention for pregnancy centers is with legislation that requires them to post disclosures that violate their freedom of speech and religion. Most of

these cases have been resolved in favor of the pregnancy centers but the battles have been tough. Thankfully, the U.S. Supreme Court will be deciding a very important case by the end of June 2018 that should put this type of attack to rest for good.

The case before the Supreme Court is entitled *NIFLA v. Becerra* and challenges a 2015 California law that requires pro-life medical pregnancy centers to post disclaimers saying that the *“State of California has access to free or low-cost abortion and to call the provided number.”* Non-medical pregnancy centers are required to post a 29-word disclaimer that they *do not have any medical staff on site*. All the disclaimers have to be in multiple languages, and subject to very strict size requirements. In addition, the non-medical centers are required to post the disclaimer on all advertising in newspapers, emails, websites and internet. Non-compliance could trigger massive fines and penalties, which would severely hinder the work of such life-affirming ministries and possibly close them down. Both the federal district and 9th Circuit appeals court refused to enjoin the law and the Supreme Court took the case and heard oral argument on March 20, 2018. We expect their decision by the end of June.



Life-Affirming Centers Thrive Despite Opposition

Conclusion:

These laws are all clearly unconstitutional as they compel pro-life pregnancy centers to speak a message with which they are fundamentally opposed and to advertise the services that they do not provide. In essence, many of these laws require that life-affirming ministries become abortion referral agencies.

Meanwhile, life-affirming pregnancy centers keep faithfully serving at the front-lines where life and death decisions are made every day. We encourage centers to bravely fight against compliance with these unconstitutional laws, knowing with certainty that one day we will see how God uses what the pro-abortion industry meant to hurt us to accomplish His will in the saving of many lives.

By Anne J. O'Connor, J.D



The Connection Between Contraception and Abortion

By Sheila St. John

Visitors to our California Association of Natural Family Planning (CANFP) exhibit often stop and peruse a brochure we offer, perhaps curious as to the answer to the provocative question it poses: ***What do the Supreme Court, Planned Parenthood, and Mother Theresa all agree on?*** They need only read as far as the subtitle to learn, it is the connection between contraception and abortion.

Of course, while all three of these sources recognize the link between contraception and abortion, their perspective as to the significance of that link, and how best to respond, illuminates their drastically different perception of the problem and the solution.

Planned Parenthood asserts “the sharp distinction between abortion and contraception is more an ideological construction than a logical response to client’s needs. Abortion and contraception services must be integrated rather than dichotomized.”

What is interesting about the Supreme Court perspective is the understanding that contraception actually changes our perception of self: “In some critical aspects abortion is of the same character as the decision to use contraception...for two decades of economic and social developments people have organized intimate relationships and made choices that define their view of themselves and their places in society, in reliance on the availability of abortion in the event that contraception should fail.”

Planned Parenthood understands the connection, and concludes it is critical to integrate the two services. The Supreme Court concludes we must have abortion, precisely because we have come to rely on contraception.

The opinion of Mother Theresa? She once stated, “In destroying the power of giving life, through contraception, a husband or wife is doing something to self...it destroys the gift of love in him or her.” She goes on to say “Once that living love is destroyed, abortion follows very easy.” Her solution is that “the husband and wife must turn the attention to each other, as happens in Natural Family Planning, and not to self, as happens in contraception.”

Despite this consensus from all sides on the connection between abortion and contraception, in my experience, exposing this link in presentations, whether the audience is lay, healthcare professionals, or clergy, always invites at least one angry and aggressive response. Once at a Catholic Medical Guild meeting, I was approached after my brief talk by a “pro-life” OB/GYN so angry that I even mentioned Natural Family Planning that he could barely speak. He said it was precisely because he was pro-life, and did not do abortions, that he believed in contraception. My suggestion that the two are related only further enraged him.

It is not an uncommon misconception among “pro-lifers” that contraception is at the very least necessary, and in the minds of some, even good, as they believe it will prevent abortions.

The Connection Between Contraception and Abortion

The facts indicate otherwise. In reality, many forms of contraception are not just linked with abortion behaviorally or philosophically but are actually themselves abortifacients.

If we want to reduce abortions, then we must empower women and men by educating them about their fertility. Young women who understand how their bodies work, are knowledgeable about the phases of their menstrual cycle, and have a certain comfort level with reading their own bodies, will be less vulnerable to exploitation by clinics targeting them for contraception. Their confidence in the integrity of their own bodies and their concrete experience of their fertility inspires a deeper sense of appreciation and respect, forming a foundation for integrating the authentic connection between fertility, sex and babies, and a conviction to reserve the expression of it within the lifelong bond of marriage.



Sheila St. John is the Executive Director of the California Association of Natural Family Planning.

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A decorative poster with a light blue background and a floral border. The text is arranged as follows:

Save the Date

OCTOBER 6, 2018
11am - 3 pm

ANNUAL
FASHION SHOW
& LUNCHEON

The Wedgewood at
Sterling Hills
901 Sterling Hills Drive,
CA 93010

 **Life Centers**
of Ventura County

The poster features a large, light blue oval shape in the center, surrounded by a border of colorful flowers in shades of orange, yellow, blue, and red. The text is in various colors and fonts, with 'Save the Date' in a large, cursive font at the top.

Ministering to the Extended Wounded

Ministering to the "Extended Wounded" Who Have Been Hurt by Abortion

Contributed By Sydna Masse
Reprinted with permission

The fingers of abortion reach into many lives and cross all generational lines. It affects everyone whether they realize it or not. We often forget the extended wounded in the need to help the grieving post-abortive individual. Wounded family and friends don't even know where to go to get help. Some don't understand why they hurt so bad when the aborted baby's parents don't seem to be in pain.

Who Are the Extended Wounded?

Post-abortive women and men are considered directly injured by abortion. The extended wounded are impossible to count. They include, but are not limited to, the following demographic groups:

- Grandparents of the aborted child
- Siblings of the aborted child
- Siblings of the post-abortive individual
- Spouses of the post-abortive individual who are not the parent of the aborted child
- Pro-life individuals who work with the abortion-minded individual
- Friends and co-workers
- Youth ministers and pastors
- Medical personnel — doctors, nurses, staff
- And everyone else!

Virtually anyone who is remotely involved with an individual who aborts can suffer adverse effects from the abortion. Related individuals need an outlet for the stress and grief that abortion can bring to

their hearts. When they come to you seeking help for someone else, help them to acknowledge and address their own wounds in this loss. Begin by asking them, "Do you realize you've had a loss too?"

The level of extended pain often relates to their involvement in the abortion decision. Those who participated in or encouraged an abortion can feel a deeper level of guilt than those who didn't have an influence on the choice. It is heartbreaking to discover the abortion years after the fact and come to grips with the fact that their loved one did not turn to them in their time of need or trust them with their secret.

Learn about the importance of auditing your website. International Life Services' **ADVANCED TRAINING INSTITUTE 2018**

One of our workshops will feature Jacob Barr with an interactive presentation on **Website Audits**. Looking at a website under a microscope doesn't change what is there but it does expose opportunities for improvement. In this session, we will examine attendee websites to provide relevant and timely feedback. To get the most out of this session, please submit all of your organization's websites to Jacob@irapture.com. We will help you learn how to improve your website's position on google with SEO feedback. We will talk about your website's design and messaging in regards to how the user will interact with your site. And we will provide clear direction on how to increase your website's traffic. Asking questions through a website audit is exciting work because the result is that your online marketing is stronger! If you apply the training/feedback, you will be able to reach more people and save more lives.

Ministering to the Extended Wounded

Listen to Their Pain

You are valuable to others when you actively listen to them. Listening gives value back to the person and allows the pain and grief to come out of the hiding places of their hearts. It will also help you identify their feelings of anger, regret, shame, and guilt. You may never know what to say so don't feel pressured to say anything but do your best to be a friend to them and comfort them.

Share Your Faith

True healing is possible with the Lord. Be sure to share about God's true character of love and forgiveness that was given to us when Jesus died on the cross. Understand that even believers can misunderstand God's love!

When people are hurting they are more open to messages of faith when examining their emotions. They want the relief that Jesus can provide to their hearts. Your faith can help them when they are struggling.

Give Them Permission to Grieve

Individuals don't get over grief — they get through it. Lamentations 2:18-19 relays, "The hearts of the people cry out to the Lord. Oh, wall of the daughter of Zion, let your tears flow like a river day and night; give yourself no relief, your eyes no rest. Arise . . . pour out your hearts like water in the presence of the Lord . . . for the lives of your children."

For some reason the extended wounded may not feel like they have a "right" to grieve a child that wasn't their own. It is

possible to be so wrapped up in the pain that you cannot grieve.

Unexpressed grief can lead to other issues. God created us to cry. He dedicated a whole book of the Bible — Lamentations — to this process. Tears are the body's natural way to rid itself of toxins.

Encourage everyone involved in this pain to grieve for the child. Assure the individual that he or she isn't "going crazy" by being overwhelmed by emotion or tears. As relayed in Isaiah 61:2-3, God has sent you "to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning . . ."

Help Them Identify Their Emotions

Feelings betray us and could determine how our spiritual life is advancing or retreating. Sorrowful emotions put a cloud over our thinking abilities. If these emotions are not identified and surrendered, we can easily become bound to these sentiments.

Encourage the extended wounded to express their "gut level" perceptions to discover which is hurting them the most. Often when feelings of anger and guilt and unforgiveness issues are resolved, the others will follow in short order. Is there pride? Guilt? Sin? Anger? Betrayal? How are these emotions being acted out in everyday life?

We can't bring the baby back, but we can change our attitude and how we view

Ministering to the Extended Wounded

the people involved in the abortion decision. Encourage them to ask God to change bad attitudes and feelings and replace them with grace, mercy, empathy, love, and compassion.

Loving people who hurt us can be very difficult — especially if the offending person isn't repentant. Help them understand that with God's help we can do all things.

Ask Good Questions

Asking good questions will help piece together the broken story of abortion. Questions help the person who is sharing by letting them know you are really listening and that you validate their feelings. They also clarify what you are hearing and clear up misunderstandings. Here are some examples of good questions:

- How did you feel deep inside when you found out about the abortion?
- Do you ever get angry with the post-abortive person now even though you've talked it through with them? How do you express this anger?
- How is your spouse handling this situation? Do these emotions affect you?
- When was the last time you heard God's voice?

By asking questions, you can help them pull out emotions they may not perceive. When a couple is going through the grief of an abortion, one can stifle their emotions while the other weeps openly in pain. Couples can also blame each other.

Always rely on the Holy Spirit's lead in knowing what questions to ask.

Help Them Understand Feelings of Guilt

Psalm 32:3-4 says, "When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped."

Feelings of guilt and shame often run together after an abortion. For example, parents who forced their child to abort need to realize that they bear a large part of the guilt of the abortion decision.

This dynamic changes for the person who tried to stop the abortion from taking place. A simple question like, "Do you feel guilty?" can help you determine to what extent this is impacting their heart. Confession is a great place to start relieving the burden.

Forgive First

Ephesians 4:22 says, "And be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each, just as God in Christ has also forgiven you."

Everyone needs to understand forgiveness as it relates to God, others, and themselves. It could be that the process of forgiving must be accomplished on a daily basis. Some days we struggle more than others to surrender this pain.

Many are furious at the abortion industry for victimizing their loved ones. Someone once said, "Having bitterness, anger, and unforgiveness is like drinking poison and hoping that the other person

Ministering to the Extended Wounded

dies.” These emotions don’t hurt anyone but ourselves.

Many also have difficulty forgiving themselves. Recognize these emotions as real and help them to understand how important forgiveness is in the plan of God’s salvation. Scripture is a great place to start in teaching this principle:

Forgiveness from God, Forgiving Others

Give Them a Hope for Their Future

A memorial service provides dignity and importance to the lost person and gives closure to the grieving. The services allow the focus to shift from the hurting to the missing. Post-abortion ministries should establish a special service for the extended wounded in your ministry. This time can be powerful for your staff as well as yourself.

The extended wounded should also be allowed to provide a name for the child in the parent’s stead. This name can become a “nickname” in the future if another name is given by the baby’s parent(s). Planting a tree or bush, releasing a balloon, or writing a poem/song is a great way to memorialize these children.

They Can Help Bring Others to God’s Healing

Whenever the extended wounded are in pain, they must know that healing is possible and they have a right to grieve despite the fact that the child wasn’t their own. When you share about the pain of abortion, be sure to include them so their pain will be validated as real. God’s blessing of healing can start with the extended wounded and migrate to the post-abortive individual and the entire family!

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Sydna Masse is director of Ramah International post-abortion counseling ministries and co-author of *Her Choice to Heal: Finding Spiritual and Emotional Peace After Abortion*.

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# Changing the World – One Person at a Time

## Staff Contribution – Thank You Mother Teresa

‘How can we change society for the better?’ is a question that can plague the hearts and minds of those who deeply care for our world and the people in it. We desire change which starts in the heart of each and every person but how can we bring it about? Perhaps we should look to Mother Teresa for inspiration in the matter.

Mother Teresa was a great heroine of the pro-life movement and is a model for us of compassionate care for the neediest among us. During her life, she was criticized for only caring for individuals and not doing anything about the social problems that give rise to poverty and sickness. In spite of the criticism, Mother Teresa kept her focus. Care and love for the *individual person* was her constant concern.

In fact, Mother Teresa did more than many others in changing social systems, public perception, and services. When she began her work in India there was great suspicion of all Christian religions. In the beginning, she had difficulty getting permission from the government to provide her many services. She was not Indian and she was a Christian besides. India has a caste system and she was serving all castes. But gradually as the government and the world began to see her work with *individuals*, public perception changed, not only about her, but also about Christianity. Social systems of caste and religion were challenged by her care of all individuals.

Perhaps this is a lesson for us in the pro-life movement. We have worked for so many years to change laws that legalize abortion. We have tried to educate the public about the reality of what goes on in abortion. We are dealing with a public that has as strong a bias about abortion as the bias of India about caste. Abortion has become an accepted part of our culture just as caste is an accepted part of Indian culture.

Perhaps we, who work in the counseling part of the movement, can take inspiration from Mother Teresa. The power of her ministry was not in numbers but in each individual that she touched. We counsel and assist one woman at a time. We run quiet agencies intent on service, not intent on making a public statement. Our intent is not to be an anti-abortion agency but rather a service agency for women.

As we continue our quiet, loving service:

- ) We challenge the public’s prejudice of the pro-life movement as violent, unloving, fanatical.
- ) We challenge a society in denial by our services to individual hurting men and women.
- ) We offer post abortion services and demonstrate that abortion does hurt women.
- ) We show that sexually active people can choose chastity.

Thank you, Mother Teresa, for your inspiration.

“Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching the people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. That is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion.” ~Mother Teresa

# New Ultrasound Device

## New Ultrasound Device Will Let Moms See Preborn Babies with Smartphones

The Times of Israel reports that a new “handheld ultrasound device” is in its finishing stages. It will “allow pregnant women to check on the health of their baby” by connecting to a smartphone. Created by PulseNmore LTD, this device is really designed to provide peace of mind to expectant mothers, as it “display[s] the images on its screen and send[s] them to the pregnant woman’s personal doctor for examination.”

Prof. Israel Meisner of Rabin Medical Center stated that “Women sometimes don’t feel movement, call their doctor and are told to go to an emergency room. Here there’s the option to put a phone on her stomach and see her baby.” This, the designers believe, could cut down on ultrasound costs for this reason. The device is not meant to be used as a diagnostic tool. While not yet fully approved in Israel, the company notes that the device has been successfully tested in the United States.

READ: ***Days before dying, terminally ill grandmother sees granddaughter on ultrasound***

Of course, pro-lifers can see the benefit of such technology as well. When many women who are considering abortion see their preborn babies on the ultrasound screen, they choose life. This is why the abortion industry isn’t a fan of informed consent laws requiring them to show women their ultrasounds, even though ultrasounds are considered standard procedure before an abortion to determine the gestational age and to rule out an ectopic pregnancy.



Planned Parenthood, America’s abortion industry leader which commits more than 320,000 abortions all by itself each year, uses ultrasound to learn the preborn baby’s gestational age to decide which abortion technique to use. Planned Parenthood has been caught deceiving women about their ultrasounds and has

# New Ultrasound Device

refused to show women the ultrasounds of their preborn babies.

This new ultrasound device allows women to see the reality that their babies indeed have heartbeats (as early as 16 days after conception) and other easily recognizable body parts early in the first trimester. Women could very soon be empowered to see for themselves the truth about the child in the womb.

The device is only designed to be used for up to 25 ultrasound checks and should retail for around \$190, not including the cost of a physician examining the images.

Contributed by Life News



# Spotlight – Free Women’s Center of Pulaski County

Founded in 2010, the Free Women’s Center (FWC) is a Christian Pro-Life crisis pregnancy center that empowers as many individuals as possible to make healthy life choices consistent with the intrinsic value of human life. Located outside Fort Leonard Wood, the FWC is the first center in Missouri to affiliate with International Life Services.

*“Since we adopted Sister Paula Vandegaer’s pregnancy counseling book, to train our client advocates, it was an easy decision to join International Life Services,”*  
according to George Heib, Executive Director.

Since its inception, the FWC has constantly sought to expand services. They offered their first sexual risk avoidance classes in public schools in May 2011 and their first ultrasound in October 2011. As the center’s support base has grown, its Board of Directors decided to begin planning for a maternity home in the spring of 2016. When it opens, *The Nativity House* will serve clients throughout their pregnancy and up to their child’s first birthday or 60 days after placing their child for adoption.

In March, George Heib testified in favor of Missouri Senate Bill (SB) 1017 before the Senate Committee on Seniors, Families, and Children. SB 1017 adds “unborn children” to household size for purposes of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility benefits. The FWC has noted many clients enter our Alternatives to Abortion (A2A) Program with nutritional deficiencies because of homelessness, abuse or substance use disorders. This deficiency directly impacts the ability to nurse newborns. Increasing a pregnant woman’s nutritional intake will positively affect the birthing outcome and her ability to nurse her newborn.



George Heib and Kimberly Lowe, Board Legal Advisor, review the architectural drawings at the future site of *The Nativity House*. Ms. Lowe donated five acres for this life-affirming project.

On May 7<sup>th</sup> of 2018, the FWC conducted its first mobile operations. Teaming with affiliate members of Missouri’s Alliance for Life, the FWC will host clinics in surrounding counties. One such location will be adjacent to a “Family Planning Center,” where the abortion pill is administered. In June 2018, the FWC will double its floor space to meet the needs of its ever-growing client base. This expansion will include an STD counseling suite with STD testing to begin in July.

God has blessed the Free Women’s Center. Like a mustard seed, it had a humble beginning. Now, the children it has saved from abortion play in the shade of its branches.

## Contact Information

Email: [director@freewomenscenter.com](mailto:director@freewomenscenter.com)

Website: [www.supportmyfwc.com](http://www.supportmyfwc.com)



# Spotlight – Assisted Suicide Statute Unconstitutional

## Court Rules That California's Physician-Assisted Suicide Statute Is Unconstitutional

In May a Riverside County Superior Court judge ruled that California's Physician-Assisted Suicide statute is unconstitutional. California Attorney General Xavier Bacerra immediately filed papers in the Court of Appeal asking the Court of Appeal to immediately put a hold on the Riverside County Court's decision and also to reverse it. The Court of Appeal has put the decision on hold while it reviews the parties' argument concerning the decision. Up to this time there have been approximately 100 assisted suicides in California.



International Life Services Board member and legal counsel, Dan Mansueto, is working with the legal team opposing the law and provided a critical contribution to the motion that led to the law being struck down.

Congratulations Dan, we are very proud of you!

This case will continue at the appellate level and so we need to keep praying.



International Life Services  
***Advanced Training Institute***  
**2018**

***New Horizons***  
***For A New Day:***  
***Navigating the Future***



**July 17th, 18th, 19th**

Mater Dolorosa Center

700 N. Sunnyside Avenue, Sierra Madre, California 91024

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A 3-day study program  
for those in life-affirming ministries.

# ATI SPEAKERS



Sister Paula Vandegaer  
S.S.S., L.C.S.W.



Thomas A. Glessner, J.D.



Gregory W. Lester, Ph.D.



Sister Jennifer Gaeta  
S.S.S., M.S.W.



Susan De Pietro  
J.D., M.N., R.N.

## **Sr. Paula Vandegaer, S.S.S., L.C.S.W.**

Founder of International Life Services, Volunteers for Life, and Scholl Institute of Bioethics, Author of Introduction to Pregnancy Counseling Textbook.

## **Thomas A. Glessner, J.D.**

Founder and President of the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA)

## **Gregory W. Lester, Ph.D.**

Consulting Psychologist, Researcher and Author.

## **Sister Jennifer Gaeta, S.S.S., M.S.W.**

Executive Director of Los Angeles House of Ruth, Member of the Sisters of Social Service.



Vicki Thorn, B.A.



Phil Sandoval, M.A.,  
L.M.F.T., L.P.H.A.



Jacob Lorion Barr



Opal Singleton



Lori A. DeVillez, B.A.



Hannah DeVillez

## **Susan De Pietro, J.D., M.N., R.N.**

Attorney, Registered Nurse, Educator, currently Director of Risk Management for a non-profit acute care hospital in Southern California.

## **Vicki Thorn, B.A.**

Founder of Project Rachel and Executive Director of the National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing.

## **Phil Sandoval, M.A., L.M.F.T., L.P.H.A.**

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Clinical Director Aurora Counseling Center and Radio Show Host.

## **Jacob Lorion Barr**

Designer, entrepreneur and marketing professional, Founder iRapture.com.

## **Opal Singleton**

President and CEO of Million Kids, Training and Outreach Coordinator for Riverside County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, Instructor USC School of Social Work LAPD LEAD, Author and Radio Host KTIE-AM 590 and The Answer and Voice of America.

## **Lori A. DeVillez, B.A.**

Author, Speaker, Trainer, Consultant, Founder & Executive Director Austin Pregnancy Resource Center.

## **Hannah DeVillez**

Attending University of Pittsburgh in the Fall pursuing a Master's in Business Global Management.



## Agenda — Tuesday, July 17th, 2018

### Directors' Day

- 8:00 **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30 **Mass**
- 9:30 **Welcome and Opening Prayer**
- 9:45 **Protecting Your Center: Navigating the Landmines** - *Thomas Glessner, J.D.*  
This session will better equip you to handle your organization's critical issues and leadership challenges. It will cover the legal issues impacting insurance claims, religious freedom threats, current court cases and other legal issues affecting center work.
- 10:45 **Break**
- 11:00 **Leading the Way: Strategic Board Planning From Vision to Action**  
- *Susan De Pietro, J.D., M.N., R.N.*  
Explore the fundamentals of the strategic planning process to lead your Board through this dynamic and thought provoking experience with exercises that yield concrete direction and actions. You will learn to examine your agencies strengths and weaknesses and determine the appropriate planning to overcome barriers and yield positive results.
- 12:00 **Lunch**
- 1:30 **Grant Writing 101** - *Sr. Jennifer Gaeta, S.S.S., M.S.W.*  
This informative session will cover: locating potential foundations and corporations for funding, an overview of the basic letter of introduction, primary steps in writing a successful grant proposal and elements of a grant budget. This session is aimed at providing a comfort level for the new grant writer and/or fund developer.
- 2:30 **Break**
- 2:45 **Community Outreach**  
Women and families facing unintended pregnancies often have other pressing needs including housing, legal, prenatal care, job assistance, trauma counseling and more. This workshop explores an "out of the box" approach to strategically grow your partnerships so you can further meet the needs of clients served, while also becoming a more integral resource in the local community.
- 3:45 **Refreshment Break**
- 4:00 **Interactive Website Audit** - *Jacob Lorion Barr*  
Looking at a website under a microscope doesn't change what is there but it does expose opportunities for improvement. In this session, we will examine attendee websites to provide relevant and timely feedback. To get the most out of this session, please submit all of your organization's websites to [Jacob@irapture.com](mailto:Jacob@irapture.com). We will help you learn how to improve your website's position on google with SEO feedback. We will talk about your website's design and messaging in regards to how the user will interact with your site. And we will provide clear direction on how to increase your website's traffic. Asking questions through a website audit is exciting work because the result is that your online marketing is stronger! If you apply the training/feedback, you will be able to reach more people and save more lives.
- 5:00 **Closing Remarks**
- 5:30 **Dinner**

## Agenda — Wednesday, July 18th, 2018

8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 Mass

9:30 Welcome and Opening Prayer

9:45 **The Careful Art of Asking Questions** - *Sister Paula Vandegaer, S.S.S., L.C.S.W.*

When making an important decision like pregnancy, education about fetal development may not be enough. Where do values and beliefs come from? How can we help our clients get in touch with those sources and evaluate their beliefs? When you see your clients, are you an interviewer or a counselor? The difference lies in the careful and thoughtful questions you ask. How do you help people evaluate their thinking and their values?

10:45 Break

11:00 **Dads Are They Important?** - *Lori A. DeVillez, B.A.*

This session will discuss how counselors may best welcome dads into their center. Participants will learn the most common feelings associated with crisis pregnancy situations from the male perspective and understand how to help them deal with their fears. To cover the very important role of the dads in the lives of their children and what incentives are helpful to get them involved.

12:00 Lunch

1:30 **What They Didn't Tell You in Sex Ed: The Biology of Attachment** - *Vicki Thorn, B.A.*

This presentation addresses the complexity of our bodies when we engage in sexual intimacy. Learn about how mother's carry cells from every child they ever conceive and, how fathers are changed by pregnancy beginning at 4 weeks. Learn about the impact of hormonal contraceptives on partner choice, women's moods, libido and more. This is valuable information to share with those we help.

2:30 Break

2:45 **Long-Term Effects of Childhood Adversity: Breaking the Cycle** - *Gregory W. Lester, Ph.D.*

A hundred years of psychological research has taught us that many difficulties in adulthood, including unplanned or unwanted pregnancies, are actually part of a repetitive pattern of trauma that began in childhood. As a result, many problems that our clients view as "chance" or as "accidents" are actually the result of aversive patterns that began in childhood. This session will discuss how to identify these patterns, how the patterns work, and will present interventions that have been found to be helpful in changing and breaking these patterns.

3:45 Refreshment Break

4:00 **SOS! Hidden Traps Endangering Today's Youth** - *Opal Singleton*

Young people today use devices that can influence their morals, spirituality, gender identity, self-image and decisions. Opal will share her compelling experiences to empower counselors and educators on how to keep our young people safe and aware of the dangerous traps.

5:00 Closing Remarks

5:30 **Dinner NIFLA v. Becerra and Beyond: Our Future After the Supreme Court Decision**

The infamous case of the State of California against Pro-life Pregnancy Centers has now been heard by the United States Supreme Court. Come to dinner for a gathering and discussion of the case with Tom Glessner, President of NIFLA and with other participants. What does the future hold for us now?

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## Agenda — Thursday, July 19th, 2018

8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 Mass

9:30 Welcome and Opening Prayer

9:45 **Solution-Focused, Short-Term Counseling: An Effective Approach for Getting People Back on Track** - *Gregory W. Lester, Ph.D.*

It is rare that we get to work with clients for as long or as extensively as we would like. As a result, as counselors we often need to use methods that work quickly and powerfully. This session will present counseling techniques that have been developed to work quickly and effectively in helping our clients to overcome difficulties, change bad patterns, and engage in behavior that is appropriate and productive.

10:45 Break

11:00 **Help: There's a Hole in My Soul: Understanding the Wounds of Those Born Since 1960** - *Vicki Thorn, B.A.*

This presentation examines the hidden wounds resulting from many sociological changes that happened since the 1960's. Understanding the hidden wounds of those we reach out to makes us more effective.

12:00 Lunch

1:30 **Human Sexuality—God's Plan and Our Response** - *Sister Paula Vandegaer, S.S.S., L.C.S.W.*

It is 50 years since Pope Paul VI wrote *Humanae Vitae* banning artificial contraception. What was God's original plan and how have we developed an alternate view of human sexuality in the subsequent years. Counseling tips will be given on how to help our clients view sex outside of marriage differently.

2:30 Break

2:45 **Millennial Generation: They're Tech-Savvy and Why It Matters** - *Lori A. DeVillez, B.A. and Hannah DeVillez*

We see many Millennials in our centers – they have been, and continue to be, heavily influenced by digital technology. Researchers have found that it has changed their brain structure and beliefs. Discover how tech use is also changing their behaviors, character, and the way they learn. Grab your tool kit, let's discuss how we can reach them and help them in our center work.

3:45 Break

4:00 **From Stress to Strength** - *Phil Sandoval, M.A., LMFT, LPHA.*

We will discuss how to identify symptoms of stress and "compassion fatigue" that is unique to pregnancy service center staff. You'll discover tools and real-life strategies to overcome stress and decrease burnout and learn new guidelines for self-care.

5:00 Closing Remarks

5:30 Dinner

# International Life Services Advanced Training Institute 2018

## LOCATION

Mater Dolorosa Center  
700 N. Sunnyside Avenue  
Sierra Madre, California 91024

**COMPLETE THIS  
REGISTRATION FORM  
AND SEND TO ILS  
OR CLICK TO LINK TO  
ONLINE REGISTRATION**

## REGISTRATION

### Two Easy Ways To Register

**Option 1:** Register online at: [www.internationallifeservices.org](http://www.internationallifeservices.org)  
Credit Card Registration: Fast - Secure - Accurate!

**Option 2:** Register by Mail: Complete form and send along with payment to:

**International Life Services, 2606 1/2 West 8th St., Los Angeles, CA 90057**

**Have A Question? Need more Registration Forms? Call 951-244-8877**

### REGISTRATION FORM

(Please print - one form per person)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Registration Options and Fees

#### Option 1: THE BUNDLE Overnight Accommodations & Registration Fees

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$220.00** per day/evening, per person

Includes: ATI registration, a single occupancy room with bath, breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack, dinner, registrant notebook, and gift bag.

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$110.00** July 16th early arrival. Registrants may arrive on July 16th after 3:00 p.m.

Includes: A single occupancy room with bath and a light dinner.

Check date(s) attending:  July 16th  July 17th  July 18th  July 19th

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$ Total Due** *Note lodging payment is not refundable.*

#### Option 2: Daily Commuter Registration Only Fees

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$99.00** Registration per day, per person

Includes: ATI registration, continental breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack, registrant notebook, and gift bag.

Check date(s) attending:  July 17th  July 18th  July 19th

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$22.00** OPTIONAL DINNER per day, per person

Check date(s) you would like to order dinner:  July 17th  July 18th  July 19th

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$ Total Due**

**REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION** *Your canceled check or PayPal notification is your confirmation.*

### 10% DISCOUNT for International Life Services Centers

#### LATE REGISTRATION

Those who register on the day of the ATI will be charged an additional fee of \$10.00 per day.

#### DIETARY RESTRICTIONS


Please indicate here if you have any dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

#### SHUTTLE SERVICE FROM AIRPORT TO THE MATER DOLOROSA CENTER

Visit <http://shuttletolax.com/> for information on airport shuttle service to the Mater Dolorosa Center.

#### SPECIAL NOTE

The 2018 Advanced Training Institute will be recorded and photographs will be taken for publicity and promotional purposes. Your registration constitutes your consent to being recorded and/or photographed.

A sunset scene with palm trees and a bird in flight. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow. Several palm trees are silhouetted against the sky. A bird is flying in the upper right. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

“Peacemakers who sow  
in peace reap a harvest  
of righteousness”

*James 3:18*