



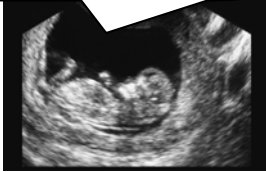
Life Lines

1st Way Pregnancy Support Center Newsletter

333 E. McDowell Rd. ☞ Phoenix, AZ ☞ 85004 ☞ 602-261-7522

May 2007, Issue #112

The *1st Way* to a mother's heart is to see her baby's heartbeat!



The Life-Giving Power of Evangelization

(The following is an article written June of 2005 by Fr. John Lankeit, then a seminarian. He now serves as Assistant Pastor of St. Anne's Church in Gilbert. He has recently joined our Board of Directors.)

"Several months ago on a flight to Rome, I was seated next to a middle-aged Italian man who spoke fluent English. I was wearing clerics and the man asked me if I was a priest. I explained that I was in formation for priesthood, but not yet ordained. This was apparently satisfactory to him, since he started telling me his views about the Church. He said that he was estranged from the Church because he disagreed with some of her teachings, particularly the prohibition against artificial contraception. He had "gone back and forth with his Dominican priest friends" but had never been persuaded to reconsider his position.

As he spoke, I felt anxious. After all, if he had discussed the issue with highly-educated priests and not been swayed, he could surely withstand the arguments of a seminarian. As I listened, I prayed to the Holy Spirit to guide any words I might speak. When the man finished, he asked, "What do you think?"

I paused for a moment, then said, "You and I were both eighteen once. Now, I don't know about you, but when I was eighteen, I was a bundle of hormones and my thoughts were pretty much dominated by girls." He smiled and nodded knowingly.

I continued, "Both of us grew up in a culture with easy access to artificial contraception and the regrettable availability of abortion. In such a scenario, the possibility of impregnating a woman was greatly reduced compared to, say, fifty years earlier. If it did happen, our culture encouraged abortion as a 'backup plan'. *In effect, this made every woman a potential sex partner, whether within or outside the context of marriage.*

"But if we pretend for a moment that neither artificial contraception nor abortion exist, we have to approach things a little differently, don't we?"

He said, "What do you mean?"

I responded, "Well, in a world without contraception, pregnancy-proof sexual intercourse is not a given. In such a world, a man has to consider carefully how his actions will affect not only himself, but the woman. Here's a real person—a real woman—with feelings and needs, dreams for success and love, and the potential to bring human life into the world. He has to stop and think, 'If I get her pregnant, is she the woman I

want to spend the rest of my life with—and vice versa?' Suddenly, she is more than just a potential 'fling without consequences' as she is unfortunately reduced to in a contraceptive culture. Frankly, I can't think of a single technological advance that is more abusive to women than artificial contraceptives.

Women have been duped by a promise of sexual freedom. But in place of liberation there's been a huge increase in divorce, in domestic abuse, and in single mothers raising children. Pornography is rampant and it seems that, if anything, we've learned how to value women even *less* than before. It's no accident. As I see it, Pope Paul VI's predictions in *Humanae Vitae* were nothing short of prophetic." The man replied, "I've never thought about it that way. At some level, I've always felt that contraception was abusive to women."

At 1st Way, for 34 years we watched young girls who were getting good grades or working offered artificial contraception from their doctors, if only to "regulate" their periods. Soon afterwards, they would "bond" with a boyfriend, which would end in a breakup, get their hearts broken, become lost in low self esteem and start doing drugs, hanging with party kids and getting pregnant. Especially devastating to women is the fact that 47% of those getting abortions in the last 10 years were using artificial contraception at the time, which failed, resulting in

pregnancy. (Gutmacher Institute statistics, 2003)

Ist Way has a moral imperative to offer women Truth concerning artificial contraception. (More next month... "The link between artificial contraception and breast cancer")



THROUGH OUR DOORS

This month we had another really affirming situation happen.

A few months ago we had a woman call asking us how much abortions cost. We answered, "We never refer for abortions." Our nurse manager, Laurie, spoke with the caller, offering her to come in the same day for an ultrasound. Laurie agreed to stay late in order to offer her a convenient appointment time. This girl missed the appointment so Laurie followed up with a phone call. The girl said, "Please wait, I'm coming." So Laurie waited another hour. When she called again, the girl said, "Oh I'm just around the corner, REALLY! Please don't leave."

Laurie and I decided we would give her one more chance. She came, had the ultrasound and broke down in emotional turmoil. Her boyfriend was waiting in the truck in the parking lot and was taking her for an abortion, NOW. He was forcing her, and was abusive. She even had front teeth missing, though she was a very attractive girl.

She remained in the office and spent a great deal of time trying to put together a plan to gain independence in the situation. Laurie spent two hours reassuring her that we would walk with her through the pregnancy and afterwards.

When she left, she determined to leave this man and keep the baby.

We tried reaching her for follow up and could not for many weeks. Then we left it in prayer to God.

The other day, she came in to the office with a small four year old boy. She grabbed the girl at the counter, crying and saying "you make such a difference here, thank you so much." We quickly got her into a counseling room. She recounted this miraculous story. The day that she came to *Ist Way*, she was a drug addict on 'meth'. Both of her children had been taken by CPS and were in foster homes. (We had no knowledge of either of these facts.) After the *Ist Way* visit, she left her abusive relationship, went into rehab for two months and then received her children back after demonstrating responsible and trustworthy changes in her life.

She is now six months pregnant, and wants to place this child in an adoptive home so that she can focus on her two other children and start a new life. (*If you are not choking back tears now, I don't know what...*) Thank you all for your participation in this work!

Thanks to you for your encouraging support in May!

American Express Employee Giving ❖ Mr & Mrs Kevin &erson ❖ Mr & Mrs James Asher ❖ Mr Michael Barbieri ❖ Mr & Mrs Nicholas Bellizzi ❖ Ms &reea Benta ❖ Mr & Mrs John Bertaut ❖ Ms Carmella Bolstad ❖ Mr Ruggero Borletti ❖ Mr Paul Bowen ❖ Mr & Mrs Maurie Brashaw ❖ Mr & Mrs Melvin Brender ❖ Mr & Mrs Scott Bugai ❖ Mr & Mrs Vedasto Buhay ❖ Mr Logan Burgos ❖ Mr & Mrs Dan Burr ❖ Mr & Mrs Greg Casagr&e ❖ Ms Rita-Ann Chapman ❖ Ms Nancy Clel& ❖ Mr & Mrs Gary Darveaux ❖ Diocese of Phoenix ❖ Mr DL Donovan ❖ Mr & Mrs Walter Dowswell ❖ Mr & Mrs Ray Dubois ❖ Mr & Mrs Clarence Emenheiser ❖ Ms Catherine Fischer ❖ Mr & Mrs Robert Friedeck ❖ Ms Sabina Frink ❖ Ms Stephanie Gallo ❖ Mr & Mrs Anthony Gangi ❖ Mr John Garrett ❖ Mr Peter Gioe ❖ Ms Dixie Griffin ❖ Mr & Mrs Richard Hahn ❖ Ms Lauren Hailey ❖ Mr & Mrs Paul Harguth ❖ Mr & Mrs Donald Heckhaus ❖ Mr & Mrs Francis Heilman ❖ Mr Johnny Hill ❖ Mr & Mrs Jeffrey Hodges ❖ Ms Laurette Houtchens ❖ Mr John Janowics ❖ Mr

Michael Kingman ❖ Mr & Mrs Rizal Oei Kunasek ❖ Mr & Mrs Tom LaJeunesse ❖ Mr & Mrs Matthew L&spurg ❖ Mr & Mrs Lubomir Lasak ❖ Mr & Mrs John Lewis ❖ Ms Marcellina Markunas, ❖ Mr & Mrs Clifford Martin ❖ Mr & Mrs Raymond Martinez ❖ Mr & Mrs Joseph McGaffin ❖ Mr Edwin Meehan ❖ Drs Robert & Maricela Moffit ❖ Morgan Stanley ❖ Ms Mary Mulligan ❖ Mr & Mrs Scott Norton ❖ Mr Daxzon Parker ❖ Ms Agnes Raught ❖ Mr Daniel Reginato ❖ Mr & Mrs Raimundo Rodriguez ❖ Mr & Mrs Damian Rogers ❖ Margaret Ruskin, ❖ Loretta Ryan, ❖ Charles Shaw, ❖ Am&a Shepard ❖ Mr & Mrs A G Skinner ❖ Mr & Mrs Dwight Smith ❖ Mr & Mrs Frank Smith ❖ Merrill Smith❖ Mr & Mrs Gary Somers ❖ Mr & Mrs David Tidmarsh ❖ Elizabeth Tullis ❖ Mr & Mrs Charles V&ergrift ❖ Mr & Mrs Don Wade ❖ Judith Wagoner ❖ Mr & Mrs Loras Watters ❖ Mr & Mrs Robert Way ❖ Virginia Weiler ❖ Mr & Mrs M J Westervelt ❖ Michael Woods ❖ Mr & Mrs Paul Zawicki

Wish List

✓ **Volunteers! 1st time ever COOPERATIVE VOLUNTEER TRAINING AT ARIZONA RIGHT TO LIFE! 1st Way/ Life Choices / Aid to Women Center will train new volunteers Friday June 22 and Saturday June 23. (8:30-4:30) Call for more information!! WE NEED YOU!!**

602-261-7522

Another Way to support *Ist Way*--the United Way! (Give at work)

1st Way of Maricopa County, Inc is a non-profit organization that operates a pregnancy support center.

The Mission of *Ist Way* is to provide education and assistance to any woman or teen who is pregnant or thinks she may be This is accomplished through the free, loving, and non-judgmental provision of information, counseling, and practical services

Director: Kay Allen
Business Assistant: Katie Kidd
Staff Nurse: Laurie Pittsenbarger, RN
Staff Counselor: Debbie Accomazzo
Medical Director: Dr William Chavira
Board of Directors:, President, Dr Maricela Moffitt, Secretary; Sr Eleanor Gibbons, Treasurer; Dick Labbe, Anita Hatch-Miller, Lorie Futch, Sr Eleanor Gibbons, Jane Schmidt, Dr Robert Moffitt, Fr Bernard Green, Brian Bergin, Fr. John Lankeit, Peter Lemieux, Jeff Fox and members-at-large
Happy...

**Mother's Day**