

Family LIFE

SPRING 2022 | FREE



INSIDE

**HOW to bring about
a transformation
in the culture**

Language matters

**Teaching youth about
sexuality**

Melanie's story

**DEFENDING
LIFE, FAITH
& FAMILY**

Family LIFE

Defending Life, Faith and Family

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OUR MISSION

To build a culture of life and love by promoting and defending the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, and by promoting marriage between one man and one woman, and the natural family through prayer, education, and service.



FAMILY LIFE
INTERNATIONAL NZ

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We're called to stand firm in truth

It was at the tender age of fourteen when standing on the verandah of what was then Epsom Day Clinic, I made a promise to God to never stop fighting for the babies. There was something so profoundly moving at that moment; a distinct understanding of the evil of abortion. Etched into my mind and heart, it is one of those clear, decisive moments which would come to shape who I have become.

That was over thirty years ago. Epsom Day is long gone from the location, now tucked away at Greenlane Hospital, where mothers who go in to have their pre-born children killed are locked behind doors once they enter, purportedly for their safety. Nauseatingly ironic, really.

The struggle for life and family will be long, as the great Saint John Paul II reminded us. The experience of those much older than myself, who have battled to end abortion and fend off the attacks against the family for even longer, attests to the need for patient perseverance.

It will come.

In these pages you will read much about the changing times, and how progressives are gaining control of the language, our children, and the very fabric of civilization.

On page 14, we have provided an excerpt from *Evangelium Vitae, the Gospel of Life*, in which Saint John Paul II lays out for us what is required to form a new *culture of life*. His points are still relevant today, for we must never give up. More importantly, we must continually strive to change ourselves; to become closer, and more united with God, and to automatically see the dignity of every human person. In short, he reminds us of our calling to become saints.

Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I announce FLI's next International Pro-Life and Pro-Family Conference! With the theme *Go forward in Hope*, the packed programme will take place from March 23 to 26, 2023, in Auckland.

This vital event will inform you about the current issues impacting the protection of human life and the family, equip you to effectively defend the truth, and inspire you to live faithfully the call to sainthood in a culture that is decaying before our very eyes.

Importantly, you will discover you are not alone in the struggle to defend life, faith, and family.

More information can be found on page 19 of this publication, or visit fli.org.nz/conference2023 to learn more about our speakers, the conference programme, and registration details as they become available.

We can take heart with these words from the essay *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission* (University of Mary):

“If it is true, as we are assured by Saint Paul, that grace is more present the more that evil abounds (cf. Romans 5), we might expect an especially abundant action of the Holy Spirit in our time.”

These are exciting times, for we are being called to be all that we were created to be: let us go forward in hope!

Yours in the service of life,



Michelle Kaufman

Communications Director
Family Life International NZ

ASSISTING MOTHERS IN NEED

For the last month, I have been taking some time out to just *be* with some of my family. It has been nearly three years of relentless work, doing a little *something* to help bring about the collapse of the culture of death.

Together, with my team, we have been making positive moves to ensure that the work we are doing sows fruitful seeds for the new era where abortion will be unthinkable.

We look forward to a time when all pre-born babies who have an adverse diagnosis or poor outlook will not be killed but will be given the chance to live to their full potential, as any other human person.

How could it have happened that, even within the medical profession, an attitude has developed that expects a sick or disabled baby in-utero to be destroyed immediately?

How very sad it is that unborn children are often judged to be of little worth because they are inconvenient, or will be born into perceived or real poverty, or because they don't meet the standard of "perfect health."

Any society is only as strong as its weakest member. With the insistence that weak and vulnerable babies be destroyed right up to birth, alongside the determination to exterminate the weak and vulnerable at the end of their lives, New Zealand is surely on a pathway of absolute self-destruction.

The old saying "*we will reap what we sow*" has never been truer as we witness the decline of civilisation, and the coming of the end of this era of greed and selfishness.



You can imagine then, the great joy and hope I felt when my co-worker Clare, emailed me a few days before my leave finished. She was excited to share with me the news that since the beginning of this year, **24 babies have been born and a further 20 will be born in the months to come!**

Assisting one woman, and at times her family, through a crisis pregnancy often takes more than just a few phone calls, text messages, and maybe a personal visit to our *Gianna's Choice* pregnancy centre.

Over the past ten years, we have seen a big increase in the very complex situations women find themselves. We work hard to understand these complexities. It is vital that after listening to her needs, we work out a **personalised plan** that is specific to her situation.

We work diligently with each mother fostering respect for themselves and helping them to learn their true dignity.

Because of your generosity, we are able to assist on a case-by-case basis with budgeting, pledges for grocery vouchers, and payment of legal fees (which are always generously subsidised by our dedicated lawyers).

Presently, the staff and volunteers of *Saint Gianna's Home for Mothers and Babies* are undergoing training and learning how to understand and manage the complexities of residents in the Home.

In this climate, many women are engaged in difficult relationships with the fathers of their babies. Some may be immigrants, caught up in the most extraordinary circumstances. For some of these mothers, life is very complicated and intense. There are always a number of factors coming into play that require us to go the extra mile walking with certain mothers well beyond the birth of baby.

FLI's volunteers, pregnancy advocates, and *Home* staff, are dedicated team members whose interests

There are always a number of factors coming into play that require us to go the extra mile, walking with certain mothers well beyond the birth of baby.

lie in the love and care of each woman regardless of her personal circumstances and problems.

At times we also need to engage in paid professional counselling to assist very the complex needs of some mothers. The maternal mental



health issues reported in the mainstream media are certainly something we encounter with frequency. Mothers and their babies deserve the very best help available in order to pick up the threads of their lives.

Please take a little time to read through the enclosed booklet about *Gianna's Pregnancy Options and Support*, in order to get a wider picture of the work we do to assist mothers.

Thank you so very much Team Family Life International. We are on the winning side for a new culture of life, faith, and family!

Yours in the service of life,

Colleen Bayer



Dame Colleen Bayer, DSG
National Director and Founder
Family Life International NZ



Exorcising pro-death demons

But there is no way of casting out such spirits as this except by prayer and fasting. Mt.17:21

FATHER LINUS CLOVIS

In Matthew 17:1-20, we read that at the time of the Transfiguration, whilst Our Lord was revealing his glory on to Peter, James, and John, the future pillars of the Church, the other nine apostles were in the valley struggling unsuccessfully with a demoniac. On descending to the valley, the Lord with a word cast out the demon, and the apostles later asked Him why they could not cast it out. He bluntly responded that it was because of their lack of faith and also that prayer and fasting were required to expel that particular kind of demon.

Saint Maximilian Kolbe prophesied that modern times would be increasingly dominated by Satan and that the struggle would be beyond the strength of any man, even the strongest or cleverest. It was to the Woman, to the Immaculata alone that the victory had been promised.

The universal rampant immorality, the divide between love and life, the murderous slaughter of the unborn, the escalating threat to the life of the elderly and infirm, the carnage of terrorism, the genocide of millions, the torture of prisoners, the demise of culture, the

violation of God's rights, all indicate a diabolic presence that menaces our age and our world. But far more disturbing is the sense of God's absence and the lack of effective and prominent leadership from the very pillars of the Church.

Sometimes our work in the pro-life movement feels like the struggle the nine apostles had with the demon in the valley. The Lord has given us power to trample underfoot snakes and scorpions, and all the power of the enemy, and not to be hurt by them (Lk.10:19), but somehow we do not seem to be making any progress, and indeed, seem bested on every side. Let us then take His advice until He descends from the mountain with the pillars of the Church. ***Let us put aside unbelief and embrace prayer and fasting.***

He tells us that with faith the size of a mustard seed, we can move mountains and that nothing shall be impossible to us. This is not a little faith but great faith, since St. Paul tells us utter faith is required to move mountains (1Cor.13:2). To the unbelieving, faith is a weak and contemptible thing but history has shown that under persecution the Faith and the Church flourish. Where true charity abounds there will be fervent souls willing to sacrifice all for the love of God and for the salvation of neighbour – the blood of the martyrs is the seed of Christians. The

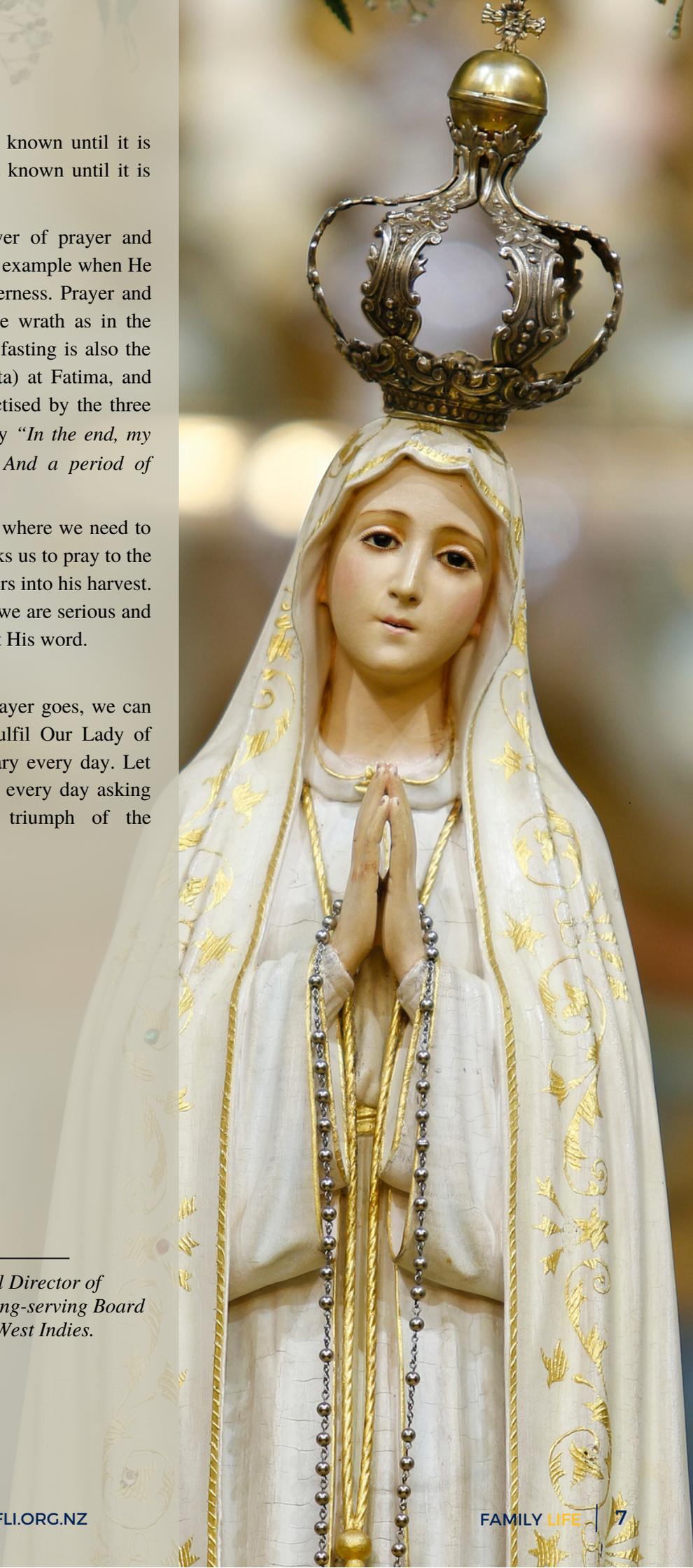
power of the mustard seed is not known until it is crushed, the power of faith is not known until it is tried in the fire (1Pet.1:7).

The Lord reveals to us the power of prayer and fasting by precept and by His own example when He overcame the tempter in the wilderness. Prayer and fasting also turns away the divine wrath as in the case of the Ninevites. Prayer and fasting is also the message of Our Lady (Immaculata) at Fatima, and was heroically embraced and practised by the three children. Our Lady has the victory *“In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. And a period of peace will be given to the world.”*

I think we have reached the point where we need to appeal directly to the Lord who asks us to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest. I think we need to show Him that we are serious and the way to do that is to take Him at His word.

Let us pray and fast! As far as prayer goes, we can do no better than to obey and fulfil Our Lady of Fatima’s request to pray the Rosary every day. Let us then fervently pray the Rosary every day asking the Lord to bring about the triumph of the Immaculate Heart.

Father Linus Clovis is the Spiritual Director of Family Life International, and a long-serving Board Member. He resides in St. Lucia, West Indies.



Life is God's gift

SIMON ARCHER

When Saint John Paul II coined the phrase *culture of death*¹ he was talking about how enculturated and embedded attacks against human life have become in our human societies. He was especially calling attention to the increasingly widespread acceptance of, and even support for, the deliberate and pre-meditated ending of human lives – through euthanasia, assisted suicide, induced abortions, and the lethal omission of ordinary medical care.

Death-dealing is not new. Let's face it, such practices have been part of human societies and communities since the earliest days of human history. For example, virtually every culture in antiquity killed unwanted children using means such as abortion, exposure, and/or abandonment, or even direct post-birth infanticide. An interesting insight from the study of anthropology is that the prevalence of these practices within a culture invariably wanes as that culture becomes more civilized, and then waxes again as their civilisation decays.

We have seen exactly that within the history of our own Judeo-Christian-inspired Western civilisation. Our modern civilisation (so-called!), despite our ready access to thoughtful anthropological studies, seems incapable of learning from human history. We behave as if we cannot escape this terrible waning and waxing process.

As English author and lecturer, John Briggs points out “*Just as a loss of memory in an individual is a psychiatric defect call for medical treatment, so too any community which has no social memory is suffering from an illness.*”²

It seems we human creatures are indeed ill and incapable of learning from history. In our ignoring past lessons we are prone to making the same mistakes over and over – and make them in spades!



*"I came that they may
have life."* John 10:10

PROGRESSIVE PRIDE IN LEGALISED KILLING

Advocates for the legalised taking of human life – particularly through induced abortion, euthanasia, and assisted suicide – generally proclaim such pro-active killing as *progressive*.

Progressive? The only progress involved is the accelerating decay and ultimate demise of our civilisation!

Speak truth
resolutely, offer hope
and practical support.
Trusting always in Our
Lord, we confidently
pray, pray, pray.



The predominant mindset today seems to see procured abortion, euthanasia and/or assisted suicide, as somehow the only *rational* solution to age-old problems. There is even a kind of pride exhibited in the advanced medico-technological means by which we efficiently achieve this legalised killing. The result however is the same as the most barbaric of methods – the deliberate destruction of human life.

On the other hand, people who promote and defend the sanctity of human life (and I readily include myself in this group) are seen as irrational, unrealistic, and out of step with what society needs. We are even labelled as cruel and heartless for purportedly forcing suffering on people because we say the deliberate ending of human life is, and always will be, wrong.

The reality is that human life has always been sacred because its architect and source is God. He endows each one of us with a unique immortal soul at the very moment of conception - the cause of our humanness! What God gives, we creatures have no *right* to reject or to deliberately end.

Alongside this truth is the awful consequence of being sons and daughters of Adam and Eve: “*Like a moth drawn to a candle flame, man deals in death. He always has. He always will. For that is his nature in this poor fallen world.*”

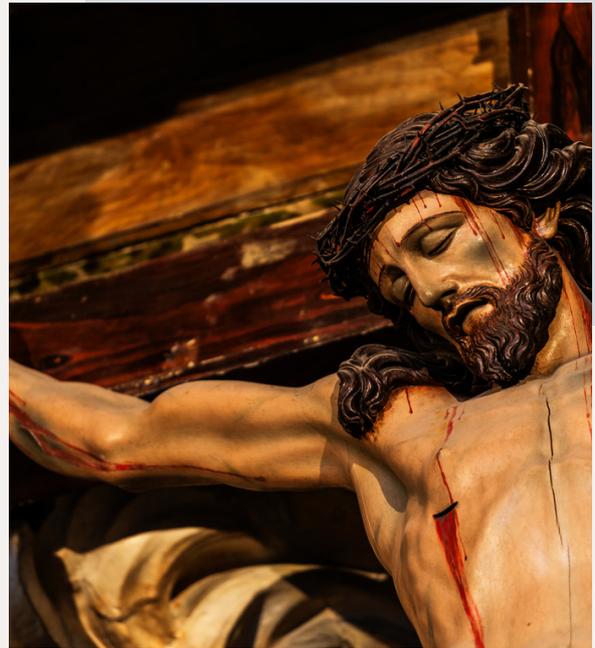
WHAT CAN WE DO AS CIVILISATION DECAYS?

What are we to do in the face of our human weaknesses, and the advanced state of decay of our civilisation? Turn to the Word of Life. Hold fast to Truth; cling to it! Speak truth resolutely, offer hope and practical support. Trusting always in Our Lord, we confidently pray, pray, pray.

As Pope (now Saint) John Paul II said in *Evangelium Vitae* (*on the Value and Inviolability of Human Life*), let us pause: “to contemplate the One who was pierced and who draws all people to himself. Looking at the spectacle of the Cross (cf. Lk 23:48) the whole Gospel of life.”⁴

It is Christ’s death for all of humanity on the Cross that makes possible everlasting life for us. This great paradox gives us both the hope and the reason to keep on keeping on.

So onward, through the Cross to the Light. Our mission is not yet complete.



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FAMILY LIFE CATHOLIC GIFTS

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language matters

Those who control the language of our culture wield great power indeed. Their verbal engineering is intended to pave the way for social engineering. They aim to change the way we think; to make what is unacceptable seem harmless, or even attractive and good. They would have us go beyond morality, by blurring the lines between good and evil and making it impossible to talk about these absolutes with any conviction.

Take note of all you hear and read. The verbal engineers are changing the language at lightening speed.

Be particularly mindful of those words that eradicate reference to male and female, for instance "*pregnant person.*" This phrase implies a man can become pregnant, which is a fallacy. Only women have the reproductive organs capable of carrying a child to term.

Stand firm and resist progressive changes to language that only point to the absurd. It is no small matter.

TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE	VS	NEW LANGUAGE
Fornication		Cohabitation
Contraception		Responsible family planning
Masturbation		Outercourse / safer sex
Abortion		Reproductive health care
Euthanasia		Assisted dying
Pornography		Sexually explicit material
Promiscuity		Serial monogamy
Gender dysphoria		Gender identity
Adultery		Flexible monogamy
Partner in adultery		Significant other
Bestiality		Interspecies love
Sado-masochism		Exchange of power
Child molestation		Intergenerational love
Modesty and chastity		Sexual hang-ups / immaturity
Self discipline		Unhealthy repression
Fetus		Pregnancy
Morality		Outdated value system
Pregnant mother		Pregnant person

MARCH FOR LIFE

NEW ZEALAND

*March for the most vulnerable,
our children, our future!*

SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER 2022

Since 2017 we've been coming together in our nation's Capital to be a voice for the most vulnerable, the most precious among us, our children.

The National March for Life is an important opportunity to come together in solidarity to stand for life; to stand for mothers and fathers; to stand for love.

More than half a million pre-born children have violently lost their lives to abortion. Countless mothers regret their abortions and carry the wounds of their experiences. The negative impact on women, men, and our nation's children is personally experienced by so many every single day.

You'd be forgiven for thinking that all has been lost...

... but don't give up! You are part of a global movement that's winning!



**MASS
FOR LIFE**
AND ADORATION

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 2, 2022
7:00PM

St Mary of the Angels
17 Boulcott Street
Wellington

The evening of prayer is in preparation for the
NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE

NATIONAL
MARCH
FOR LIFE
NEW ZEALAND

**SATURDAY 3
DECEMBER
2022**

- Wellington City
- Gather at Civic Square from 1pm.
- Marching to Parliament at 2pm.

www.marchforlife.nz



ROSARY
ON PARLIAMENT GROUNDS

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3, 2022
AFTER THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE

Gather by the banner of Our Lady of Guadalupe
15 minutes after the conclusion of the speeches.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

HERE'S HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

- ✓ **Make a plan** to be in Wellington for the March on 3 December, and for the Mass for Life on Friday 2 December.
- ✓ **Follow** the March for Life NZ Facebook and Instagram accounts for updates, to enter competitions, discover shareable content, and more.
- ✓ **Follow** Family Life International NZ on Facebook and Instagram for updates about the Mass for Life and Rosary.
- ✓ **Spread the word** and invite all your family, friends, and colleagues to participate.
- ✓ **Get in touch** if you're able to volunteer on the day by emailing michelle@fli.org.nz

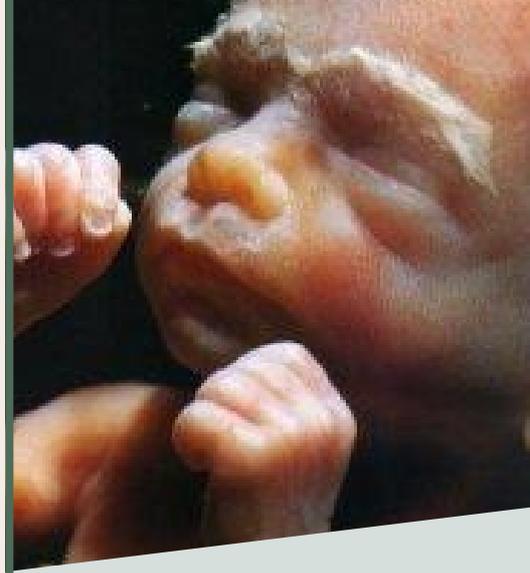


You are not alone.

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There is hope.



13,246

REPORTED ABORTIONS

36

EVERY DAY

255

PER WEEK



28

IS THE AVERAGE AGE OF WOMEN HAVING AN ABORTION



OF ALL KNOWN PREGNANCIES ENDED IN ABORTION (EXCLUDES MISCARRIAGES)

102

LATE TERM ABORTIONS (21+ WEEKS)



TEEN ABORTIONS

26

11-14 YEARS

1,227

15-19 YEARS

*2020 STATISTICS

EVANGELIUM VITAE

Encyclical Letter of Saint Pope John Paul II on the value and inviolability of human life



FOR A NEW CULTURE OF LIFE

"Walk as children of light" (Eph 5:8): bringing about a transformation of culture.

95. "Walk as children of light ... and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness" (Eph 5:8, 10-11). In our present social context, marked by a dramatic struggle between the "culture of life" and the "culture of death", there is need to *develop a deep critical sense*, capable of discerning true values and authentic needs.

What is urgently called for is a **general mobilization of consciences and a united ethical effort to activate a great campaign in support of life. All together, we must build a new culture of life**: new, because it will be able to confront and solve today's unprecedented problems affecting human life; new, because it will be adopted with deeper and more dynamic conviction by all Christians; new, because it will be capable of bringing about a serious and courageous cultural dialogue among all parties. While the urgent need for such a cultural transformation is linked to the present historical situation, it is also rooted in the Church's mission of evangelization. The purpose of the Gospel, in fact, is "to transform humanity from within and to make it new".¹²³ Like the yeast which leavens the whole measure of dough (cf. Mt 13:33), the Gospel is meant to permeate all cultures and give them life from within,¹²⁴ so that they may express the full truth about the human person and about human life.

We need to begin with **the renewal of a culture of life within Christian communities themselves**. Too often it happens that believers, even those who take an active part in the life of the Church, end up by separating their Christian faith from its ethical requirements concerning life, and thus fall into

moral subjectivism and certain objectionable ways of acting. With great openness and courage, we need to question how widespread is the culture of life today among individual Christians, families, groups and communities in our Dioceses. With equal clarity and determination we must identify the steps we are called to take in order to serve life in all its truth. At the same time, we need to promote a serious and in-depth exchange about basic issues of human life with everyone, including non-believers, in intellectual circles, in the various professional spheres and at the level of people's everyday life.

96. The first and fundamental step towards this cultural transformation consists in **forming consciences** with regard to the incomparable and inviolable worth of every human life. It is of the greatest importance to **re-establish the essential connection between life and freedom**. These are inseparable goods: where one is violated, the other also ends up being violated. There is no true freedom where life is not welcomed and loved; and there is no fullness of life except in freedom. Both realities have something inherent and specific which links them inextricably: the vocation to love. Love, as a sincere gift of self,¹²⁵ is what gives the life and freedom of the person their truest meaning.

No less critical in the formation of conscience is **the recovery of the necessary link between freedom and truth**. As I have frequently stated, when freedom is detached from objective truth it becomes impossible to establish personal rights on a firm rational basis; and the ground is laid for society to be at the mercy of the unrestrained will of individuals or the oppressive totalitarianism of public authority.¹²⁶





It is therefore essential that man should acknowledge his inherent condition as a creature to whom God has granted being and life as a gift and a duty. Only by admitting his innate dependence can man live and use his freedom to the full, and at the same time respect the life and freedom of every other person. Here especially one sees that "at the heart of every culture lies the attitude man takes to the greatest mystery: the mystery of God".¹²⁷ Where God is denied and people live as though he did not exist, or his commandments are not taken into account, the dignity of the human person and the inviolability of human life also end up being rejected or compromised.

97. Closely connected with the formation of conscience is the **work of education**, which helps individuals to be ever more human, leads them ever more fully to the truth, instils in them growing respect for life, and trains them in right interpersonal relationships.

In particular, there is a **need for education about the value of life from its very origins**. It is an illusion to think that we can build a true culture of human life if we do not help the young to accept and experience sexuality and love and the whole of life according to their true meaning and in their close interconnection. Sexuality, which enriches the whole person, "manifests its inmost meaning in leading the person to the gift of self in love".¹²⁸ The trivialization of sexuality is among the principal factors which have led to contempt for new life. Only true love is able to protect life. There can be no avoiding the duty to offer, especially to adolescents and young adults, an **authentic education in sexuality and in love, an education which involves training in chastity as a virtue** which fosters personal maturity and makes one capable of respecting the "spousal" meaning of the body.

The work of educating in the service of life involves the *training of married couples in responsible procreation*. In its true meaning, responsible procreation requires couples to be obedient to the Lord's call and to act as faithful interpreters of his plan. This happens when the family is generously open to new lives, and when couples maintain an attitude of openness and service to life, even if, for serious reasons and in respect for the moral law, they choose to avoid a new birth for the time being or indefinitely. The moral law obliges them in every case to control the impulse of instinct and passion, and to respect the biological laws inscribed in their person. **It is precisely this respect which makes legitimate, at the service of responsible procreation, the use of natural methods of regulating fertility.** From the scientific point of view, these methods are becoming more and more accurate and make it possible in practice to make choices in harmony with moral values. An honest appraisal of their effectiveness should dispel certain prejudices which are still widely held, and should convince married couples, as well as health-care and social workers, of the importance of proper training in this area. The Church is grateful to those who, with personal sacrifice and often unacknowledged dedication, devote themselves to the study and spread of these methods, as well to the promotion of education in the moral values which they presuppose.



There is no true freedom where life is not welcomed and loved; and there is no fullness of life except in freedom.

The work of education cannot avoid a consideration of suffering and death. These are a part of human existence, and it is futile, not to say misleading, to try to hide them or ignore them. On the contrary, people must be helped to understand their profound mystery in all its harsh reality. Even pain and suffering have meaning and value when they are experienced in close connection with love received and given. In this regard, I have called for the yearly celebration of the *World Day of the Sick*, emphasizing "the salvific nature of the offering up of suffering which, experienced in communion



with Christ, belongs to the very essence of the Redemption".¹²⁹ Death itself is anything but an event without hope. It is the door which opens wide on eternity and, for those who live in Christ, an experience of participation in the mystery of his Death and Resurrection.

98. In a word, we can say that **the cultural change which we are calling for demands from everyone the courage to adopt a new life-style**, consisting in making practical choices-at the personal, family, social and international level-on the basis of a correct scale of values: **the primacy of being over having, of the person over things. This re-n¹³⁰ewed life-style involves a passing from indifference to concern for others, from rejection to acceptance of them.** Other people are not rivals from whom we must defend ourselves, but brothers and sisters to be supported. They are to be loved for their own sakes, and they enrich us by their very presence.

This renewed life-style involves a passing from indifference to concern for other, from rejection to acceptance of them.

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Psalm 139

For thou didst form my inward parts,
thou didst knit me together
in my mother's womb.
I praise thee, for thou art
fearful and wonderful.
Wonderful are thy works!
Thou knowest me right well;
my frame was not hidden from thee,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately wrought
in the depths of the earth.
Thy eyes beheld my
unformed substance;
in thy book were written,
every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.
How precious to me are
thy thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

Psalm 139:13-17

EUTHANASIA'S TOLL IN FIRST YEAR

MICHELLE KAUFMAN

When the Ministry of Health released data about euthanasia and assisted suicide at the end of June, it was disheartening to see the steady increase in applications since 7 November 2021, when ending one's life prematurely by these methods became legal.

In that quarterly report it was noted that a total of 143 people had ended their lives through euthanasia or assisted suicide in that time period.

A further 101 people were still having their applications processed at the time. Of those, 44 had been confirmed as eligible for the lethal procedures, and a further 57 were still under assessment.

The next quarterly report will be available in October, after this publication goes to print.

A total of 400 people applied for assessment of eligibility. A steady increase in applications can be observed.

OF THE 400 APPLICATIONS:

143 people had been killed by a medical practitioner, or were prescribed the lethal drugs to end their own lives.

44 people had their application approved, but had not yet ended their lives prematurely.

57 people are awaiting the outcome of their assessment

68 people were considered not eligible.

Of those who made an application to end their lives by euthanasia or assisted suicide

23 withdrew their applications

62 people died without intervention.

Of note is the very low number of applicants who were assessed by a psychiatrist. Only three people had their mental state evaluated out of the 190 approved patients. Physicians and nurse practitioners are largely making the decision that a person is of sound mind and capable of making a decision to kill themselves, or be killed.

More women (54.3%) than men (45.8%) have applied to die by euthanasia or assisted suicide.

Older persons are requesting euthanasia and assisted suicide at a greater rate than younger people, with those over 65 making up 75% of the applicants.

Applicants are most likely to be NZ European than any other ethnicity (79.5%).

Although the majority of deaths by euthanasia or assisted suicide have been taking place at the person's home or another private residence, it is important to note that aged care facilities, hospices, and DHB facilities (hospitals?) are also stated as locations.

The reality of euthanasia and assisted suicide is particularly distressing for family and friends who have tried to intervene (or would have if they had known), but are helpless in the face of the law.

MORE THAN

143

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED OR ASSISTED IN SUICIDE SINCE THE END OF LIFE CHOICE ACT CAME INTO FORCE ON NOVEMBER 7, 2021.

INTERNATIONAL
PRO-LIFE & FAMILY CONFERENCE

GO FORWARD IN HOPE



Join us for the MOST important pro-life and pro-family conference of 2023!

We are living in a time of confusion and chaos with false freedom being extolled as the sure path to happiness. The damaging impact of the sexual revolution on individuals, families, societies, and even the Church is becoming more evident with each passing day.

Yet we must have hope!

The victory has been won by Christ Jesus on the cross. Our task is to be faithful defenders of truth right where God has placed us in this precise time in history.

This conference is not to be missed!

BY PARTICIPATING YOU WILL:

- ✓ be informed about a wide variety of topics impacting life and family by international and local expert speakers.
- ✓ be equipped to effectively defend the truth.
- ✓ be inspired to live faithfully your call to holiness.
- ✓ have opportunities to network and meet with like-minded people and families.

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(USA)



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Voice of the Family
(UK)



Dr. Brian Clowes
Human Life International
(USA)

Kathy Clowes (USA)
Father Jeremy Palman (NZ)
Richard McLeod (NZ)
and others



**FAMILY LIFE
INTERNATIONAL NZ**

Find out more about this exciting opportunity to network and be informed, equipped, and inspired at

FLI.ORG.NZ/CONFERENCE2023

Teaching youth about sexuality

MICHELLE KAUFMAN

Education in love can never be a "one size fits all" approach, it must be tailored to the individual.

Concerned about the way in which explicit sex education had become pervasive, and troubled that the practice was excluding parents from this most important formation of their children and young people, the Pontifical Council for the Family published *The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality – Guidelines for Education within the Family*.

Although the document was released in 1995, under the Pontificate of Saint Pope John Paul II, the tome provides practical guidelines that still serves parents well today.

Being almost three decades old, the document does not deal with the gender ideology that has taken such a hold at a terribly alarming rate. Never-the-less, the same principles can be applied. Coupled with common sense it is possible to protect gender confused young people from the harm caused by taking hormones and from mutilating surgery at such a vulnerable time in their lives.

Parents, educators, and all those interested in ensuring young people are formed should take the time to study well *The Truth and Meaning*

of Human Sexuality. There is much to be discovered in its pages, including:

- ▶ a discussion on the principal stages of development of children and young people;
- ▶ recommendations for parents and educators;
- ▶ working principles and their particular norms;
- ▶ recommended methods;
- ▶ methods and ideologies to avoid.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

In any discussion about sexuality education, it is important to stress that the responsibility for the formation of children and young people belongs to their parents. This is particularly so when it comes to discussing what the Church calls, *education for love*.

“The family environment is thus the normal and usual place for forming children and young people to consolidate and exercise the virtues of charity, temperance, fortitude, and chastity. As the domestic church, the family is the school of the richest humanity. This is particularly true for the moral and spiritual education on such a delicate matter as chastity.”
(n.48)



Parents often feel unsure of how to impart this knowledge to their children. They seek guidance to know what to teach and when. What is the best way to discuss the topic? Many so-called experts have played on parent fears and led them to believe that somehow their knowledge of their child and of sex itself is somehow grossly inadequate.

Parents, know their children best.

Much of this education in love comes naturally, especially if the parents are striving to live the virtue of chastity themselves. However, in order to be confident in this role, it is important for parents to arm themselves with knowledge so they are equipped to teach their children in education for love and chastity, and help them navigate the turbulent years of puberty and adolescence.

It does not go against Church teaching for others to assist parents in this important task. However, parents ought to always know what is being taught and when, and it should always conform to Christian principles.

When assistance is sought by parents, programmes that facilitate knowledge building and discussion between parent and child are best.

CONCLUSION

If we have erred as parents or educators, we must have the humility to acknowledge our failings in forming the young people in our care, and have the courage to turn the current situation around.

Parents, Grandparents, and educators ought to take the time to familiarise themselves with these basic principles and guidelines. **It is important that particular programmes, practices, and clubs are evaluated against them.** Doing so affords an opportunity to discard any methods of teaching that conform to secular ideologies, and pave the way to form young people in conformity with the truth of the dignity of the human person, allowing them to become all that they were created to be.

[Read the full article at FLI.ORG.NZ](http://FLI.ORG.NZ)

Four Principles Regarding Information About Sexuality

FROM THE TRUTH AND MEANING OF HUMAN SEXUALITY
GUIDELINES FOR EDUCATION WITHIN THE FAMILY

1

EACH CHILD IS A UNIQUE AND UNREPEATABLE PERSON

Each child is a unique and unrepeatable person, and they must receive individualized formation. Parents know their children best and therefore can decide when it is the right time to impart this information. Ideally, the parent of the same sex as the child would fulfill this duty.

2

THE MORAL DIMENSION MUST ALWAYS BE PART OF THE EXPLANATION

Parents must emphasise the importance of chastity, which helps us to learn to love the other person authentically. Further, it is the role of parents to teach modesty and to correct behaviours that, depending on the child's development and age, could become, or already are, sinful.

3

FORMATION MUST BE PROVIDED IN CONTEXT OF EDUCATION FOR LOVE

Formation in chastity and timely information regarding sexuality must be provided in the broadest context of education for love. This includes parents helping their children and teens grow in the spiritual life, fostering a greater love of God and neighbour.

4

PARENTS SHOULD PROVIDE INFORMATION CLEARLY BUT WITH DELICACY

Parents should provide this information with great delicacy but clearly and at the appropriate time. They should seek the help of God in prayer and then discuss what to say together so that the information imparted is not too explicit nor too vague.

ANNIVERSARY JOY

DAME COLLEEN BAYER

As this thirtieth year of Family Life International draws to a close, it is timely to reflect on some of the blessings received. Every *Friend for Life* in New Zealand and beyond has cause for great joy. We are blessed!

On Saturday 10 September, St Michael's Church in Remuera, Auckland was filled with faithful *Friends for Life*. They were attending a Mass of Thanksgiving for the blessings received from Almighty God over the thirty years FLI has served life, faith, and family.

Bishop Emeritus Patrick Dunn, and his cousin, Father Tony Dunn, concelebrated the Mass of Thanksgiving; while the Mother of Divine Mercy Choir led much of the singing, assisted by Briar Cornwall. Briar is the esteemed and extremely talented daughter of one of our key volunteers, Clare Dargaville. Clare is so very good with our pregnant mothers in need.

Father Tony gave a very thought-provoking sermon which had me hanging on every word.

A huge thank you to everyone who made the Holy Mass a true offering of love and joy to Our Blessed Lord.

After Holy Mass everyone was invited to a very happy and most enjoyable celebration afternoon tea.

It was a very blessed occasion and I could not help but think of the goodness and faithfulness of each person who is part of the FLI family.

Together we make up the Body of Christ, saving babies lives from abortion, loving and accepting every single pregnant mother in need who comes our way, providing them with the means to give their babies the very best start in life.

We cannot educate in-depth on the critical life issues, run Next Generation Youth events, run Saint Gianna's Home for Mothers and Babies without you! We could not have been inspired to start the National March for Life without you! Run prayer vigils for life without you! We are one big team each sharing the particular gifts God has given us to promote and defend the Gospel of Life.

Thank you everyone for your great YES to serving the Culture of Life in 'God's Own' country, and in particular in the context of Catholic morality.



Mélanie's Story

My name is Mélanie. I'm a single mother of a little boy named Theodore. He is one year old.

I met the lovely people of Family Life International at one of the most scariest times of my life. I found out that I was pregnant while backpacking around NZ.

I knew immediately that I was keeping the baby but I was still lost I did not know where to go where to find help, who to talk to, and mostly where to see a doctor.

Thankfully, I met a friend who knew Family Life and immediately took me to *Gianna's Choice Pregnancy Options and Support*. I found everything I was looking for in the Centre: help, guidance, advice, support, reassurance, and mostly an ultrasound.

When I arrived I had the chance to talk to Clare. She really listened to me and I really needed someone who could listen and sympathize with my situation. It was so important for me to express all my emotions and talk about all my fears. I also was very lucky because on that day a midwife was volunteering and had time to see me. This was crucial as I needed to confirm my pregnancy and see it with my own eyes. And when the midwife showed me the "little jelly-bean's" heart beating and told me I was 11 weeks along I could not believe that this was really happening to me and I was in shock.

The fact of just seeing the little heart for me at that point I knew my life changed and there was no turning back. Plus, it confirmed



for me even more that I had to keep him. This is also where the help of the Centre was crucial to me because Clare and the midwife really took the time to be with me and supported me in one of the most important moments of my life and I did not feel that I was alone.

After leaving the Centre I felt like a huge weight was lifted from my heart and I felt at peace with myself and my decision. I was ready to go home and bring the good news to my family and friends!

INTRODUCING Barbara Lee

St Gianna's Home for Mothers and Babies



Barbara Lee

Barbara is the Manager of Saint Gianna's Home for Mothers and Babies in Auckland.

I came upon the role at St Gianna's Home quite by chance. One minute I was chatting to a family member and the next, I was on the phone to Colleen Bayer. I have a background in education and have worked with children in a school and parish setting.

The first thing that struck me about Saint Gianna's was the people - a wonderful, faithful team who were giving so much to the pro-life cause. They were welcoming and easy to connect with as we were all working towards a common goal. There is so much to learn and I am grateful to Clare McClean for mentoring us and taking us through the LOVE Approach training. It has been a pleasure to work alongside house parents, Rebecca and Tima Apolosi and Home carer, Helen Shin, with the support and guidance of Colleen Bayer and Clare Dargaville.

The past eight months have taught me so much about the women we are here to serve, but also much about myself

and who God is calling me to be. We are called to be Christ to women in their greatest time of need, some who have suffered trauma and those whose lives have taken an unexpected turn.

We have the opportunity to support and guide these women towards a better life for themselves and their babies. My experience working with children taught me that I have just as much to learn from them as they do from me. With these mothers it is no different. While they do need care and

God is calling me to look beyond the brokenness to see the goodness and beauty in these women.

support there is so much they already know about life and their particular difficulties have taught them a special kind of resilience. God is calling me to look beyond the brokenness to see the goodness and beauty in these women.

Rebecca and Tima Apolosi
Rebecca and Tima are House Parents at Saint Gianna's Home for Mothers and Babies. They have two young daughters.





Mother's Day Celebration

Mother's Day afforded an opportunity for us to invite mothers and representatives from various community groups to our *Home*. It was a wonderful day, with mothers and their babies coming from all over Auckland. We were blessed to have Bishop Michael Gielen join us for the celebration.



Another opportunity we have here in the *Home* is to support mothers in the wider community. Not everyone requires from us a place to live or material assistance, but sometimes just a listening ear and a place of temporary respite. It is easy for new mothers to feel alone, especially through the difficulties of Covid times. By opening the home up for events and coffee mornings we can welcome mothers and their little ones into a supportive home environment where they can connect with others who share their experience.

I am excited to see what else this role will bring for me. Whether it be the many mothers and babies I will come across, the growth I will see in those who come to us for support and the connections I will make in the community as we work together to support women to choose life for their babies.



natural fertility

Rebecca is passionate about inspiring you to celebrate your feminine dignity while owning and understanding your cycle and practicing excellent self-care.

Natural fertility awareness is applicable in all of these circumstances:

- ✓ Regular or irregular cycles
- ✓ After childbirth or miscarriage
- ✓ While breastfeeding
- ✓ When fertility is questionable
- ✓ Approaching menopause
- ✓ Post chemical contraception use
- ✓ To manage pain and discomfort

The application of Natural Fertility within marriage is a couple responsibility, requiring respect and communication from both spouses. It is naturally designed to uphold and honour the gift of marriage and intimacy.

HORMONE HARMONY

Natural Fertility and Women's Health Advisor

Contact Rebecca: 021 149 1320 rebecca@hormoneharmony.nz

www.hormoneharmony.nz



let's celebrate!

At *Gianna's Choice Pregnancy Options and Support*, we talk to many women. Some are facing a crisis pregnancy and are abortion-vulnerable; others wonder if they are pregnant; still, others need material help in order to take care of their baby. Whatever the situation may be, we help out where we can and refer to relevant services and medical care as necessary.

So far this year:

24

babies have been born to mothers whom we have assisted.

20

more babies are still growing and will be born in the coming months.





UPCOMING EVENTS

FLI.ORG.NZ/PROLIFEEVENTS

AUCKLAND

To find out more about any of these activities please contact the St John Paul II Centre for Life **09 629 4361 AND Sign up for email updates at fli.org.nz**

Weekly Prayer outside AMAC

Every Wednesday

7:00am to 8:00am | 9:30am to 10:30am
Outside the Auckland Medical Aid Centre
283-289 Dominion Road | Mt Eden

Gather on the opposite side of the road. Join us at Calvary in praying for the pre-born children in danger of death, their mothers and fathers and the abortion workers. Your presence saves lives!

International Pro-Life and Pro-Family Conference: Go Forward in Hope

Thursday 23 March to Sunday 26 March, 2023
Novotel Ellerslie, Auckland

Be equipped, informed, and inspired on all the current issues impacting life, and family in light of Faith and reason. The conference will feature highly respected speakers from the USA, UK, and New Zealand.

After attending the most important pro-life and pro-family event of the year, you'll be well armed to go forward with hope proclaiming and living the Gospel of Life in your community!

For more information see the advertisement in this publication or visit **FLI.ORG.NZ/CONFERENCE2023**



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Resources and news at **FLI.ORG.NZ**



Candlelight Vigil for the Unborn

Palm Sunday
2 April 2023 | 7:00pm

Outside the Auckland Medical Aid Centre
283-289 Dominion Road | Mt Eden

Join in solidarity with 40 Days for Life vigils throughout the world with a prayerful and peaceful vigil right where tens of thousands of pre-born children have lost their lives to abortion.

For details please contact **Simon Archer: simon@fli.org.nz or 021 400 729**

Lenten Prayer for Life

Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday

Look out for details about this "great prayer for life" throughout New Zealand during Lent 2023. The best way to stay informed is by joining our email list at **fli.org.nz**

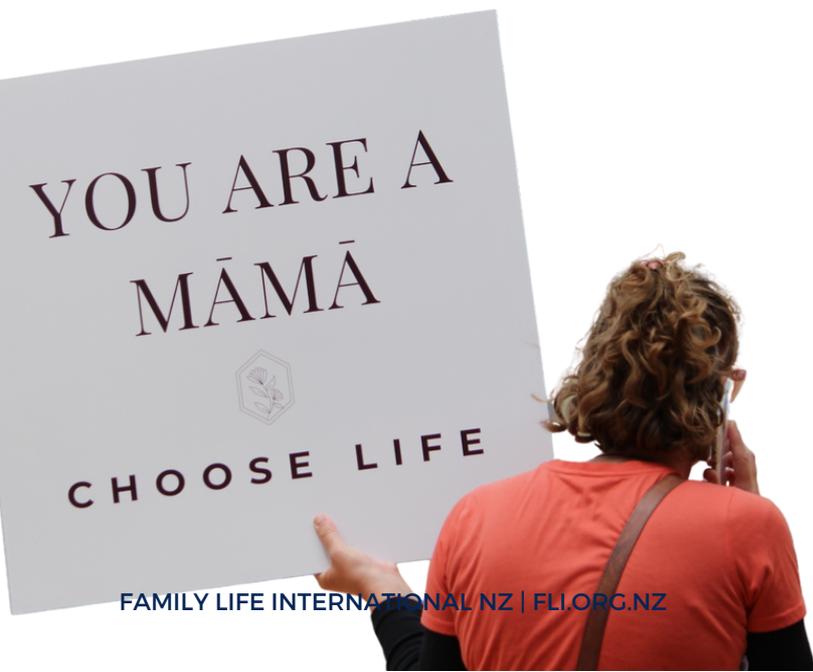
WELLINGTON

Post Abortion Healing

Various Times

For information about our post abortion healing programmes, and to find out how to participate, please get in touch with Clare McClean.

clare.fli@xtra.co.nz or 021 231 7954



Pregnant?

Need help?



0800 367 5433
pregnancyoptions.org.nz

Gianna's **CHOICE**
Pregnancy options and support