A mother's anguished letter to her aborted child

By Linda Oatman
Reprinted from *Our Sunday Visitor*

Ten years ago yesterday, I carried you beneath my heart. Ten years ago **today, I stopped** the beating of your heart. I, your mother, the one who gave you life, also gave you death.

It's been a decade and still my blood runs cold and I catch my breath whenever I hear the word "abortion." There's an emptiness inside of me that can never be filled, a chill that has never quite been warmed, a grief that will never end. To me you will forever remain an unfinished song, a flower that never bloomed, a sunrise clouded by rain.

Even during your last fragile moments of life, I wondered, "Is my baby a boy or a girl?" The question ran through my mind again and again as I tried to block out the sickening sounds of you being suctioned from my womb and from my life. I seemed to have a burning need to know whether I would have had a son or a daughter, yet somehow I couldn't bear to ask such an indelicate question of the doctor who stood smiling above me. Instead, I simply nodded in defeat and sadness as this man in white patted my trembling hand and said, "Now—aren't you glad it's all over?"

As I lay there drowning in my own blood, tears and sweat, I could hear the nurses chattering about co-workers, new cars and clothes.

To these people, the extermination of your life was simply a job: "making a living by destroying the living." To those gathered in that sunny room in Philadelphia 10 years ago, it was just another day. To me, it was the darkest day I had ever known.

"The Abortion": the most heart-wrenching, terrible experience I had suffered through in my 18 years; certainly the most painful experience suffered by you in your three short months. It has taken me all these years to get over it.

Now—as my eyes fill with tears, I realize that this is something I will **never** "get over." That fateful April day has replayed itself over and over in my mind like a horror movie one forces oneself to watch, then can never forget.

I travel back in time and again look into the eyes of the counselor, the compassionate eyes of a mother. She gently informed me of the risks of having an abortion.

"Are you aware that approximately five to 10 percent of women who have had an abortion during their first pregnancy will never again bear a child?" she asked. I looked down at my slightly-swollen belly as tears fell onto the literature I clenched in my hands.

"Honey, are you **absolutely certain** that this is what you want to do?" she asked as I began sobbing.

"No, I don't **want** to have an abortion. But I must—there's no other choice," I cried.

But even in my distraught state of mind, I knew that there **were** other choices. I was simply too scared to consider the alternatives. Still a child myself, I "wasn't ready" to be a mother.

What I didn't realize then was that I already **was** a mother. You became **my** child at the moment of conception; my love for you began when your life began, and although your life ended, that love has never died.

Your silent screams have awakened me from sleep many times over the years, and I have lain in the dark and mourned the loss of the baby I killed. There have even been times when I've contemplated ending my own life as I ended yours.

It's been 10 years and still I haven't forgiven myself. Have **you** forgiven me? Has God forgiven me for destroying a being created by Him?

I've had many nightmares through the years. Scenes of a tiny fetus in a trash bag haunt my subconscious. I've awakened in a cold sweat, again feeling the excruciating pain of that long-ago day. I recall the intense physical pain of the abortion—but those 10 minutes of hurt were nothing compared to the 10 **years** of pain I've lived with since.

For years my heart has ached to write you this letter, but whenever I attempted to put my feelings into words, I found the blank pages covered with tears rather than ink. For some reason, though, tonight was different....

Perhaps this letter was meant to be written in order to help others to avoid the agony I experienced, to help other young girls "in trouble," as I was 10 years ago, to realize that there **are** alternatives to abortion....

If this letter prevents even one abortion, it will have served a purpose. But, Baby, my purpose in sending this letter to **you** is to let you know that I love you—whoever you are. And I'm sorry. Love, Mommy.

Archbishop quits Democratic party because of abortion issue

John F. Whealon, Catholic Archbishop of the Hartford, Connecticut archdiocese, recently quit the Democratic Party after being a longtime member, because of the Democrat Party's pro-abortion stand.

Whealon said that the Democratic Party "is officially in favor of executing unborn babies."

In his column in the weekly *Catholic Transcript* newspaper, he said the Democratic Party "has abandoned Catholics as a bloc" by becoming "officially the pro-abortion party." He said that the Democrats' platform position severs a historic link between Catholics and Democrats.

He cited the thirteen somewhat vague words in the Democratic platform that state: "The right of reproduction choice should be guaranteed regardless of ability to pay." By contrast, he said, the platform of the Republican Party is against abortion.

Whealon switched to the Republican Party. Whealon said of the Democratic Party, "In 1860, the Democratic Party was on the wrong side on the moral question of slavery. It is now on the wrong side of the more serious moral question of abortion.

"Therefore, reluctantly, I am unable in conscience to remain a registered Democrat. Feeling abandoned, I hope that the Democratic Party regains its moral principles and its soul."

Court says Big Brothers don't have to accept homosexuals

A victory for the children has been won in the fight for morality in Los Angeles and this time the American Civil Liberties Union lost.

A Superior Court Judge recently ruled that Big Brothers of Greater Los Angeles is comparable to a religious organization and therefore can exclude homosexuals from being Big Brothers.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge John Zebrowski ruled that a Big Brothers' policy barring homosexuals on grounds that they are inappropriate role models does not violate the state civil rights act. He concluded that the Big Brothers had a First Amendment right to determine its own values and guidelines from which to select and reject candidates.

He wrote in a seven-page ruling "The government has no more legitimate interest in interfering with this secular effort at promotion of a selected value system than it does in interfering with an analogous religious effort to promote a religious value system."

Big Brothers helps boys from broken homes by matching them with adult male volunteers who serve as role models. The organization makes more than 60,000 matches each year.

The ACLU argues that Big Brothers should be forced to accept homosexuals.

ABORTION'S SOLUTION IS SIMPLE . . .

ASHLEY — Three months of age. Her mom, although a teenage unwed mother, made the choice for life.

IT'S JUST NOT EASY!

Sixteen years and twenty-two million dead babies later, America is still groping for the solution to "the abortion problem."

The solution is deceptively simple: **Continue educating the American public; continue working with our state and federal representatives to stop the taxpayer funding of anti-life organizations; and pass the Paramount Human Life Amendment which will restore the right to life of all God's children.**

But it won't happen unless we make it happen.

We must pray and work and give of our time and our money today, tomorrow and every day until we have stopped the babyslaughter once and for all.

You have a choice: You can join the **American Life League** today and work with others dedicated to the Life Principles, the Paramount Human Life Amendment and the total protection of ALL of God's children.

Or: You can turn the page and TRY to forget that this baby was lucky. Twenty-two million of her brothers and sisters were scraped, burned or sucked to shreds in a horribly brutal and painful death.

AMERICAN LIFE LEAGUE—PUTTING LIFE PRINCIPLES INTO *ACTION*!

Mrs. Judie Brown, President
American Life League, P.O. Box 1350, Stafford VA 22554
(703) 659-4171

LOOK FOR OUR INSERT IN THE NEXT ISSUE.