A True Account of Abortion and the Aftermath

The following first person account is from A Morning of Reflection held at St. Theresa’s Catholic Church in Ashburn in May. Amanda Pearson spoke about her journey after several abortions, the first when she was 18 years old. It is a journey of forgiveness, healing and God’s mercy.

Amanda Pearson was raised a Catholic. When she was 18 years old, she found herself pregnant. Upon telling her boyfriend the news, he quickly responded that he was not ready to be a father. Afraid to reveal the news to her parents, she went to a Planned Parenthood clinic looking for help. Amanda was told that an abortion was her best solution. No other solutions were offered to her. It would be quick and easy they told her. You can come in tomorrow for the procedure, they told her. And so Amanda made the appointment.

Upon arriving at the Planned Parenthood clinic, she was ushered into a room. It was cold and dismal and no one offered her any comforting words about what was to happen. The procedure was extremely painful. After the procedure, in the recovery room, Amanda waited for relief that it was over but she only felt shame.

Her relationship with her boyfriend ended very soon thereafter. With no support or counseling services offered by Planned Parenthood, Amanda was alone in her grief and pain. Depression was followed by a descent into alcohol and drug abuse. She had several relationships over the ensuing years that resulted in pregnancies ending in abortions. Amanda hated herself for what she had done and began to have suicidal thoughts. Her family was clueless as to why this change in her had occurred. They knocked on many church doors begging for prayers to help her.

One weekday Amanda went to Church and asked God to help her. Just then a priest walked in. He asked her if she needed some help. Amanda opened up about all that had happened to her. The priest spoke with kindness and compassion and encouraged Amanda to go to confession. She did that day and afterwards she had a renewal of spirit. She thanked the priest for being there when she needed help. The priest, in turn, thanked her and told Amanda she was a Godsend. He has made it his mission to pray for women who have been hurt by abortion to come back to the Church.

Amanda’s journey did not end there however. She attended a retreat held by Project Rachel, a post abortion healing ministry of the Catholic Church. One of the exercises at the retreat was to find a heavy rock and carry it everywhere. The rock symbolized the heavy burden she carried in her heart. In order to get rid of the rock, Amanda needed to accept God’s forgiveness and then she needed to forgive herself. Amanda was able to rid herself of that rock and see herself as a child of God. A God who wanted to heal her heart and show her His infinite mercy.

Amanda noted that her healing process has many layers and she is still at work revealing that healing process today. She had an image in her mind of a man in a field with 3 children around him. As she “looked” closer, she saw it was Jesus and her 3 children. She fell to the ground and the children came over to her. One of them had a bouquet of flowers that she gave to Amanda. It was their sign to her of their love for her and their forgiveness for what she had done. Years later she described the image to an artist she knew who agreed to paint it for her. Amanda brings the painting with her to every presentation and it is a powerful thing to see.

The victims of abortion are not only the aborted child but also the mother of that child and the father of that child. Amanda’s story was a true account of the devastation wrought by abortion. What can we do to stop it?