



Published in "The Catholic Standard & Times"
November 4, 1993

A Publication of **Rachel's Vineyard Ministries**
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Women Don't Hear All the Truth of Abortion

By: Theresa Karminski Burke

- *Karissa was an active and vivacious honor roll student. Since her abortion, her family has sought to keep her alive since the anorexia nervosa she developed has become life threatening. Her eating disorder is a disturbing metaphor to symbolize the emptiness she feels inside.*
- *Beth was permanently sterilized after complications and infection following her abortion. She underwent a complete hysterectomy at age 22.*
- *Rita had a complete nervous breakdown when she suffered the effects of an incomplete abortion. She passed a fully developed leg onto her sanitary napkin, followed by more blood and an arm with hands and fingers. Rita was given no information on fetal development. "They didn't tell me it was a baby!" she sobbed hysterically.*

I have listened to many women's stories of what led them to "choose" abortion. For some, it appeared to be the very best option. For others, it seemed like the only choice. For all, it was perhaps the most traumatic event in their lives.

There is a common thread which runs through countless testimonies of women who have suffered adverse psychological trauma or physical injury: a sense of anger and betrayal when they discover they were never told about inherent dangers of induced abortion and realize the information after the fact.

Abortion is repeatedly sold as a "safe and simple" solution. Routinely, no information is given about alternatives, fetal development or procedure risks. Before a woman can be truly free to make her own choice, she must make a decision based on factual information about all aspects of abortion, adoption, and parenting.

The abortion industry's silence in these matters is based on the fact that it is a billion dollar business, the profitability of which depends on the numbers of women having abortions, the speed and efficiency of the procedure and minimizing contact between physician and pregnant woman.

Doctors make no assessment of the impact of abortion on the mother's overall physical, psychological or emotional health. There are no surgical procedures, except abortion, which do not take these critical factors into account.

Abortion is a skillfully marketed product sold to a woman in a time of crisis. When she finds out the product is defective, it's too late. A powerful, unregulated industry is protected by a court system which upholds the legality of self-serving silence – the U.S. Supreme Court in 1986 ruled abortion clinics need not ensure informed consent or report abortion statistics. (*Thornburg vs. American College of Obstetrics*).

The Court said information about health risks, fetal development and adoption was "not relevant to the woman's decision," and might only "heighten her anxiety."

Individuals have a right to be informed about the inherent dangers of induced abortion. They should be aware the psychological problems as a result of abortion and post-abortion trauma are a reality. At present, women are told nothing about the detrimental effects of abortion.

Our laws on abortion claim to be protecting a woman's constitutional right to "choice," when in actuality they strip her of vital information necessary for control of her body, her capacity for future reproduction and her mental health.

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