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Pro-Life Rally Stresses the Harmful Effects of Abortion

By Stephen O'Toole

PLYMOUTH – Highlighting the detrimental emotional and physical effects of abortion on women, speakers at an anti-abortion rally Sunday offered hope to the pro-life faithful for gaining ground in the battle for public support.

"Abortion hurts women", Theresa Karminski Burke, of King of Prussia, told the crowd at the annual "Stand up for Life" rally Sunday at the Epiphany of Our Lord Church on Walton Road.

Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries of Bridgeport, which provides therapeutic weekend retreats for women traumatized by abortion, called abortion a "wounding of the soul".

Burke, author and co-author of several books on abortion trauma, also said that the new abortion pill will not reduce the stress because the typical surgical procedure is eliminated.

"The trauma scene will now be accessible every time a woman uses her bathroom", Burke said.

On the physical side, Burke and other speakers cited a burgeoning field of research that suggests a link between abortion and increased risk of breast cancer.

That evidence is what prompted the Pro-Life Union of Southeastern Pennsylvania, which sponsors the annual rally, to focus this year's rally on the physical and emotional effects of abortion, according to spokeswoman Kathleen A. Sobocinski.

Following Burke was Marie Carter, a Hatboro mother whose 16-year-old daughter received a "secret abortion" in New Jersey, where abortion laws are

less stringent. Carter's daughter allegedly did so on the advice of a school counselor. She told how her daughter's traumatic experience still lingers today.

"That burden on her heart and soul has affected all areas of her life", Carter said.

The Carter family's story made headlines and resulted in changes in the Hatboro-Horsham School District, which now has a policy against any district employee offering such advice to its students.

Carter's attorney, Joseph P. Stanton, said the policy adopted by Hatboro-Horsham gives parents and anti-abortion activists something to show other school districts in the hope of preventing future traumas to students.

Stanton is leading the case against the New Jersey abortion provider on the grounds that no doctor advised Carter's daughter about the risk of breast cancer or asked for legal consent.

About 100 people attended Sunday's rally, which commemorated the 28th anniversary of the Roe V. Wade court decision that legalized abortion.



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