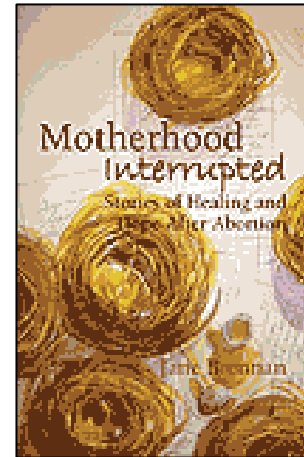


An excerpt from the Forward to *Motherhood Interrupted*

By Msgr. Edward L. Buelt ,
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...I was once talking with a woman who had undergone three abortions. She and her husband, the father of all three of the children they had aborted, had been married many years. They had given birth to other children now raised and on their own. They weren't particularly religious. They weren't Catholic nor, in fact, did they adhere to any religious tradition; they held a humanitarian ethic of secular values. She characterized their marriage as loving and stable. Yet it never seemed to her to be open or intimate. Approaching mid-life certain questions kept perplexing her. Why had they not been able to achieve honest openness and intimacy in their marriage? Why did it lack spontaneity and creativity? What prevented them from the deep happiness they expected and hoped for on their wedding day-that day they were so young, so in love, so open to one another and so attuned to the future.



Eventually she came to the conclusion that the answers to her questions were rooted in the three abortions. Although they occurred many years ago, they tainted everything that came thereafter. Her husband and she had agreed to abortion as birth control. Now she admitted that although they believed they were controlling birth, with each abortion they gave themselves over in fact to the control of death. The first, and then slowly but surely each subsequent abortion, snuffed out their joy in life, the sense of life is good together. In an insidious way the abortions of their babies caused the abortion of their own freedom and trust. She had come to this conclusion about the abortions themselves. "We bought the line they sold us. They told us that abortion terminates a pregnancy. To the contrary," she continued, "I have been struggling to give birth to my babies for forty years."

In the natural created order, the womb is a sanctuary, a place where new life is protected, grows, and is born. Instead into this very sanctuary of life she invited death. She believed that by aborting her baby she was terminating her pregnancy; instead she conceived death itself. After many years, she understands that a mother's womb will not allow death to conquer life. She aborted the bodies of her babies but her heart still labored to protect their lives. For forty years she attempted to avoid the pain of those three abortions by living according to the dictates of an inadequate, secular moral code, one she believed justified her choices. Yet in her heart she was continually in labor; she was and is their mother...

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