

Family Life International Australia Ltd.

2/245 Parramatta Rd Broadway NSW

PO Box 205 Broadway NSW 2007

Phone: (02) 9519 9111 / Fax: (02) 9519 9622

Email: mail@fli.org.au / Website: www.fli.org.au



Dear Defender of Life,

I have a special favour to ask of you. I need prayers for a special intention and so I've enclosed a small holy card with this letter. It is my earnest hope that you will join me in praying this prayer to the Divine Infant of Prague each day for this intention.

What is this special intention? The best way I can explain it is by sharing with you three recent stories from FLI's baby-saving work on the streets...

Abby's story

One Thursday recently whilst I was praying and counselling outside the Preterm abortion mill in Surry Hills, Sydney, I noticed a young woman approaching on her own. She seemed unsure and sheepish. I introduced myself to her and she told me her name (we'll call her Abby for now). I asked where she was from and she told me Fairfield in Sydney's west where she has lived for 11 years after coming to Australia from Africa with her mother and little sister.

She was there for an abortion so I asked her story and why she thought it necessary. She is a single mother with a two year old son, living in a Catholic Care home and with only part time work. She has citizenship but her unborn child's father still lives in Liberia in Africa and it would cost a lot to help him come to Australia. She says if he can come here they will certainly

Please turn the page....

- page 1 -

Continuing the work of Fr. Paul Marx OSB

Pope John Paul II to Fr. Marx, "*You are doing the most important work on earth.*" – 17th Nov. 1979

marry. I told her we would help her and I asked if she believes in God. She does and she told me she is a Christian.

After speaking to her and giving her pamphlets and Rosary beads I asked her if she would like a coffee. She seemed happy to accept. At the café I found out that her mother (who lives separately) had initially been upset but had called her back the next day to say she loved her and would help. Abby's main concern was money and the fact that the father is still in Africa.

I said, "We will help you with all those things."

That evening I got a text message from Abby, thanking me for being there. I have seen her since when she came into the FLI office with her friend. I spoke to them both about numerous things and they were very happy to have our support. We have already helped financially cover some of the immigration application fees for the father to come out. This brave young mother is very strong and has found out she is 12 weeks pregnant with twins.

Adelaide's story

The week after meeting "Abby" I had a phone call from a girl (we'll call Rachel) who was given my number by a good Maronite priest. Her friend (Adelaide) was pregnant and under a lot of pressure to have an abortion though she did not want one. I invited Adelaide to come and see me at the FLI office after work. I knew I would be on my own in the office at that time and wanted to get someone else to be there. Unfortunately none of the young women counsellors were available. I asked the ladies and two of the Dominican Sisters at the University Chaplaincy in the rooms below us but they were busy too.

I had to move my car about 4.00pm and when I came back in the door one of the Sisters of Mercy was just coming down the stairs from the University Chaplaincy. I asked her with a smile if she believed in Divine Providence and if she could stay till the girls came. She rang her Superior who said she could stay but could not get involved in the counselling. She would pray silently whilst I spoke to the young women.

When they arrived we sat down to talk. It turned out that poor Adelaide had an earlier abortion when she was just 18. Her parents had insisted and so did the boyfriend. Now at 20 she

was pregnant again to another man and she was unwilling to tell her parents. They had told her last time that if she got pregnant again they would kick her out! Her boyfriend had booked her in for an abortion on Saturday morning despite her telling him she wanted to keep her baby.

He screamed through the phone at her that if she didn't have the abortion he would come around and rip it out himself!

I told her that the boyfriend will leave her anyway and that he obviously didn't care about her. I also said her parents would cry tears of joy when they held their grandchild in their arms. I explained the physical and emotional consequences of abortion and promised there would be plenty of our supporters who would be happy to help her.

I told her that we could help her and that we have the resources and the supporters to do that. She said she would have to move out from home and pay rent (even if she moved further west rent would be over \$200 per week and though she had a full time job didn't think she could manage). I offered her a room in a private home at less than this. I encouraged her to call me and come and inspect it on the weekend.

When they left about an hour later I was unsure of the outcome, but Rachel wasn't very hopeful. She thought Adelaide would give in to the pressure being put on her despite all our offers of help. I called Adelaide before Mass on All Saints Day. She seemed very positive and was talking about finding her own place and looking after herself. Things were looking up.

The next day we were outside the Preterm abortuary as usual. It was All Souls Day and the devil clearly wasn't happy! There was a heightened sense of tension or aggravation that day. Firstly a single man, and later on a couple in their 50's, knocked over our posters and abused us and we were harrassed by several others passing by. A younger man in his 20's who lives in the apartments above the abortuary decided today was the day to annoy us. He said he wanted to talk to me but was clearly just looking to provoke a confrontation. I walked away from him but he kept following me, taunting me and arguing in circles. Our policy is to inform the police of trouble-makers in case they get violent, so I put in a call to the local station.

Whilst we were busy with him and the older couple who were knocking over posters I noticed Adelaide and her "boyfriend" approaching. I called her name and approached them but Adelaide

said she had to do this and kept walking. I asked her to talk to me but she went inside. The tattooed thug she called her boyfriend stayed outside to threaten and abuse me. I called the police again and spoke to the Duty Officer who said they were on their way.

When the police arrived they pulled aside Adelaide's boyfriend and the young man from the apartments. The boyfriend went inside but the guy from the apartments wouldn't leave despite the police threatening him with arrest. By the time he gave up and left it was well past our usual finish time. He had set out disrupt our work and keep us there longer. This would prove a great blessing!

Jane's story

A girl and her mother, accompanied by the girl's boyfriend, approached the abortuary while the police were still there. I approached the three of them to offer assistance. The boyfriend, who was much older than the young woman (whom we will call Jane), was not happy with me and kept telling me to leave them alone. I said to Jane, "You don't have to do this. We will help you." At this the girl's face brightened noticeably and her mother said, "She doesn't want to do this. She wants to keep the baby."

I told the police what was happening and after having already told them what Adelaide's boyfriend had said, which they thought was certainly not good, they stayed in their van, parked right out the front of the mill, to keep an eye on the situation. The boyfriend was very angry but with the police watching he couldn't do much besides abuse me under his breath and say go away! To this I simply replied No. I had given Jane and her mother my card and told them to call me for help. They left very happy and then so did we, also very happy. The boyfriend had no choice but to leave, though not happily.

... And here is where my special intention comes in...

All of these girls, those who choose life for their babies and those who abort, need your prayers and they need FLI's support. If FLI didn't exist, we wouldn't have been there when these girls came to have their children killed. We would not have met Abby or Jane. I would not have been available to talk to Rachel and Adelaide. And perhaps Jane and her Mum wouldn't have been as confident in the help we offered if it weren't for the business card I gave them and the organisation it represented.

Will you then join me in praying each day for these mothers and others like them? Will you use the enclosed prayer card to ask Our Lord for all the temporal and spiritual help these mums need? And will you pray for me, and all pro-lifers who do this work, that we will have the words to say when the moment arises?

And finally, will you help make the words and promises we give to struggling mothers a reality? There are often calls upon our time and resources from young women and couples considering abortion. The most common phrase I hear from them is, "We have no CHOICE!"

I beg you to help FLI give them the chance to see things differently. With your help we can offer them real options with the promise of financial, legal and spiritual support should they need it. Sometimes this support is only needed for a short while; sometimes it can be needed for many months or even years, particularly when immigration is involved or there is an abusive spouse.

As well as these costs, FLI needs to continue its educational baby-saving work to help teach young people and families about the dangers of the Culture of Death. The more people we can reach with speaking tours, printed materials and web-based resources, the fewer people we will see outside abortion mills. The more counsellors we are able to train and have on the streets outside abortion mills, the more turnarounds and the fewer tragedies we will see.

Can you help with a very generous donation of \$5000? Or a sacrifice of \$2000 or \$1000? I know times are tough and I assure you that whatever you send will be gratefully recieved and put to good use. Can you send us a sacrificial gift of \$100 or even \$50?

There are many other ongoing projects I would love to tell you about but can't due to their sensitive nature. Much of our work here at FLI is unseen just as the child in the womb is unseen.

Please give generously to FLI to continue this important baby-saving work.

May the Infant of Prague bless you and your loved ones.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Hanrahan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Hanrahan
Executive Director

Family Life International Australia Ltd.

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REPLY FORM

Dear Paul,

- YES! I want to help FLI continue it's baby-saving work.
- I will join you in praying to the Infant of Prague for the temporal and spiritual needs of mothers and their unborn children.

Enclosed is my most generous donation of:

\$5000 \$1000 \$500 \$200 \$100 \$20 Other \$ _____

Please make all cheques / money orders payable to: **FAMILY LIFE INTERNATIONAL**

or debit my credit card: Visa Mastercard

Card number

□□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□

Expiry date

□□/□□

Cardholder's signature: _____

- I have made a donation via Direct Deposit or Internet Banking to:

Account Name: Family Life International

Bank: Commonwealth Bank **BSB:** 062-016 **Account number:** 1039 6832

(Please reference deposit with your supporter number found at the top left hand side of your address label above, beginning with an S. Thank you.)

- I would like a receipt
- I would like a monthly donor form

Continuing the work of Fr. Paul Marx OSB

Pope John Paul II to Fr. Marx, "You are doing the most important work on earth." – 17th Nov. 1979