

gingerms

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\$2.00 cover

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JOE MURPHY**

no cover

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Labels are damaging in abortion issue

by Andrew Agar

When a government cuts funding for the welfare of single mothers, the social and psychological repercussions that result are manifold and self-perpetuating; it is a reinforcement of society's "righteous" shaming of the pregnant unwed mother. It's an example of a misguided attempt at promoting a certain morality.

In our society, a woman who is single and pregnant should be treated and approached with compassion for the predicament she may be in. She should also not be imagined to be abnormal or diminished in dignity.

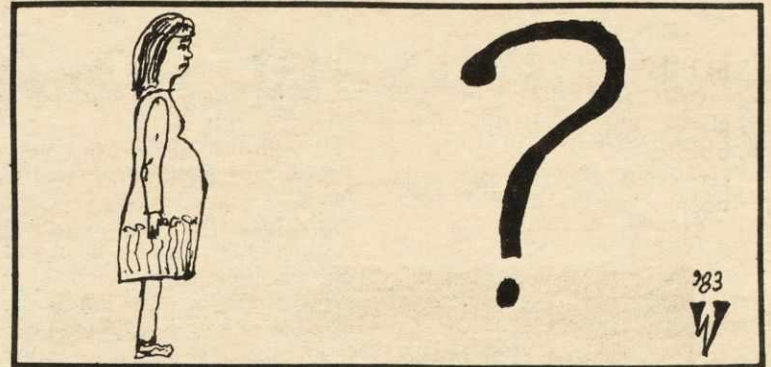
News

Commentary

All too often, however, what we have is an insensitive and bull-like invasion of her status as a person, and the calling of her baby: "illegitimate", by a holier-than-thou society. What is needed for the ultimate well-being of the mother and child must be considered, yet often isn't, in the examination of each individual case.

All too often the end result is a woman reduced to self-hatred and shame, and a baby consigned to the garburator. In these cases, mother, child, and everyone in society has lost. The mother her self-respect, the child its life, and society one more fraction (fraction after fraction) of its ability and capacity to love and go out on limbs to help those in need.

Thus we see the shortsightedness of those who paste incriminating or degrading labels



on individuals who are in unusual or difficult circumstances; in particular those who label unwed mothers and their children by any name that would strip them of their natural worth as human beings.

The unborn child in this case has already been given a name—and again, within the perspective that is usually taken by the society, we act in accordance and under an anemic mess of excuses about "rights", seek free and unrestricted abortion access. What is "illegitimate" need not be cared for and wept over ...

The list is endless, and those who are labelled frequently respond in kind, and the whole problem goes nowhere. How many Christians waste their energy in anti-abortion pie-fights, rather than pray for a change of heart and the quiet advent of justice in the ranks of those who support the practice?

It becomes a matter of life and death when society begins to act in accordance with the cruelty of its thinking ... what happens to patience and forgiveness in the case of the single mother?

In India, Mother Theresa has

saved thousands of children from abortion clinics by organizing the administration of adoption agencies, normally to European parents. Out of the dark misery that buries so many lives over there, she is a stable beacon for us here, with our vastly superior resources, to give up our rationalizations and excuses for damaging and destroying life that seems to be inconvenient—the poor mother and her innocent child. Life itself is good, inconvenient or not, regardless of the fatalistic bombardments from all sides telling us we have the wisdom to resolve that it's not, and then act with that unfortunate conviction.

Post-abortive remorse can be purged but reparation itself is impossible. The lives taken are invaluable and so can't be replaced; however, no one is remorseful over the saving of a life—in fact there is joy in holding the "illegitimate", whom no one may love but the mother ... in wonderful defiance of so much life-taking clamour battering at her heart.

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