

October is **Respect Life Month** . Here are some responses by people who have made difficult decisions in the area of Abortion which may help us to understand our responsibility regarding one aspect of respecting life.

Sandra Cano, the "Mary Doe" of the *Doe vs. Bolton* 1973 Supreme Court abortion decision, is a pro-life Christian. On March 23, 1997, she declared these memorable words: "I am Sandra Cano. I became known as Mary Doe when the U.S. Supreme Court released *Roe v. Wade's* companion decision, *Doe v. Bolton*, which allowed abortion for virtually any reason. **I am against abortion; I never sought an abortion; I have never had an abortion. Abortion is murder. For over twenty years, and against my will, my name has been synonymous with abortion. The *Doe v. Bolton* case is based on deceit and fraud.** I stand today in this place of healing, the National Memorial for the Unborn, and pledge to the memory of these innocent children, that as long as I have breath, I will strive to see abortion ended in America."

Norma McCorvey, the "Jane Roe" of the *Roe vs. Wade* 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, is now a pro-life Catholic. On March 23, 1997, she declared these memorable words:

"I am Norma McCorvey. I became known as Jane Roe on January 22, 1973, when the U.S. Supreme Court released the *Roe v. Wade* decision, which created a woman's "right to abortion". I am now a child of God, a new creature in Christ; I am forgiven and redeemed. Today, I publicly recant my involvement in the tragedy of abortion. I humbly ask forgiveness of the millions of women and unborn babies who have experienced the violence of abortion. In this place of healing, the National Memorial for the Unborn, I stand with those who honor the worth of every unborn child as created in the image of God. I will strive, in the name of Jesus, to end this holocaust."

Some people say that the assertion, "Life begins at conception" is only a "religious belief." Yet the following quote is found in a book about how to perform abortions: "Conception is the only occasion in the whole course of events when something happens during a brief moment of time that is truly 'momentous'...How different is the fetus ten minutes before parturition and ten minutes after; that is, different in a way that would affect its value?" (*Second Trimester Abortion: Perspectives After a Decade of Experience*, Berger et al., eds. p. 215).

In our ministerial outreach – Project Rachael - were are hearing more and more from people than coming forward to talk about how they regret having an abortion. Here are some quotes from actual testimonies, provided by a national research project: "It affected my relationship with my children because I emotionally pushed them away - I felt I didn't deserve them"; "I would go to the cemetery wondering what they did with my baby"; "Initially I also felt a sense of relief that it was all over. But it was a strange brand of relief that did everything relief should, except make me feel any better." If you need help, call 1-800-5-WE-CARE (National Office of Post-abortion Reconciliation and Healing) (Deacon Tom Uschold)